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## MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

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### MHRS UPDATE

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**DATE:** May 17, 2023

**TO:** Members of the County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

**FROM:** Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW  
Chief of Mental Health & Recovery Services

**SUBJECT:** Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Update for May 2023

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#### **Adult and Older Adult Mental Health**

**Older Adults:** For the month of April, **Older Adult Services (OAS) Clinic** admitted 42 new clients, while 36 clients either graduated or successfully transitioned to a lower level of care. Additionally, OAS was able to successfully transition 7 homeless clients to stable housing. OAS clinicians are prioritizing linking older adult veterans to USVETS/OC VETS organizations for additional resources. The Older Adult Program has referred 29 clients to CalAIM Community Support services including a food delivery program to address food insecurity for homebound older adults. Additionally, for the month April **OASIS** enrolled 10 new members and discharged 2, one of which was a successful graduation.

**Collaborative Services:** The new **Adult Vietnamese Speaking Full Service Partnership (FSP)** contract with Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) was approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on 4/25/23 with service start date of 7/1/23. The program will be able to serve an average daily volume of 100 Vietnamese speaking adults, ages 18 and over, who are living with a serious mental illness and may have co-occurring substance use disorders and are unserved or underserved, have not successfully engaged in traditional mental health services, are involved with the justice system and/or are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Referrals will come from the community and through program outreach efforts. Additionally, HCA plans to re-release the Spanish Speaking and Veteran FSP Services Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Housing and Supportive Services:** On 4/28/23, MHRS submitted our application for **Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH)**. The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health or substance use conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness. The priority is to meet this critical need, and the focus is on immediate and sustainable solutions. The BHBH Program provides funding for operational and supportive services, not covered under other funding sources, to expand bridge housing implementation. The funding that is available under this program is to create new beds in Orange County and to ensure that BHBH Program settings will provide supportive services and housing navigation to assist people who have serious behavioral health conditions and are experiencing homelessness.

**Outpatient Services: Adult and Older Adult Outpatient Mental Health Clinics** serve clients coming out of the hospital and jail settings within one day of being released and self-referred clients within 10 business days of their initial request for services. The outpatient clinics are staffed by a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, nurses, clinicians, mental health specialists, and peers. Services provided include initial assessment, individual therapy, case management, rehabilitation services, medication management,

group services and peer support services. The outpatient clinics also operate a peer run clubhouse that clients can attend and learn socialization skills. Over the past several months the outpatient programs have been seeing an increase in referrals based on the new screening and transition of care tool.

### **Crisis and Acute Care Services**

**Acute Care: Crisis and Acute Care** continues to post a solicitation on Periscope for additional contractors to join the **Medi-Cal Managed Care Master Agreement** for acute inpatient hospital services for adolescents, adults, and older adults. The purpose of this is to continue to build acute inpatient hospital capacity for Orange County to meet the needs of our community. On 5/23/23, Crisis and Acute Care will be presenting the master contract for **Mental Health Inpatient Services** for youth, adults, and older adults to the BOS for their consideration and approval to provide acute inpatient hospital services to Orange County uninsured residents. The purpose of this contract is to ensure individuals without funding will be able to access this needed service, and for hospitals serving this population to assist clients with the application for Medi-Cal benefits while hospitalized to assist with future linkage to resources and support.

Crisis and Acute Care has worked closely with College **Community Services Peer Mentoring Program**, as well as with other contracted acute psychiatric inpatient hospital partners to expand implementation of peer support services throughout the behavioral health system of care. College Hospital Costa Mesa implemented **Peer Navigator** services in April, and Anaheim Community Hospital plans to implement this additional support for clients in early June. Through this partnership, peer mentors are embedded in the behavioral health units of these hospitals and provide outreach and peer support services. Upon discharge, field-based peer mentors support clients for up to 60 days for the purpose of facilitating successful linkage and engagement with outpatient behavioral health services and community support. Peers provide reassurance, encouragement, advocacy, and education to the client and their family on the benefits of ongoing behavioral health services, and assist clients to schedule and keep established appointments, including arranging transportation for the appointments.

**Crisis Response:** On 5/9/23, HCA is recommending the BOS approve the selection of and Contract with The Priority Center, Ending the Generational Cycle of Trauma, Inc. for provision of **Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization Services** for the term of 7/1/23 – 6/30/26. Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization Services will assist adults, ages eighteen and older, who have been evaluated to be in a mental health crisis to remain safely in the community and out of the hospital with the appropriate support.

On 5/23/23 HCA is recommending the BOS approval for the renewal of the Contract with Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) LLC dba College Hospital CSU for provision of **Crisis Stabilization Services** for the term of 7/1/23 – 6/30/24. Services will allow Orange County to maintain the current resources and capacity for Crisis Stabilization Services for residents experiencing mental health crises and continue to allow residents to receive treatment in less restrictive and more appropriate levels of care versus inpatient psychiatric hospitalization and emergency department visits.

On 5/23/23, HCA is recommending approving the renewal of the Contract with CEP America-Psychiatry, PC dba Vituity for provision of **Psychiatric and Basic Medical Services** for the term 7/1/23 – 6/30/25. This Contract is for the provision of Psychiatric and Basic Medical Services that provide on-site Psychiatric and Basic Medical Services to all adults seen at the MHRS CSU.

**Mobile Crisis Benefit:** The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 allows states to add qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services as a covered Medicaid benefit for a five-year period, beginning 4/1/22, and ending 3/31/27. Per the DHCS BHIN, Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems shall have the benefit fully implemented by 12/31/23. To achieve this HCA MHRS-Crisis & Acute Care Services is working with CBHDA who is providing a series of Mobile Crisis Training and Technical Assistance sessions to support California Counties in the development of their **Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Services Benefit Implementation** plans. We are still in the beginning stages and working through the Toolkits provided by CBHDA to predict mobile crisis demand, budgeting and collaborating with our local law enforcement partners. We are also discussing this new Mobile Crisis Benefit at our monthly CIT Steering committee meetings to involve Leadership of various stakeholders who oversee our local crisis system.

### **Children and Youth Services**

On 4/25/23, the BOS approved the Master Agreement and individual contracts with Child Guidance Center, Pathways Community Services, Seneca Family of Agencies and Western Youth Services for the provision of **Children and Youth Outpatient Services**. Services will be provided to Medi-Cal eligible children and youth in the community, and provide increased access to assessment, individual, group, and family therapy, crisis intervention, medication support, case management and Therapeutic Behavioral Services. There will be additional case-carrying clinical positions funded in the contracts to increase capacity to serve children, youth and their families in 16 outpatient clinics throughout Orange County.

### **Substance Use Disorder Services**

MHRS continues to coordinate forums to educate the community on the dangers of **fentanyl and opioid overdose prevention**, featuring training and the distribution of Naloxone. In collaboration with Chairman Wagner's office, the April forum in Lake Forest had almost 100 participants. During the month of May, we held a forum on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Mission Viejo. There are future forums scheduled in Rancho Santa Margarita on 6/20/23 and in Orange on 7/20/23.

During the month of April, the **DUI and Drug Court Programs** celebrated over 15 graduations. The programs saw a large increase in participants with over 27 clients admitted to outpatient treatment services. Evaluations for the court programs are also on the rise due to court referrals increasing post CV-19 impacts. Judge Anderson of Harbor Drug Court, South Drug Court and Harbor DUI Court has officially announced his retirement date as 6/14/23.

On 5/9/23, the BOS approved a new master agreement for **Recovery Residences**, which includes 7 providers and securing 221 beds for Orange County residents. Recovery Residences provide supervised transitional housing options in a safe and drug-free environment for adults as they transition back into the community and secure stable housing and employment.

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**

After the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's Public Hearing on the MHSA's Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for FY 2023-24 through 2025-26, the Plan was designed by HCA Graphics and submitted to the BOS to be on the agenda for their approval on 6/6/23. In planning ahead for the upcoming MHSA Plan Update for FY 2024-25, the MHSA Office will be holding a community planning meeting on 5/15/23 to go over the process that took place for this past plan and get an idea for what the community liked and did not like, obtain suggestions for improvement and preliminary plans as they move forward for the year.

### **Board Items:**

4/25/23	Child Guidance Center, Inc. (\$41,598,711), MA-042-23010955 with Pathways Community Services, LLC (\$34,112,424), MA-042-23010956 with Seneca Family of Agencies (\$20,708,247) and MA-042-23010959 with Western Youth Services (\$85,943,961) for children and youth outpatient services, 7/1/23 - 6/30/26
4/25/23	College Community Services MA-042-20011337 for mental health peer support and wellness center services - Central (\$3,875,706; cumulative total \$8,418,334), MA-042-20011340 for mental health peer support and wellness center services - South (\$2,655,406; cumulative total \$5,172,823), and MA-042-20011339 with Orange County Association for Mental Health dba Mental Health Association of Orange County for mental health peer support and wellness center services - West, 7/1/23 - 6/30/25 (\$3,119,056; cumulative total \$6,442,508);
4/25/23	Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Inc. for adult Vietnamese speaking full service partnership services, 7/1/23 - 6/30/26 (\$10,293,119);
4/25/23	Charitable Ventures of Orange County for early childhood and youth mental health consultation services, 7/1/23 - 6/30/24 (\$2,300,000; cumulative total \$7,440,301)