

# Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting

April 15, 2021

Director Update- Erik G. Riera

# Losing a Critical Resource – River Street Shelter

- This is a great loss to the community and we are all upset
- Many factors led to the decision
- Guarded transparency to protect RSS staff
- Network Adequacy and funding mandates
- Work with Housing for Health Program to develop other options

# SB 803 Peer Support Specialist Certification

- **Passed and signed into law: September 2, 2020**
- Establishes a peer certification process and opportunity to support peer delivered services as a Medi-Cal reimbursable service
- Does not provide any funding to support Peer Services
- Sets a timeline of July 2022 for DHCS to establish rules and process

# SB 803 Peer Support Specialist Certification

- Also requires DHCS to submit a federal waiver to support the provision of the service.
- Requires the State to fund the start-up costs of the program, once established
- Counties can opt in or opt out, and continue to provide support for Peer Support Services
- Counties participating in a pilot program are required to fully fund the costs- no federal financial participation

# SB 803 Peer Support Specialist Certification

- Extensive stakeholder engagement from the State is expected
  - CBHDA
  - Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
  - Peer Support and Family organizations
  - BH Provider organizations
  - California Behavioral Health Planning Council

# Expansion of MERTY Program

- Recently awarded a second grant from CHFFA
- Will support the costs of a second MERTY Mobile Office for North County, as well as the staffing costs to expand the program (Clinician and Family Partner)
- Also received approval to utilize our existing van and staff in both South and North County during the pandemic