

MHSA FORUM

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH, ADULTS & OLDER ADULTS

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

NOON TO 1:30

Hopland Band of Pomo Indian's Rancheria
3000 Shanel Rd., Hopland

In Attendance: Karen Lovato, Robin Meloche, Dennie Maslak, John Wetzler, Dina Ortiz, Jessica Ehlers, Paul Murguia, Melanie Ulvila, David Steele, Danielle Lower, Roberto Trevine, Josephine Silva, Sage Wolf, Sierra Vonfeldt, Chris Canley, Bonnie Lockhart, Anita Toste, Martin Martinez, Keven Powers, LaVonne Abella, Jesse Burnett, Kathy Littlebear, Denise Gorny, Townley Saye, Dan Jenkins, Loretta Rosas

1) Housekeeping, Welcome & Introductions

- Sign-in sheet
- Phones on vibrate
- Meetings are recorded only for the purpose of taking Minutes
- Introductions made around the room
- Brief description of MHSA – Prop 63/ enacted in 2004 - 1% millionaire's tax funds Mental Health Services for each of the counties from the state

2) Announcements

- **Handouts available:** Forum Schedule, MHSA Needs list, MHSA Meetings & Events Calendar, Issue Resolution forms, MHSA Program Summary, Previous Meeting Minutes, Cultural Diversity Meeting Schedule, May is Mental Health month calendar of events, & Di-stig Posters – Robin explained each one
- Minutes to be approved – review by the end of the meeting – approved
- Agenda reformatting will be more generic in the future
- MHSA 3 Year Plan update deadlines:
 - Public 30 day posting on March 31st
 - Public Comment Hearing on April 30th @ HHSA from 10:00-11:30 in Conference 1

3) Current MHSA Services

Program Summary by Service Providers:

- Sage Wolf: TAY Wellness Housing Program – 18-24 yr old FSP, 11 beds, therapy is integrated into housing, 6 clients are active in school or working and the others are doing voc rehab and engaging in other services to help them get jobs, etc.
- Kevin Powers/Tapestry: Ukiah, Laytonville & Covelo with flexible services to see kids in crisis where staff can flex their time to accommodate the time needed.
 - Question: Are you continuing to supply transportation from Hopland?
 - Answer: Kevin - yes.
 - Danielle: RCS offers services.
 - Question: Can you supply transport to Youth Project?
 - Answer: Every organization provides their own transportation
- Danielle Lower/RQMC: continue to look for a building in Ft. Bragg to offer same services as the Arbor in Ukiah. In Hopland, 10-15% youth serviced 0-24 are using the Children's System of Care and others through the Youth Project Laytonville & Action Network Gualala.
 - Question: What is the timeline for opening the Ft. Bragg facility
 - Answer: We are in negotiations over rent of the Bank of America building to move all services in. It is not a funding issue or staff, it is a space issue.
- Melanie Ulvila/Consolidated: Counselors going to the jails & outreach, a Cultural Competency Training, groups throughout the week. Wanted to do something more with the Tribal Youth-looking to collaborate

- Arbor youth: “Great programs and outlined my goals and set clear ways for me to achieve them. I would like to see more funding for the Arbor to offer more programs that they would like to have. I do not know where I’d be today if I did not have the support of the Arbor’s programs.”
- Youth Project and Tapestry: Attendee supports their services and needing more funding and a collaborative with Tribal agencies
- The Costal Clinic would be happy to facilitate trainings – Primary Purpose no longer exists and needs to be taken off the Program Summary
- WET = Workforce Education & Training – is a specific component of MHSA funds set aside for 3 years to help build our community workforce.
 - The focus is on incentive, stipends and scholarships for those who are working in the underserved groups to help them to get back to school or to and from a job that is an out of reach area
 - Tool is being developed on how we are going to prioritize who qualifies for the incentives, stipends and scholarship applications
 - It will be similar to the mental health loan assumption program without their applicant restrictions
 - Mendocino College – looking for funding in improving the curriculum to provide specific classes and certifications in these underserved needs
 - Develop and support the peer provider ability at the county-how to encourage agencies to develop positions for peer providers, positions that are paid, and that offer promotion opportunities and how we are going to incentivize by finding for the Agencies to support this process
- INN = Innovation – specific percentage of Mendocino county funding that comes off the top intended for new and improved service delivery options with a learning component.
 - Next meeting – March 17th @ 1:00pm in conference room 1 at the Health & Human Services Agency
 - Focusing on learning how we can better serve the crisis needs of the south coast and north county and develop a pilot project that will then be proposed to the State Oversight & Accountability Commission

4) Recommendations for Future MHSA Services

- What’s working? What’s not working?
- Question: How to get adult housing, and as a first priority?
 - Answer: MHSA perspective – housing support model is a well-recognized – there is specific funding established that is intended to be for our underserved population that are hard to reach, have difficulty going through the typical provisions
 - How much is that funding?
 - Number?*
 - Answer: The housing money was intended to be accessed by each county before now, but the process was challenging for small counties because of the way they were segregated. Legislation was written in the past four months to rectify this challenge for the small counties to access these funds and changes the way we can access the money. The county is in the process of putting out an RFQ for applicants to provide new permanent stable housing for those with severe and chronic health issues and underserved in our population with a supportive housing component.
- Question: What money is available? How do we make it a priority?
 - Answer: Additionally to the MHSA funded supportive housing project the Full Service Partner (FSP) model of care which is MHSA funded (Community Services Supports (CSS) program – have all age groups with targeted amounts and the model is intended to overcome barriers such as housing, and intensive case managers are provided with intensive level of case management that helps overcome some of those barriers of education, housing, etc.
- Question: How much money will we get from the state?
 - Our Fiscal representative is not here – we will respond when we get that information

- Question: Can we change policy so the homeless who need housing are not required to go through Agencies to get housing?
 - Answer: From the MHSA perspective CSS have to be the front line and for those who enter the supportive programs and through the steps is how they establish themselves as FSPs
 - Answer: the policy is that the FSP model is followed to address housing and we will need to discuss it with the Agencies for future options with the Annual Update and next 3Year Plan
 - Stepping Stones funding – Levine House: do not have to have any mental health services in place, but they get housed through a referral from the Crisis center
 - Arbor youth states his concern about receiving assistance when he turns 25
 - Placing the need for adult and older adult housing on the Needs List
- Question: Why are we continuing to support a policy that does not support our community?
- Question: What is the housing application process?
 - There is a 30 day public comment period for any questions
 - The public hearing is where the public can hear the details
- Question: Do you know what the status of an 18 bed facility near the Fair Grounds?
 - Crisis Services – moved to 564 S. Dora St. Suite D, Ukiah – 2 temporary 23 hour respite beds
 - Not familiar with an 18 bed facility ready – discussion is undergoing
- Question was asked about the challenge of those with a criminal record receiving housing
 - Answered from attendee: that issue is being looked into to overcome the federal restrictions
- Question: Is there room in the MHSA funds for a housing feasibility study?
 - Answer: It will be placed on the Needs List to review during the Plan update process
- Question: Have the Point in Time Results come out yet?
 - Answer: That is not an MHSA program – need to follow-up with JW
 - Attendee responded that the results target date is the end of March
- Question: Bus stops are not located close to residential areas and what can be done to get better access to transportation?
 - We are aware of the access issue and have contacted the Mendocino Transit Authority to look into adding more bus stop locations to accommodate the outlying area communities
 - Once those services are made available, then communicating and collaborating that they are available will avoid them from being canceled due to lack of participation
- Question: What is available to clients who are not covered by MediCal to receive their medications?
 - Answered by RCS: Redwood Children’s System of Care has set aside funding for those under 24 and has agreement with the children’s access line.
 - MHSA Outreach and Engagement component is for those who are not FSP’s and funds can be used for medications as well as for other things like books for school
- Question: What is available for mental health help for a former foster care youth who is 18?
 - Extended Foster Care AB12 passed in 2011 to extend to age 21 who follow the criteria covers their basic needs. THP Plus program that helps fund some housing- RCS is licensed for those programs. You would want to talk to your Social Worker to get connected to services. You are eligible for all mental health services regardless of age. At the College there is a specific counselor who works with students who are in the underserved population
 - Anyone having difficulty navigating the system can go to any of the Wellness Centers throughout the county for assistance in finding out what your needs are and how to connect to services to meet your needs
- Question: Does the county have a festival where all levels of services and ethnicities can participate to collaborate to bring awareness of services to the community?
 - Answered: The County is not communicating as well as we would hope and we continue to strive to improve and to do so, we rely on all of you for your help with feedback on what is working and what is not at this meeting.
 - A government employee may not always be the best one to make the contact with and we look to the Agencies for that comfortable connection, to be a liaison for us to bring awareness of what is available to the community
 - We have two Community Events annually: May is Mental Health Month and Suicide Prevention week (the 2nd week of September)

- In May we attend most of the Farmers Markets throughout the county, Covelo Big Time, Hope Fest in Fort Bragg, Hopland Tribal Health Fair. An Event Schedule will be emailed to the Stakeholder list in April.
- We also make an effort to attend Health Fairs put on by specialized populations/groups
- We hold two Consumer Events a fiscal year – December at the Arbor and on May 28th at the Harwood Hall in Laytonville
- Question: Is there any mini-curriculum to High School seniors for services?
 - Yes, we have been invited to and intend to have representation at Willits High School March 13th 9:00-03:00

5) Issue Resolution

- Any issues with a service, a Provider, etc.?
 - New form mandated by MHSA
 - Form was designed to look familiar like the Grievance form currently in place
 - It is a requirement for MHSA to be responsive to community needs
 - State is asking us to track any issues
 - The form may be adjusted to be less confusing between the Grievance form and this form
 - The form can be completed by any concerned community member

6) Next Steps

- Program Summary change – Consolidated not does offer bi-lingual services

NOTE: TIME CHANGE for FORUM

The next MHSA Forum will be April 8, 2015 from 11:00am – 12:30pm at Point Arena Library, 225 Main St., Point Arena CA 95428

For more information call: Robin Meloche, MHSA Coordinator at 707-472-2332 or email: meloche@co.mendocino.ca.us

By: Dennie Maslak 4/2/15