

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Performance Contract Review Report
Humboldt County Program Review
June 2, 2020**

FINDING #1: Humboldt County submitted the FY 2018-19 Annual Revenue and Expenditure Report (ARER) past December 31, following the end of the fiscal year. (California Code of Regulations, Title 9, § 3510(b)).

Recommendation #1: The County must submit a complete and accurate FY 2019-20 ARER no later than January 31, following the end of the reporting fiscal year.

FINDING #2: Humboldt County lacked a narrative analysis that assesses mental health needs of unserved, underserved/inappropriately served and fully served County residents who qualify for MHSA services; and an assessment of its capacity to implement the proposed programs/services in the approved FY 2017-20 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Plan). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3650(a)(5)).

Recommendation #2: The County must assess the strengths and limitations of the County and its service providers for their ability to meet the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations and address all components of Cal. Code Regs., tit 9, § 3650(a)(5) in the approved FY 2020-23 Plan and each subsequent Plan thereafter.

FINDING #3: Humboldt County did not provide an estimate of the number of clients, in each age group, to be served in the Full Service Partnership Service (FSP) Category for each fiscal year in the approved FY 2017-20 Plan. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 9, § 3650(a)(3)).

Recommendation #3: The County must provide an estimate of the number of FSP clients to serve in each age group: children (0-15), transitional age youth (16-25), adult (26-59) and older adult (60 and older) for each fiscal year in the approved FY 2020-23 Plan and each subsequent Plan thereafter.

FINDING #4: The County's approved FY 2017-20 Plan and FY 2018-19 Annual Update did not clearly identify which Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs fall under each PEI program category. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3755).

Recommendation #4: The County must identify each program funded with PEI funds as a Prevention Program, an Early Intervention Program, Outreach for Increasing Recognition of Early Signs of Mental Illness Program, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Program, Suicide Prevention Program (if applicable), or Access and Linkage to Treatment Program, in the FY 2020-23 Plan and FY 2021-22 Update and each subsequent Plan and Update thereafter.

FINDING #5: The County's approved FY 2017-20 Plan and FY 2018-19 Update does not demonstrate that the County has at least one of each of the required PEI programs, specifically; Outreach for Increasing Recognition of Early Signs of Mental Illness. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3705(a)).

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Recommendation #5: The County's PEI Component must include an Outreach for Increasing Recognition of Early Signs of Mental Illness program.

FINDING #6: Humboldt County did not dedicate at least 51% of PEI funds to serve individuals 25 or younger in FY 2018-19. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3620(c)).

Recommendation #5: The County must develop and implement accounting and cost allocation policies and procedures that will allow the County to allocate a majority of PEI funds to serve individuals who are 25 years or younger.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Item #1: MHSA Transparency and Consistency

Suggested Improvement #1: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recommends programs identified in the adopted Plan and Update (e.g. has distinct program descriptions) match program names and services consistently within the approved Plan, Update, budget and ARER. If the program or service did not occur, report the program or service on the ARER and indicate zero expenditures.

Item #2: MHSA Plans and Updates

Suggested Improvement #2: DHCS recommends the County include children census data in the County demographics and a narrative of how children would be served in the FSP category in the FY 2020-23 Plan and FY 2021-22 Update and each subsequent Plan and Update thereafter.

CONCLUSION

The Department of Health Care Services' MHSA Program Monitoring Unit conducted a review of Humboldt County Behavioral Health Department MHSA program on June 2, 2020. The County has developed strong relationships with community partners including the local tribes and continues to outreach more broadly into the tribal communities. The County has been successful with increased participation in their stigma reduction and community coalition meetings which they have tracked by surveying over 500 participants to find that 81 percent were new attendees. The County hopes to keep up with the growing demand and inspired by the enthusiasm and interest by these efforts. The attendance at wellness centers has increased which the County attributes to the early inclusion of peer mentors into their program. An additional impact of these strong community relationships has been a deeper connection within their schools. Due to its rural location, funding and hiring of qualified individuals continues to be a challenge for the County.