Director’s Update
Mental Health Advisory Board

Erik G. Riera, Director
February 15, 2018
Key Issues we are following

• SB 906 Peer Certification Bill
  • Repeat of a prior bill to establish a certification process for peer and family support services
  • Not clear whether or not this will also open up a pathway for these services to become reimbursable under Medi-Cal.
  • Will likely include a clause to include peer staff who are already working within a community mental health center

• AB 1136
  • Development of a database to provide real time availability of inpatient psychiatric beds and substance use disorder treatment beds
  • Could be very complex in terms of implementing- how will this data be shared and how much staff time will be required to update the information
  • How long will this take to implement?
• Key Issues, continued
  • AB 1963 Opiod Addiction Bill
    • Incentives for providers, including medical providers, to become certified medication assisted treatment (MAT) providers through increased reimbursement rates.
  • AB 2214 Certification process for “Recovery Residences”
    • Applies to sober living environments ("SLE’s")
    • Would require these to be certified by one of two recognized certification bodies
    • The provider would have to cover the cost of certification unless the County provided funds to offset this expense
    • Intended to address some providers across the state from deficient programs and taking advantage of clients
• **Key Issues, continued**
  
  • **SB 992 Residential Programs Discharge Plans**
    • Would require that residential programs establish a continuum of care plan at the time of discharge.
  
  • **Governor’s Budget**
    • $100M in the proposed budget to expand competency restoration diversion programs for individuals who are being held on felony charges and have been found incompetent to stand trial.
    • Goal is to divert from the criminal justice system
    • Question as to why they don’t continue the existing MIOCR grant funding which communities are currently using for these types of programs.
Watsonville Behavioral Health Office Building
- The contractor for the site work has broken ground and is working on the site preparation, foundation, and utilities connections.
Ongoing work with the City of Santa Cruz on a new site for the Homeless

New location on River Street for an organized and structured campground
  • Will have camping locations, staffing 24/7, and on site supportive services including availability for behavioral health assessments, benefits assessment and linkage, housing navigation assistance, and other healthcare services.
  • Seen as a temporary measure until a more permanent emergency shelter can be established.
• Whole Person Care Update
  • Approximately 220 individuals have been enrolled
  • We have hired a new Project Director- Emily Chung, from Santa Clara County, who will start with us on February 20th.
  • Through a partnership with the Salvation Army in Watsonville, we have secured 7 apartments which will be used for homeless individuals who are in Watsonville and are connected with Behavioral Health services in the County.
    • The MHSA Innovations program will be supporting the placement and services for these individuals
    • The apartments will be available starting March 1.
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