

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Scott Gilman, MSA, CBHE

MHSA Housing Task Force Priorities



Last year, during the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) three-year planning process, participants identified broad needs and strategies to prioritize MHSA funding. The

strategies were organized under five MHSA Strategic Initiatives: Housing, Crisis Diversion, Culturally Responsive and Trauma-Informed, Integrated Treatment and Recovery Supports, and Community Engagement.

Among these initiatives, the MHSA Steering Committee prioritized the housing topic in which to engage stakeholders in deeper planning and to develop a strategic direction for MHSA investments.

The Housing Initiative Taskforce convened from March to May 2021 to accomplish the following goals: define a housing continuum of services for individuals living with mental illness; identify gaps at all levels of support or intensity in treatment; articulate and prioritize broad housing-related outcomes; and identify, prioritize, and recommend activities to fund under each prioritized outcome.

With support from MHSA Housing Consultant Judy Davila and MHSA Manager Doris Estremera, taskforce participants developed a comprehensive housing continuum and identified gaps in services based on an ideal continuum of services; developed and prioritized broad client and community outcomes; brainstormed best practices to address the prioritized outcomes; and developed funding recommendations along with measurable outputs and estimated funding amounts.

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Mental Health School Services Act Grant Implementation

Last year, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) were awarded \$6 million over four years as part of the Mental Health School Services Act Grant (MHSSA). This grant provides 12 school districts (Bayshore, Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson Union, Pacifica, San Bruno, Hillsborough City, Burlingame Elementary, Cabrillo Unified, San Mateo-Foster City, San Carlos, Sequoia Union, and Ravenswood) with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and Community Resiliency Model (CRM) Training for all district staff, as well as support for data collection. Additionally, select under-resourced and high-need districts receive a more tailored and culturally responsive SEL curriculum, Care Solace concierge services (now expanded to all districts), and wellness counseling staff.

Since October 2020, SMCOE's Success for Youth and Schools through Trauma-Informed & Equitable Modules (SYSTEM) support team has been working on launching the interventions funded by this grant. Following are highlights of their progress:

- **All 12 school districts have received and begun implementing SEL curriculum:** Training and coaching for staff to implement one of three selected evidence-based SEL curricula to prevent, and provide early identification of, mental health challenges has started. The training provides teachers with the necessary tools and confidence to bring SEL into their classes.
- **Twenty-five educators trained:** Trauma Resource Institute, trainers for the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) have already begun conducting training for the 12 districts participating in the MHSSA grant and the remaining 12 districts in San

32.3%

Revenue Ratio (R3)

8,598

Total Clients

728

Admitted

782

Discharged

Mateo County. Participants learn not only how to help themselves but how to help others within their wider social network.

- **Care Solace, a mental health care navigation agency launched and expanded to all school districts countywide:** Care Solace, a live 24x7 concierge line that helps students, their family members, and school staff connect to local mental health-related services, was initially launched in five of the 12 districts that the MHSSA grant funded. However, SMCOE secured funding through the Peninsula Health Care District, Sequoia Health Care District, and other grants to expand the service to students, families, and staff for all 24 school districts. Contact Care Solace at (888) 515-0595.
- **Wellness counselors staffing for high-need districts:** Two districts have already increased their wellness staff to support their distance learning students. In the fall, four of the MHSSA districts will hire wellness counselors to assist with referrals from the universal screeners (provided by the grant) and provide the Social Emotion Learning curriculum.

We are excited about the launch of these much-needed services—at a time when the pandemic and distance learning have significantly impacted students' and families' mental health.

Congratulations BHRS Staff



Susann Reed, Contracts Manager, retired on June 15. Suzi first joined BHRS 15 years ago as the private provider network coordinator overseeing the managed care network where she nearly doubled provider capacity. In 2008, she was promoted to the BHRS contracts manager

role and successfully managed over 500 contracts annually, making BHRS one of the largest contracting units in the county. During her tenure, she led and/or participated in many improvement projects, including the conversion of the internal BHRS contract process from paper to an electronic format; served as a subject matter expert on the development of high-level agreements, including the first contract for our electronic health record system; and created county-wide contract policies and procedures, such as the launch of a county-wide contracts handbook.

As an avid painter, mixed-media artist and crafter,

Suzi plans to pursue her art career which will include providing art classes at residential facilities for the mentally ill. She also plans to travel and has a goal of visiting every single National Park!



Brad Johnson, Contracts Manager as of June 16, joined BHRS as a contracts administrator II in 2008. He became the private provider network coordinator in 2010, and, was promoted to a management analyst in 2017. In these roles, Brad worked with many people to navigate various aspects of the contracting process, managed over 200 providers in the managed care network, and worked directly with numerous contractors and community organizations. He has also served as the work-out-of-class contracts manager on several occasions.

In his free time, Brad loves to golf and spend time with his family. He enjoys many genres of music, especially jazz. As soon as we are post-pandemic, Brad plans to be back at live concerts and sporting events!

[Cannabis] Decoded: Winter Media Campaign



[Cannabis] Decoded is a Youth Marijuana Education Initiative from the County of San Mateo. This initiative was launched in partnership with the San Mateo County Youth Commission to educate youth and young adults about the facts on cannabis use.

The campaign aims to provide reliable, factual information so that young people have the tools they need to make informed decisions about their health and future.

The latest [Cannabis] Decoded media campaign ran from January 15 through March 15, 2021 in San Mateo County. The campaign generated 6,137,704 impressions (ad exposures), which was nearly twice our goal. The digital marketing campaign included search engine marketing, paid social (Instagram), display marketing, a mobile game ([demo the game here](#)), a pre-roll video, digital radio, and a mobile shaker ad. We also hosted a free [virtual escape room](#)!

There were 6,061 new visitors to the website [CannabisDecoded.org](#) during the campaign, in addition

to many return visitors. Continue to help us spread the word about [Cannabis] Decoded by sharing this [flyer](#).

Pride Celebration Raises New Progress Flag



San Mateo County's 9th Annual Pride Celebration, "As Diverse as the Universe," featured 12 events during the week of June 6-12. The events highlighted inclusion, education, visibility, and resources, reaching over 1,200 people.

Workshops held during the week raised consciousness about LGBTQ+ issues, and helped us learn about, celebrate, and honor our LGBTQ+ community.

The Grand Celebration kicked-off with a blessing by the Office of Diversity and Equity's (ODE) Native & Indigenous Peoples Initiative and the raising of the new Pride Progress flag in San Mateo Central Park. "I feel very fortunate to live here in San Mateo County where we welcome people of all backgrounds to live, work, and visit here with pride and with dignity. I'm particularly excited that this year we are flying for the first time the Pride Progress flag. The flag represents our goal to be inclusive of all who identify as black, indigenous, people of color, and LGBTQ," said Supervisor Dave Pine.

The day was immersed in song, dance, laughter, encouragement, and acknowledgment—bringing us together to celebrate our diversity, solidarity, and commitment to the LGBTQ+ community.

Thanks to ODE's Pride Initiative, the planning committee, sponsors, and volunteers who made this event possible. Learn about the 2021 event at www.smcpridecelebration.com. Watch the recording [here](#)

MHSA Housing Task Force Priorities

(continued from page 1)

The funding available for the MHSA Housing Initiative Taskforce is \$2.2 million in ongoing funds and \$12 million in one-time funds. Final funding

recommendations are shown below in the order prioritized by the task force:

1. Establish an ongoing housing fund with the Department of Housing to develop supportive housing units for clients.
2. Have mental health workers accompany the Homeless Outreach Team.
3. Provide supportive services for new housing units developed as part of the Housing Fund (#1 above).
4. Implement a housing locator contract to oversee: a) maintenance of BHRS housing website services with real-time housing availability information; b) links to case managers; c) landlord engagement; and d) community mental health 101 education for housing agencies.
5. Provide transitional housing support and training to adequately serve the seriously mentally ill population, including special populations.
6. Offer outreach and field-based services to support ongoing and long-term housing retention; also, provide an occupational therapist and peer counselor team with a co-occurring capacity to support independent living skill development and recovery.
7. Establish a flexible fund for housing-related expenses (moving costs, deposits, first-month rent).
8. Develop an online BHRS housing website with comprehensive one-stop housing information (including a data dashboard for unmet needs) for clients and staff.
9. Increase the Full-Service Partnership housing funds.
10. Provide incentives and support for licensed board and care homes to improve the quality of services.
11. Increase Full-Service Partnership program slots for children/youth and transition-age youth.

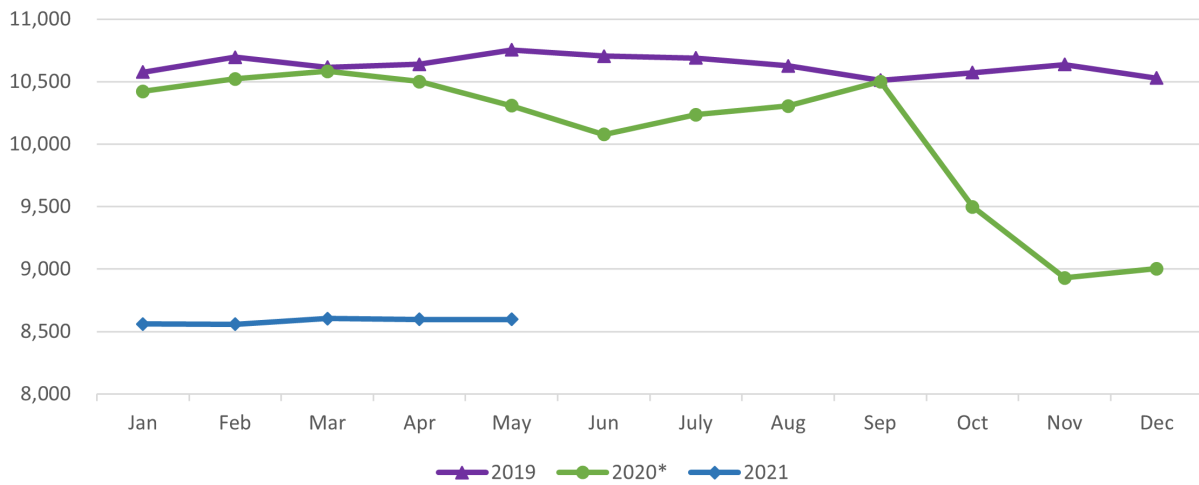
Taskforce participants included 30 diverse stakeholders representing clients, family members, community-based behavioral health service providers, and county departments (BHRS, Aging and Adult Services, San Mateo Medical Center, Human Services Agency, and the Department of Housing).

See all taskforce documents on the MHSA Housing [webpage](#), under "Housing Initiative Taskforce."



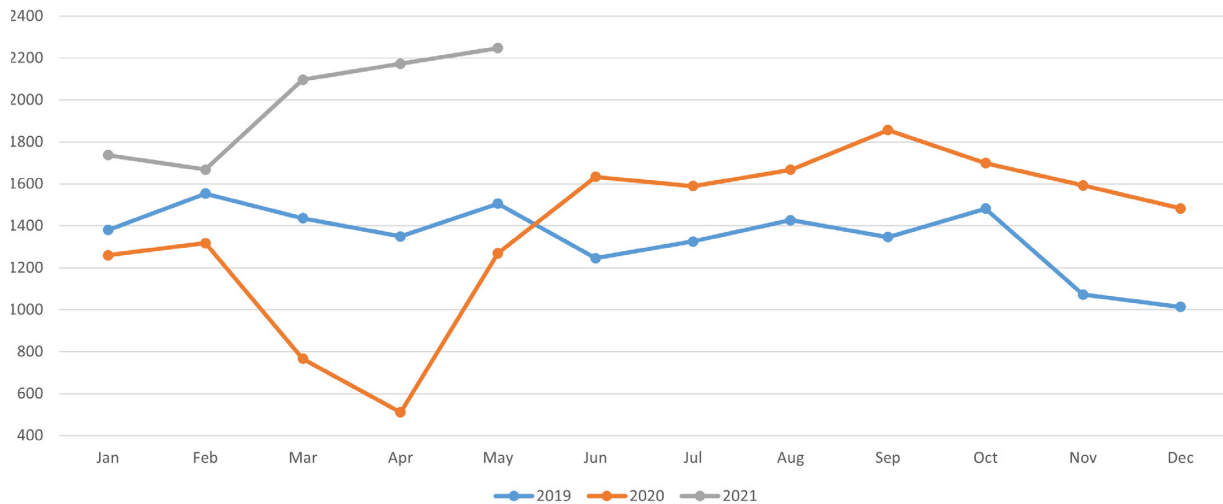
SNAPSHOT: BHRS Clients - as of May 31, 2021

Total BHRS Clients by Month (2019 - 2021)



*Mild to moderate services reverted to Health Plan of San Mateo 10/1/20.

BHRS Access Call Center - Total Calls by Month (2019 - 2021)



Service Category	Total Clients	Admitted - May	Discharged - May
Mental Health Services County SMI	5,684	520	569
Mental Health Services Contracted SMI	1,980	96	119
AOD Services	934	112	94
Total BHRS Clients	8,598	728	782

Total clients are unduplicated within each service category, however, if a client received services in more than one category during the same period, the client is counted in multiple categories.

R3% - 32.3% (revenue ratio of billed services as of 05/31/21)