

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Scott Gilman, MSA, CBHE

Grant to Improve Access to Care for Students and Families

BHRS has been awarded one of two Mental Health Student Service Act grants earmarked for large counties to establish mental health partnerships between county behavioral health departments and local education entities. The 4-year, \$1.5M per year grant is aimed at improving access to mental health services for students and their families.

SYSTEM Support

The grant will fund the new program, SYSTEM Support (Success for Youth and Schools through Trauma-Informed & Equitable Modules) creating a partnership between BHRS and the San Mateo County Office of Education, in collaboration with 12 participating school districts, which together serve about 55,000 students.

SYSTEM Support promotes consistency in social emotional learning, resiliency and data collection across the participating districts. Objectives include increasing school site capacity and expertise to identify and address social-emotional, behavioral, and academic risks and needs, and improving student attendance and performance, particularly for more vulnerable populations. The program will include staff training and coaching in the Social Emotional Learning curricula and Community Resiliency Model, and in gathering data to measure student performance and well being. Select high need/limited resource schools will also include universal screening, wellness counselors and access to mental health care coordination services.

Successful implementation of these strategies will provide the framework for a countywide approach to rolling out these services to all school districts.

Pernille Gutschick Retires



Pernille Gutschick, Clinical Services Manager (CSM) II, began her career at the County in 1988. She spent the first half of her BHRS career in the youth mental health system, first as a school-based mental health clinician working with seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families, then at Youth Services Center. She

provided direct services to youth at Camp Glenwood, working with at-risk youth and their families through the Placement Intervention program, and as a member of the Functional Family Therapy team.

For the second half of her career, she shifted over to the adult mental health system, starting as a program specialist for the Adult Resource Management team before being promoted to the supervisor. In 2016, she was promoted to a clinical services manager overseeing adult and youth mental health programs at both the Central County regional clinic and the countywide Crisis Services team.

When adult mental health re-structured this past February, Pernille became the Crisis Services and Outreach and Engagement manager, overseeing all adult and youth crisis services, and all BHRS-operated and contracted outreach and engagement programs.

Her successes include implementation of the: first Parent Project program, mental health training program for the San Mateo County Mental Health Assessment and Referral Team (SMART) medics, Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, opening of Serenity House crisis residential treatment facility, and Homeless Engagement, Assessment and Linkage Team (HEAL) pilot that partners

27.5%

Revenue Ratio (R3)

12,374

Total Clients

827

Admitted

694

Discharged

mental health clinicians with Homeless Outreach Teams.

Pernille is also well known within BHRS for her catering know-how, her gifting of hand crafted greeting cards to staff and her amazing quilted art pieces. We would like to thank Pernille for her 32 years of hard work and dedication, and wish her a fabulous retirement!

Tony Hoffman Award

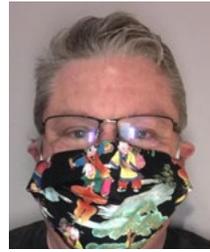
The San Mateo County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission recognizes individuals, professionals, businesses and the media who have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of people with mental illness and in the San Mateo County community. Congratulations to this year's Tony Hoffman award recipients (more to come in a future issue):

- Devin Aceret
- Jennifer Basler
- Rocio Cornejo
- Doris Estremera
- Renee Harris
- Charo Martinez
- Tennille Tucker
- Pamela Ward

Staff Serve as Disaster Service Workers for the County

Over the past few months, a number of BHRS staff have been (and will continue to be) deployed elsewhere in the county—as all county employees are designated disaster service workers—to support for the COVID-19 emergency. Staff can be deployed to a variety of areas depending on current needs such as: the County's Emergency Operations Center or the Health Disaster Operations Center, Communicable Diseases as contact tracers or support staff for a year-long assignments, or deployed to various sites for brief periods such as a Verily Test Site, the Health warehouses, or to assist with outreach to care sites or support community-based operations such as shelters or alternative housing sites.

A huge thank you to the following staff who have been deployed:



David Bass, Office Assistant, Service Connect – deployed to Communicable Disease Control, Public Health, Policy & Planning as a contact tracer. *“I’m grateful to fight the pandemic instead of just being mindful of it and to take a step towards a career in data-driven public health.”*



Francesca Lomotan, Tobacco Prevention Program Director, Community Health Promotion Unit – deployed to the Emergency Operations Center: Med/Health Branch – Care Site Outreach and Support Team.



Briana Murray, Mental Health Counselor, OASIS – deployed to the Resource Unit, Emergency Operation Center. *“You many not always end up where you thought you were going, but you will always end up where you were meant to be.”*



Nikki Kanakis, Lead Specialist, Drug Court and MDUI Treatment Court – deployed to the Surveillance Lab Result Disclosure Team in Public Health. *“I am grateful to be part of the team in helping our community and county.”*



Pierre Harper, Counselor, Canyon Oaks Youth Center – deployed to Communicable Disease Control, Public Health, Policy & Planning as a contact tracer. *“I am excited to help flatten the COVID-19 curve and add value as a public health worker. Proud to be a part of the team and making a difference in my community.”*



Yolanda Ramirez, Coordinator of Family Education and Support, Office of Consumer and Family Affairs - deployed to Verily testing sites. *“I feel fortunate to be able to serve my community including the monolingual Spanish speaking folks, though I am concerned about the lack of Spanish speaking*

volunteers. I am honored to be part of the testing sites team where we look after each other and do our best to continue providing this essential service to our residents.”



Jairo Wilches, Grievances Coordinator, Office of Consumer and Family Affairs – deployed to the Resource Unit in the Emergency Operation Center, processing the requests for PPE from hospitals, agencies and dentists in the county.

“We track and distribute several

million units of more than a thousand different types of medical supplies such as syringes, masks and tongue depressors, to medical tests and isolation gowns.”

Amelia (Mia) Leveni, Medical Office Specialist – deployed to the Communicable Disease Control, Public Health, Policy & Planning contact tracing support team.

Ana Maria Palma-Martinez, Medical Office Assistant, BHRS Administration – deployed to Communicable Disease Control, Public Health, Policy & Planning as a contact tracer.

Connie Ruiz, Medical Office Specialist – deployed to the Communicable Disease Control at Public Health, Policy & Planning contact tracing support team

BHRS Executive Team Members

Did you know that the membership in the BHRS executive team was expanded in 2018? The Executive Team (previously also known as the “Kitchen Cabinet”) grew from six to twelve members in late 2018 in order to increase the diversity of voices and perspectives of this leadership group. The change came about as a result of the Multicultural Organizational Development (MCO) discussions. Below is a list of the current members:

- **Scott Gilman**, Director
- **Scott Gruendl**, Assistant Director
- **Vanessa de la Cruz**, Medical Director
- **Clara Boyden**, Deputy Director, AOD Services
- **Janet Gard**, Deputy Director,

Finance and Administration

- **Karen Krahn**, Deputy Director, Adult and Older Adult Services
- **Ziomara Ochoa**, Deputy Director, Child and Youth Services
- **Ingall Bull**, Quality Assurance Manager
- **Maria Lorente-Foresti**, Director, Office of Diversity and Equity
- **Tracy Loum**, Patient Services Office Manager
- **Regina Moreno**, Clinical Services Manager II, Youth Services
- **Talisha Racy**, Clinical Services Manager II, Adult Services

Cannabis Decoded Public Education Media Campaign

The Cannabis Decoded campaign, a collaboration with Monterey, Marin, and Sonoma, is aimed at educating teens (and their parents/caregivers) on the impact of cannabis use. Research shows that when people are exposed only to messages that promote cannabis use, they perceive it as being safe. The campaign website cannabisdecoded.org provides a reliable source to find facts about cannabis to help young people make informed decisions.

The 2019 campaign, which ran for five months last year, included billboards, digital ads on Instagram and other channels, wild postings, chalk art and a large scale escape room activity.

San Mateo County’s campaign performance and pre-post survey highlights include:

- 7.6M people reached with the strongest performance from teens ages 13-17 (primary target group is teens, ages 13-18) with 49% from hard to reach males in this age group.
- Over 1,600 visits to the campaign website
- 6 out of 10 Bay Area youth say these types of digital ads have influenced their decision about cannabis use

This year, BHRS continues to promote the campaign with funding from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. Building upon learnings from last year, and with input from youth across the region, a new set of digital ads were developed to run

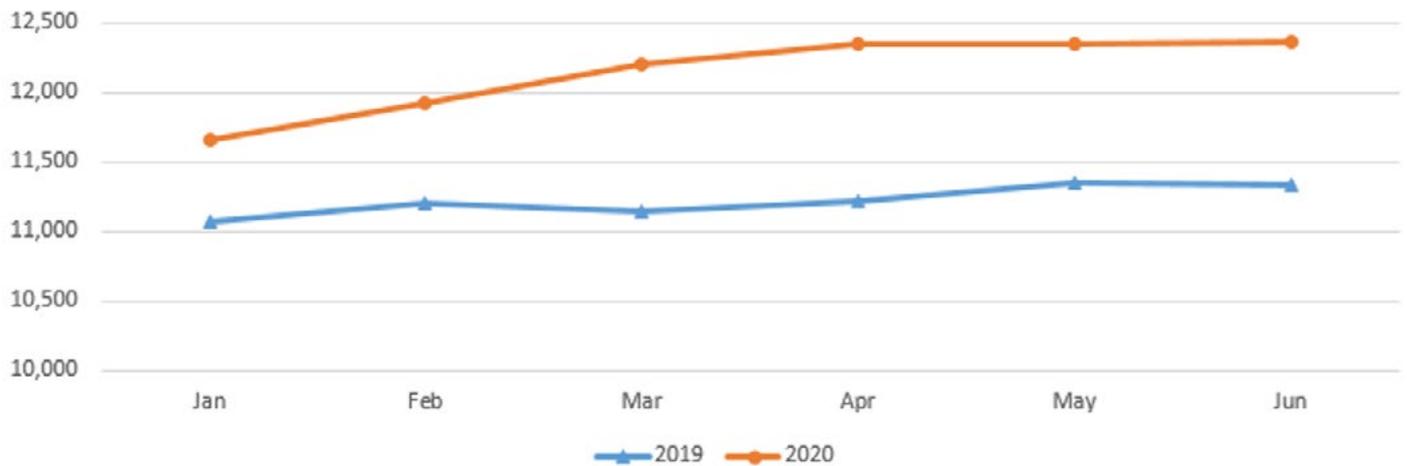
NEW COVID MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES PAGE
smchealth.org/covid-19-mental-health-and-wellness-resources **CLICK HERE**

on Instagram during the summer and fall, including an ad featuring American professional soccer player Megan Rapinoe (at right). Other counties such as Marin and Monterey are also promoting this summer campaign.



SNAPSHOT: BHRS Clients Served - as of June 30, 2020

Total BHRS Clients by Month (2019 vs 2020)



Service Category	Total Clients	Admitted - June	Discharged - June
Mental Health Services (County)	5,413	387	434
Mental Health Services (Contracted)	5,675	326	177
AOD Services	1,286	114	83
BHRS Client Total	12,374	827	694

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% (27.5%) is the revenue ratio of billed services as of 6/30/20.