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