

Suicide Prevention, CalAIM, and Legislative Updates

Greetings Colleagues!

World Mental Health Day: Focus on Suicide Prevention

On October 10, 2019, the World Health Organization commemorated World Mental Health Day. The theme was [Focus on Suicide Prevention](#). Statistics suggest that suicide is on the rise among young people ages 15 to 24 years old, as are incidents of suicidal thoughts. Suicide is also linked to the opioid crisis (National Institute of Mental Health). Studies indicate that suicide rates are much higher for some population segments such as American Indians/Alaska Natives are rising for others such as young black males. Despite the mental stress from dealing with persistent racism, discrimination and exclusion, young people of color are half as likely than the general population to get the mental health care they need.

Mental health services, social support, and connectedness are just a few of the approaches that can help prevent suicide. CBHA commends our member agencies who provide services to all populations at risk of suicide. Specifically, CBHA member agency, [Didi Hirsch](#), has operated the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, CrisisChat, and other innovative strategies to help combat the crisis.

Legislative Update

CBHA is proud to be a co-sponsor of the budget proposal that resulted in the Governor allocating 60 million dollars and a 33 percent match from counties, to support OSHPD's Five-Year Workforce Plan. Specifically, we thank the California Behavioral Health Planning Council and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists for being our partners on this effort.

We are also proud of the strong coalition we led including the County Behavioral Health Directors Association, Children Now, and the Born This Way Foundation in co-sponsoring SB 428 (Pan). Unfortunately, Governor Newsom failed to sign SB 428 (Pan) into law. [Click here](#) for the Governor's veto message. However, we are grateful for the 250 plus organizations that wrote letters of support, testified at legislative hearings, and proliferated information about the bill. Earlier this week, Senator Pan shared that he intends to continue looking for ways to provide training to teachers and other school personnel to help them recognize the signs of a crisis and make an appropriate referral. Stay tuned for more information on how we plan to continue leading the charge on this effort! Click [here](#) for the press release about the Governor's veto of SB 428.

DHCS California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) workgroups

CBHA is proud to announce that at least five representatives from member agencies and staff have been chosen to participate as part of the CalAIM Workgroups. This is a multi-year initiative to implement overarching policy changes across all Medi-Cal delivery systems, with the objectives of:

1. Reducing variation and complexity across the delivery systems;
2. Identifying and managing client risk and need through population health management strategies; and,
3. Improving quality outcomes and driving delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives and payment reform.

The CBHA representatives to CalAIM that we are aware of include:

1. Le Ondra Clark Harvey, CBHA staff
2. Vitka Eisen, HealthRIGHT360, CBHA Board Chair
3. Al Senella, Tarzana Treatment Centers, CBHA Board Member

4. Lorna Jones, Bonita House, CBHA Board Member
5. Chad Costello, Mental Health America, Los Angeles

Public Charge Rule is in Effect

The Public Charge Rule recently went into effect. We are happy to disseminate information from our colleagues at the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) to assist organizations in understanding the implications of the Public Charge Rule.

In an effort to help frontline staff, enrollers, CHWs / Promotoras, service providers, county staff and others respond to concerns presented by immigrant communities, a compendium of community facing materials, including a community presentation, is included [HERE](#). CPCA's Protecting Access to Public Benefits Workgroup will also be hosting trainings throughout the state for CBOs, county staff, service providers and others. The hope is that organizations will attend the training and have the materials required to then train their colleagues and communities. You can find more information on these trainings by visiting [CPCA's Immigration Resource Page](#).

DHCS Audit and CHCF Report on County Use of MHSA Funds

The State Auditor's Office recently released an [audit](#). Findings indicate that DHCS should improve its oversight of school based mental health programs. Specifically, improvements need to be made related to reimbursement rate procedures. The release of the report is timely as CBHA has long identified collaboration with schools as a priority area.

The California Health Care Foundation released an [article](#) discussing the mental health system in California and profiling Alex Briscoe, a former Alameda County employee and current Executive Director of The Children's Trust. The article reviews county use of MHSA Administrative Funds in order to provide needed services to children in need of mental health services.

We hope you are enjoying the Interim Session and look forward to working with you next year on legislative and policy efforts.

In Service,

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs