IMPERIAL COUNTY BE HAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ANNUAL UPDATE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

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MHSA MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE FY 2021-2022

Executive Summary

California voters approved the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) on January 1, 2005. MHSA is used to expand and transform California's mental health service systems by providing funds to reduce the long-term adverse impact of untreated severe mental illness and serious emotional disturbance. The goals of MHSA programs is to provide services that promote well-being, recovery, and self-help; prevent the long-term negative impact of severe mental illness; and reduce stigma. Services are culturally competent, easier to access, and more effective in preventing and treating severe mental illness. These are obtained by using the "whatever it takes" approach.

During FY 2020-2021 Imperial County residents, as the world, was impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As our county moved into quarantine rules in March of 2020, just this significantly affected the norm in which services were provided by MHSA programs. Because of this Imperial County Behavioral Health Department recognized it was even more important to maintain a strong presence in our community. The World Health Organization (WHO) early in the pandemic recognized that mental health would be impacted as there were many uncertainties impacting individuals day-to-day lives. The WHO also conducted an early assessment, "The impact of COVID-19 on mental, neurological and substance use services:

results of a rapid assessment" which noted there was a clear indication that mental health systems were to be compromised at a time when they are likely needed most (WHO, 2020). One of the main narratives seen throughout the programs annual update are the impacts of change due to the pandemic, as well as, the perseverance and the adjustments programs engaged in in order to sustain service delivery.



Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS), through a stakeholder process that includes consumers, family members, and community partners, has developed and implemented various MHSA programs to meet the specific needs of Imperial County. As a result of this community planning process, the following programs and services will be available during FY 2021-2022:

Community Services and Supports

Community Services and Supports programs, the largest component of MHSA, focus on children and families, transition-age youth, adults, and older adults who suffer from severe mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. Programs provided through Community Services and Supports include:

Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services
 Full-Service Partnership (FSP) – provides
 services and support to severely mentally ill
 and seriously emotionally disturbed youth and
 young adults, ages 12 to 25. Services
 available to YAYA-FSP Program consumers
 include a variety services to include case
 management; rehabilitative services; "wraplike" services; integrated community mental
 health and substance abuse treatment; crisis
 response; alternatives to juvenile hall; home



and community re-entry from juvenile hall; youth and parent mentoring; supported employment or education; transportation; housing assistance; benefit acquisition; and respite care. Staff within the YAYA-FSP Program are trained to implement and/or refer to the following treatment models: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT); Functional Family Therapy (FFT); Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT); Portland Identification and Early Referral (PIER) Model; Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Therapy and Aggression Replacement Training (ART). Additionally, health and exercise groups, and Tai Chi classes are available to YAYA-FSP Program consumers.

During FY 2020-2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the YAYA-FSP program, as others, had to make many changes mainly to their contracted services as many of these facilities were no allowing in person services. The YAYA El Centro clinic site also reverted to their regular hours of operation as it was reported that back in January of 2020 hours were extended to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in order to minimize no show rates. However, effective March 2020 hours of operation were returned to normal as in-person services seized due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we began to provide services via Telehealth.

Currently, the Youth and Young Adults program has begun the planning phase, in light of SENATOR JIM BEALL SB 803 - Peer Support Specialist Certification Act of 2020, for the integration of a Peer Support Employment Track for identified consumers that meet the criteria that will be set by the MHP. Said consumers will utilize their lived experience for enriching the support provided to other consumers of ICBHS via functions such as mutual support, community building, providing services, and advocacy. Integration of a Peer Support Specialist employment track will be conducted in a mindful manner to help Peer Supporters retain the distinctive qualities and experience they bring to the organization. The department is currently in the early stage of development. Management from Adults, Children's, Triage, and YAYA divisions have begun to hold meetings to initiate this process. Continue to implement evidence-based practices that are specific to diagnosis and population and promote recovery and resiliency.

For FY 2021-2022, YAYA-FSP Program will continue to work to maximize the utilization of already existing outcome measurement tools; continue to integrate Group therapy into each clinic as a standard psychotherapy practice; increase the staffing by 1 FTE clinician and 1 FTE Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician at each of at two school districts located at Family Resource Centers in their high school campuses; improve consumers' physical health by increasing the number of consumers referred to the YAYA FSP exercise program

at Fitness Oasis; decrease the "No-Show" rate will continue to be implemented to increase consumers' participation in their treatment; host or provide a mental health information and awareness presentations at a minimum of once a year.

Significant changes that will also prompt alterations during FY 2021-2022 to the YAYA-FSP Program include:

- Implementation of Dialectal Behavior Therapy to help in the reduction of Mental Health Triage admissions, and decrease of overall emergency services (i.e. emergency department admissions; inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations) from individuals who have been identified by our outpatient treatment teams to meet the criteria established by the model and MHP for referral to DBT.
- Referral to clients that meet criteria to a new contract with Helping Hearts LLC. The
 purpose of the contract is to extend auxiliary services to the residents of Imperial County
 who are in need of social rehabilitation services. Helping Hearts provides specialized
 psychiatric mental health services in a long-term residential setting for adults discharged
 from hospitals, it will serve as step-downs from institutes of mental disease (IMD) and
 Full Service Partnership (FSP)-like consumers who were the traditional board and care
 (B&C) level of care was unsuccessful.
- Adult and Older Adult Services Full Service Partnership Program (Adult FSP) provides services and supports to SMI adults and older adults, ages 26 and older. Services available to Adult-FSP Program clients include case management; rehabilitative services; "wrap-like" services; integrated community mental health services; substance use disorder services; crisis response; and peer support. The Adult-FSP Program provides clients linkage to the following: emergency shelter; permanent housing; emergency clothing; food assistance; SSI/SSA benefits application and/or appeals; DSS Cash Aid application; Section 8 Housing application; substance abuse treatment and/or rehabilitation referral; referrals to general physician and/or dentist; driver's license/ID application; and/or immigration paperwork. Delivery of needed supports and services are provided in the home for older adults who are homebound, do not have transportation, or are unable to access public transportation.

The Adult-FSP Program staff are trained to implement the following treatment models: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; Cognitive Processing Therapy; Motivational Interviewing; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Anxiety Treatment; Interpersonal Therapy; and Moral Reconation Therapy.

During FY 2020-2021, the Adult-FSP Program also encountered the need to transfer its delivery of services over to telehealth services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The clinic site also adjusted and in many instances conducted intensive case management services in order to provide numerous supports to assist at risk and homeless clients. They also needed to support clients who had limited means to stay connected to their mental health services and they did this engaging the clients either by phone, telehealth and in some situations continued to conduct coordinated in-person visits. All in person trainings and group interventions were also impacted due to the stay at home orders.

Adult FSP clinics also continued to identify clients who would benefit from substance use disorder services. Adult FSP staff refer consumers to SUD-ODS Services and work collaboratively to stabilize consumers and provide needed services to improve the lives of this population.

For FY 2021-2022, the Adult-FSP Program will continue to work toward: reducing the average monthly number of crisis desk admissions and hospitalizations; reduce the number incidents of or risk of homelessness; increase the average monthly number of Moral Reconation Training (MRT) participants who have a history with the criminal justice system; increase the referrals to substance use disorder services of Adult-FSP Program consumers with a co-occurring substance use disorder; improve access to mental health services for the LGBTQ+ community; increase peer support staff or volunteers by one peer or volunteer per program to work specifically with the Adult-FSP population; and increase the access to care for Adult FSP Program consumers who are involved in the criminal justice system. Just as the YAYA-FSP Program, the Adults-FSP is also looking forward to start identifying and referring clients that meet criteria to the Helping Hearts program. The purpose of the contract is to extend auxiliary services to the residents of Imperial County who are in need of social rehabilitation services. The Adults program will add as a goal the monitor the success of clients placed with the Helping Hearts program. The Adults-FSP program will also be pursuing an MRT training for all Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician (MHRT) staff.

Wellness Center – The Wellness Center is a network of consumers whose mission is to implement a wellness program of supportive resource services for adults with a significant and persistent mental health diagnosis. Currently, there are two Wellness Center facilities, one in El Centro and one in Brawley, that provide services that focus on social skills, recovery skills, encouragement, wellness, positive self-esteem, and



community involvement. The Wellness Center has collaborated with outside agencies to offer consumers educational classes and pre-employment, job readiness, and employment training, as well as assist them in obtaining a high school diploma or GED. Consumers also have access to computers and the internet to aid them in completing school assignments (i.e. research, homework, and projects). The Wellness Center staff includes a music instructor who provides group and individual voice and instrumental music instruction. Consumers are also offered the opportunity to attend classes on English as a second language, arts and crafts, photography, self-esteem, life skills, cooking, embroidery/sewing, and computers.

Sadly, during FY 2020-2021 the Wellness Centers had to close in order to comply with safety orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The center; as well as, contracted service staff engaged clients by other means including phone calls, Zoom sessions, Live videos in Facebook, etc... The Center's staff continued to keep engaged with clients to assess and coordinate any supportive needs such as coping strategies, service linkage, and conduct the consumers monthly Wellness and Recovery Assessment Plans (WRAP) and the Illness Management and Recovery Scale (IMRS).

For FY 2021-2022 the Wellness Center program plans to continue to engage consumer's day-by-day and prepare for the re-opening of Center sites. Their goals will remain the same as last years, as the time the centers were open were cut short due to the stay at home order. The Wellness Centers will continue to provide IMR model sessions; increase consumers referral to vocational and educational programs; improve consumers' overall physical health by increasing consumers' physical activity; increase consumers'

independence and social connections by engaging them in their WRAP plans; increase consumers who were able to maintain stable housing, maintain employment, and manage independent living; and assist consumers maintain overall wellness, recovery, and self-sufficiency.

• Outreach and Engagement Program – provides outreach services to unserved and underserved SED and SMI individuals in the neighborhoods where they reside, including those who are homeless, in order to reduce the stigma associated with receiving mental health treatment and increase access to mental health services. The program also provides education to the community regarding mental illness and symptoms, early identification of mental illness, and resources to improve access to care through local outreach. The program assists individuals in obtaining mental health treatment services from ICBHS by providing information pertaining to programs, services, and the intake assessment process; conducting home visits; scheduling intake assessment appointments; and providing transportation to intake assessment appointments when necessary. The Outreach and Engagement Program is also responsible for conducting outreach in order to ensure SED and SMI clients, and their family members, have the opportunity to participate in the community program planning process.

The COVID-19 Pandemic affected the various opportunities to conduct face-to-face outreach and engagement in our community; however, the program overcame this limitation by focusing more on social media outreach and concentrating on their engagement efforts for the FSP clinics.

During FY 2021-2022, the Outreach and Engagement Program will continue to work toward reducing the stigma associated with receiving mental health treatment and increasing access to mental health services.

• Transitional Engagement Supportive Services Program (TESS) – The objective of the TESS Program is to provide supportive services while individuals transition to outpatient mental health treatment. Services provided are directed to address the specific needs of each individual when he or she is transitioning to different levels of care. TESS provides outreach and engagement activities to unserved and underserved SED and SMI individuals over the age of 14. In addition, the TESS Program provides supportive services to assist conservatees who have recently been released from LPS Conservatorship. These services assist the individual with reintegrating back into the community and provide a supportive environment including gaining entry into the mental health system.

Services available to clients at the TESS Program include initial intake assessment; medication support; mental health services – nurse and rehabilitation technician; targeted case management; and crisis intervention. The TESS Program provides linkage to variety of community resources, including, but not limited to: emergency shelter, clothing and food baskets; permanent housing; SSI/SSA benefits or appeal; DSS/Cash Aid; substance abuse treatment and/or rehabilitation referral; general physician, dentist, and/or optometrist; and other ICBHS program and community resources.

During FY 2020-2021, the TESS Program continued to increase efforts to engage homeless and enroll individuals in the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program. The program also continued to pursue successful transfers to the mental health outpatient clinics by linking clients within the 30-day period. TESS continued to work

on improvising and conducting outreach presentations. TESS continued to work to improve expedited follow-up services and care coordination for those individuals who are placed in a psychiatric hospital.

For FY 2021-2022, The TESS program will continue to stand by the goals and objectives established in the MHSA Three Year Plan as adjustment are made and new avenues are explored to ensure the continuity of services.

Community Engagement Supportive Services Program (CESS) – is a program developed to provide outreach and engagement supportive services to individuals 14 years of age and older including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The focus of the CESS program is to address the specific needs of each individual to increase their support system and their willingness for linkage into Mental Health Treatment Services. The goal is to assist individuals with reunification with their family members and/or transitioning them back into the community or a higher level of care.

For FY 2020-2021, the CESS Program has engrossed their efforts in providing services through Imperial County by increasing awareness through outreach, education, and advocacy by targeting specific age groups and population. The program continued to increase efforts to engage homeless individuals suffering from a severe mental illness by continuing to collaborate with homeless shelters, educate agencies, and the community on mental health issues and services available through Imperial County Behavioral Health Department particularly the Mental Health Triage and Engagement Services. Moreover, the CESS Program continued to link clients to specialized services and programs including SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program increases access to Social Security disability benefits and the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program. CESS continued to provide outreach and engagement in collaboration with a local emergency room department, located in the El Centro Regional Medical Center Hospital. The CESS Program worked on improving successful transfers to the mental health outpatient clinics by linking clients within the 30-day period, thus working on preventing individuals from decompensating and being readmitted to the MHTU and/or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. During FY 2020-2021, CESS successfully transferred individuals, to the mental health outpatient clinics. Subsequently, strong efforts were made to decrease no-show rates by repeated retention calls for those who have not been reached. Furthermore, if a consumer has not been reached via a retention calls in an attempt to mitigate a "no-show". The CESS Program remained focused on providing presentations to community agencies in an effort to increase Mental Health Services awareness. One of the areas currently being assessed within the CESS program is its responsibility of applying some of the phases of the Portland Identification and Early Referral model by providing outreach, engagement, and assessment services to determine criteria for the PIER Model. The PIER Model is an evidence-based early detection and intervention model that focuses on the prodromal phase of a developing psychotic illness and advocates psychosocial interventions and drug treatments that are tailored to the individual.

For FY 2021-2022, The CESS program will continue to stand by the goals and objectives established in the MHSA Three Year Plan. Some of the major changes and planning activities to begin in FY 2021-2022 are:

- Transition the PIER program will become a stand-alone program to strengthen its monitoring of services.
- The development and the implementation of new program but also renaming the program as FSP-Intensive Community Program (ICP).
- Identification of a model to be implemented in the county in order to improve the management of psychiatric emergencies for those individuals refusing to engage in services voluntarily.
- Portland Identification and Early Referral model (PIER) is an evidence-based early
 detection and intervention model that focuses on the prodromal phase of a developing
 psychotic illness and advocates psychosocial interventions and drug treatments that are
 tailored to the individual. The objective of the PIER Model is to transition an individual
 identified with early severe mental illness into an evidence-based treatment model as
 quickly as possible to improve outcomes in treatment and allow for transition back into the
 community.

For FY 2020-2021, the PIER Program continued to receive referrals and conducted conducted Structured Interview for Prodromal Syndromes to identify clients that meet Prodromal or First Episode Psychosis; made continuous efforts in providing educational presentations, conducting outreach and informational booths, and disseminating information throughout the community; PIER conducted informational presentations and training to ICBHS staff. Through referrals received and services provided, for FY 2020-2021, despite the current COVID 19 Pandemic, the program identified the increase and interest in the program.

For FY 2021-2022 a significant change will be the consolidation of PIER Model (Phase I and II) under PIER FSP for more effective tracking of cost and data, supervision, and reporting. The PIER Program will continue with the goals and objectives established in FY 2020-2021 with the approach to assess ways to modify service delivery as COVID-19 safety measures continue.

Prevention and Early Intervention

The objective of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs is to lessen the need for additional or extended mental health treatment by facilitating access to supports at the earliest signs of mental health problems. The PEI programs assist in preventing and/or reducing risk factors such as school failure/dropout, prolonged suffering and/or removal of children from their homes that may result from untreated mental illness and increase protective factors that may lead to improved mental, emotional and relational functioning. The PEI programs continue to engage children and youth by delivering services out in the community, all services are provided outside of the norm of outpatient clinics and meet the MHSOAC priority of being *culturally competent and linguistically appropriate* to meet the needs of Imperial County residents.

Prevention Programs

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral
 Therapy Program (TF-CBT) – is a
 selective prevention program for children
 and youth exposed to traumatic
 experiences. TF-CBT is a strategy to reduce
 the negative outcomes such as school
 failure/dropout and prolonged suffering from
 becoming severe and disabling. All TF-CBT
 prevention services are mobile and provided
 out in the community in locations such
 schools, homes and places of worship.



Due to COVID-19 pandemic, referrals to the program decreased greatly as all the schools in Imperial County closed for face-to-face instruction and transferred to virtual instruction. TF-CBT continued to provide selective prevention services by master level clinicians, as well as linkage and referral services by the clinicians for the child/youth and their parents/legal guardians/caregivers.

Program goals projected for FY 2021-2022 will remain the same as current year goals where the program will increase clinicians to provide the CBT model; continue collecting demographic and evaluation data to measure the outcome and performance of the TF-CBT Program as a prevention strategy; continue using the PTSD-RI, YOQ, and YOQ-SR tools to measure symptoms and behaviors of children/youth served; provide information on outcomes to community stakeholders who represent the unserved and/or underserved populations of our consumers and their families.

First Steps to Success (FSS) – The MHSA FSS is a prevention program that was
developed to be provided in a school setting and implemented by school personnel. The
MHSA FSS program focuses on the kindergarten population and is a positive
reinforcement program designed to assist children in developing pro-social skills that will
assist them in being successful at school and home. The goal of the MHSA FSS
program is to prevent mental illness from developing.

Program goals projected for FY 2021-2022 will remain the same as current year goals which includes maintaining collaborative relationships between mental health and education to continue increasing access to services to the unserved and underserved population of young children; continue to expand services to additional elementary schools throughout all Imperial County school districts in order to reach unserved and underserved children; provides training to additional teachers and MHRTs on FSS to ensure successful implementation of the model; increases parents' and teachers' awareness on the extent of how mental illness reaches into this age group of children to decrease the stigma related to mental health; collect data for evaluation purposes of the PEI FSS program; and provide information on outcomes to community stakeholders. including families of children, who also represent the unserved and/or underserved populations of our consumers and their families.

• *Incredible Years* – ICBHS continues to contract with two local agencies in Imperial County for the implementation of the Incredible Years (IY) parenting program. The

program targets a priority population of children and youth in stressed families as part of our prevention program. The parenting program addresses the needs of unserved and/or underserved stressed families in order to prevent childhood trauma, prolonged suffering and/or the risk of having their children removed from their homes. ICBHS contracted with the Child and Parent Council (CAP Council) and Teach, Respect, Educate, Empower Self (TREES) to provide the IY in our community. The TREES parenting program focuses more in the outlying areas of the county such as the Salton Sea. Niland, and Winterhaven.

For FY 2020-2021 both agencies addressed the challenge of not being able to host faceto-face groups due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, found resilience to continue engaging and implementing the program groups via the virtual world.

The goals and objectives that are to transfer over to FY 2021-2022 will include providing Incredible Years groups in English and Spanish, in non-traditional and safe environment such as schools, community centers, family resource centers and other community agencies to increase access to unserved and underserved children/youth in stressed families; provide parenting groups, to include Native Americans and other hard to reach population; evaluate the effectiveness of this program by collecting appropriate evaluating data; provide information on outcomes to community stakeholders including families of children, who also represent the unserved and/or underserved populations of our consumers and their families.

• Rising Stars (RS) – is a prevention program that will provide services to school-aged students (K-12) who are identified as current foster children/youth enrolled in local school districts. The goal of this Prevention program is to reduce the risk factors for mental health illness and enhance the protective factors of the participating foster students. RS staff will provide preventive services such as social emotional learning activities, leadership development, self-esteem enhancement, Developmental Assets workshops, team-building activities, mentoring, academic enhancement, enrichment activities, educational field trips, college-prep workshops, study skills workshops, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) workshops. All of the strategies utilized by RS will be culturally competent and linguistically appropriate for the targeted population.

During FY 2020-2021, the contract was IVROP was finalized and by FY 2021-2022 RS began its recruitment of program participants. Recruitment has been limited as schools have closed, yet the program coordinator is collaborating with other service providers in educating them on the program and identifying potential recruitment opportunities. For FY 2020-2021 the programs goals and objectives were to serve at least 225 schoolaged students (K-12) who are identified as current foster care students residing in Imperial County; collect relevant demographic data of the participating students; conduct all data gathering for reporting requirements; collect Pre-screening data and Post data from outcome measurement tools; improve the self-esteem, sense of hope, and resiliency of participating foster care students to avoid mental health illness; enhance the social-emotional competencies, developmental assets and other protective factors to reduce negative outcomes for the participating foster care students; provide positive quidance and mentoring services to participating foster care students; and improve the study skills, basic skills competencies and college preparation of targeted students to enhance their educational outcomes and prepare them for higher education. Program goals projected for FY 2021-2022 will remain the same as current year goals.

Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Program



The Stigma and Discrimination program addresses the entire Imperial County community, focusing on reducing the negative feelings, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, stereotypes and/or discrimination related to being diagnosed with a mental illness, having a mental illness, or for seeking mental health services. PEI continues to utilize a universal strategy to reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental health. The program also strives to increase the community's acceptance and equity for individuals with a mental illness and their families. On March 2020, due to the Global Pandemic, PEI staff, including master level clinicians and Mental Health Rehabilitation Technicians (MHRTs) began telecommuting and an administrative decision was made to prioritize in providing specialty mental health services during the pandemic crisis.

The program continued to engage the community by hosting a radio show "Let's Talk About It" both in English and Spanish on a weekly basis. The broadcast touches on a variety of educational topics and issues that have significant Behavioral Health impacts.

For FY 2020-2021 the number of stigma activities greatly decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, for FY 2021-2022 the program will continue to address reduction opportunities by providing stigma and discrimination reduction activities through trainings and education by providing information and presentations to the community at large in order to further decrease the stigma and discrimination related to a mental health illness; continue to collect demographic information on populations served; continue to implement the Measurement, Outcomes and Quality Assessment (MOQA) Stigma survey developed by California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions during outreach activities; and provide information on outcomes to community stakeholders including families of children, who also represent the unserved and/or underserved populations of our consumers and their families. Program goals projected for FY 2021-2022 will remain the same as current year goals.

Early Intervention Programs

• Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Program (TF-CBT) – is an early intervention program that addresses the needs of children and youth in the community who have been exposed to trauma. The TF-CBT Program is utilized as an intervention to treat children and adolescents, ages 4 to 18, who have been exposed to a traumatic experience. By providing prevention and early intervention activities, mental health becomes part of the wellness for individuals and the community, reducing the potential

for stigma and discrimination against individuals with mental illness. TF-CBT incorporates cognitive and behavioral interventions with traditional child abuse therapies that focus on enhancement of interpersonal trust and empowerment. All services provided by the TF-CBT are conducted out in the community to serve the unserved and/or underserved populations in Imperial County. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all services commenced being provided through the Zoom platform or via telephone, depending on the needs of the clients/families. For high risk cases, face to face visits were provided.

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For FY 2020-2021, the early intervention component of the Prevention and Early Intervention Program will continue to focus on implementing the TF-CBT Program in order to prevent the long-term negative effects of child traumatic stress and prevent the development of mental illness. As we move forward into FY 2021-2022, the program will assess and adapt service needs based on transitions of safety rules set by the county.

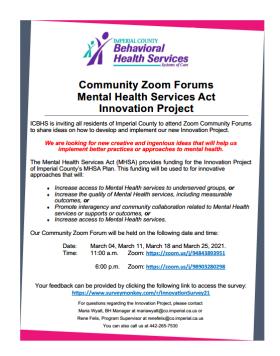
• First Steps to Success (FSS) – is a positive reinforcement program designed to assist children in developing pro-social skills that will assist them in being successful at school and home. ICBHS has been using Mental Health Rehabilitation Technicians (MHRTs), rather than school personnel, to provide the early interventions at school. The FSS Program also engages parents of identified kindergarten children.

For FY 2020-2021, FSS goals and objectives continue to be monitored as the program maintains collaborative relationships between mental health and education to continue increasing access to services to the unserved and underserved population of young children; continue to expand services to additional elementary schools throughout all Imperial County school districts in order to reach unserved and underserved children; provides training to additional teachers and MHRTs on FSS to ensure successful implementation of the model; increases parents' and teachers' awareness on the extent of how mental illness reaches into this age group of children to decrease the stigma related to mental health; collect data for evaluation purposes of the PEI FSS program; and provide information on outcomes to community stakeholders. including families of children, who also represent the unserved and/or underserved populations of our consumers and their families. Program goals projected for FY 2021-2022 will remain the same as current year goals.

Innovation

The opportunity to learn something new comes from the creation and implementation of an Innovation project. An Innovation project has the potential to transform the mental health system. Innovation programs are novel, creative, and ingenious mental health approaches that promote recovery and resilience and lead to learning that advances mental health.

During FY 2020-2021, ICBHS, stakeholders and community members participated in the Community Planning Process by hosting eight (8) community forums in support of the development of a new Innovation plan to be presented by the end of FY 2020-2021. Sessions were hosted both in English and Spanish and over 300 feedback forms were received.



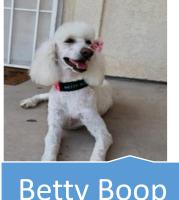
For FY 2020-2021 the following services were provided through Innovation:

Positive Engagement Team (PET) – On March 29, 2019, the Mental Health Services
 Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved Imperial County
 Behavioral Health Services' new Innovation Project: Positive Engagement Team (PET)
 for \$2,165,138 for 3 years. The innovative component of the PET project is to utilize
 dogs, not for therapy, but as a tool to engage consumers into mental health treatment.

By August 2020, a contract was established with Todd Sosna, Ph.D. Management Consulting (TSMC) to evaluate and analyze the PET project. TSMC developed a *community outreach* survey to be provided to the community at large during outreach events and an *engagement* survey to be provided to clients as they arrived to the outpatient clinic for the intake assessment, initial nursing assessment, initial psychiatric assessment or for their first therapy appointment. The evaluation yielded recommendations intended to augment program efficacy and increase consumer satisfaction:



For FY 2021-2022, the Innovation project will consider the recommendations detailed from the evaluation to develop future goals and objectives. At this time, the project has recruited two (2) additional pet members, Betty Boop and Stevie, who are anxiously waiting to show off their outreach and engagement skills at all clinics and future community events.



Betty Boop



Stevie

Workforce Education and Training

The Workforce Education and Training component provides funding for education and training for all individuals who provide direct or support services in the Public Mental Health System in order to develop and maintain a sufficient workforce capable of providing effective mental health services. During FY 2020-2021, the trainings were provided on the following topics: Mental Health Interpreting and Dialectal Behavior Therapy trainings and a contract was established for the Assertive Community Training.

ICBHS continued to participate in the Statewide MHSA Workforce Education and Training Plan (OSHPD Five-Year Plan). As part of the Southern Counties Regional Partnership (SCRP), ICBHS continued to collaborate and plan for the process of loan reimbursements or stipends for those individuals pursuing a Masters programs or the residency program for a medical student entering the mental health field.

During this fiscal year, the SCRP is pursuing an agreement with Cal-MHSA to become the fiscal agent of the program. Once this is established, the goals are to further coordinate additional agreements with educational institutions that will assist in the coordination of stipend or loan reimbursement applicants.

Activities planned through Workforce Education and Training for FY 2021-2022 include:

- Mental Health Interpreter Training Program;
- Assertive Community Training model;
- Consultation Support will be offered to attendees of the Dialectal Behavior Therapy
- Continue collaborating with the SCRP in coordination of stipend and loan reimbursement awards.

Capital Facilities and Technological Needs

The Capital Facilities and Technological Needs component provides resources to promote the efficient implementation of the MHSA, producing long-term impacts with lasting benefits that improve the mental health system. Activities planned through Capital Facilities and Technological Needs for FY 2021-2022 include:

- · Installation of Chrome Boxes in Kiosks;
- · Installation of Chromebooks;
- Continue with testing phase and implementation of Clinician tool;
- Continue annual staff training.



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