

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
General Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Zoom Participation

The following information referenced below and at the end of the agenda is provided to you in support of your attending the upcoming BHAB General Meeting via Zoom:

Join the Zoom meeting in the following way:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83332714732?pwd=bE43OUJqRHhHa0ExSIR5L1VLMWMyQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 3271 4732

Password: 149553

Dial-In: 669-900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Board Member Roll Call
- III. Welcome and Introductions
- IV. Approval of the Agenda – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- V. Approval of the May 17, 2021 Minutes – **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- VI. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)
- VII. Presentation: Parents Together Promoting Education Achieving Well-Being Survey Results – Soledad Barragan, BHAB Member (15 min.)
- VIII. Presentation: Logrando Bienestar - Achieving Well Being Program (Survey Conducted by Parent Group) – Cynthia Salas, Equity Services Manager – Officer of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity (15 min.)
- IX. Recognitions: Former BHAB Members: Mary Haffner and Elizabeth R. Stone
- X. Chair Comments (5 min.)
- XI. Director’s Report – Dr. Sevet Johnson (10 min.)
- XII. Board Member Comments and Announcements (10 min.)
- XIII. Secretary’s Report (This item is deferred until July when the new BHAB Officers are elected and seated.)
- XIV. BHAB Committee Reports (5 min each)
 - A. Youth & Family Services (reporting on April 14 & June 9 meetings) – Kevin Clerici, Chair
- XV. Old Business
 - A. VCBH Response to the Identified Gaps in Service Data Request Update – Dr. Sevet Johnson (5 min.)
 - B. Confirm Appointment of Chair of the Data Elements Workgroup - Jerry Harris – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (5 min.)
 - C. Peer Specialist Workgroup Status/Recommendation - Jerry Harris – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (5 min.)
 - D. Request to Establish BHAB Budget - Ratan Bhavnani - **ACTION** (Roll Call) (10 min.)
 - E. Adopt Language Interpretation Best Practices - Claudia Armann and Genevieve Flores-Haro – **ACTION** (Roll Call) (10 min.)
 - F. Zoom BHAB Membership Identification Assessment Status – Dr. Sevet Johnson (5 min.)

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items. The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

XVI. New Business

- A. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2021-22 - Nominating Committee - (15 min.) **ACTION** (Roll Call)
- B. Changes to Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer Response Procedures - Jennifer Morrison (10 min.)
- C. Alameda County Mental Health Board Recommendations to Reduce Mentally Ill Inmate Population - Discussion - Jerry Harris (10 min.)
- D. San Francisco Behavioral Health Bed Optimization Project - Discussion - Jerry Harris (10 min.)
- E. Presentation Requests
- F. Recognition Award Recommendations

XVII. Contracts

- A. Board of Supervisors Approved Agreements – May 11, 2021
 - 1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Americas Health Plan (AHP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- B. Board of Supervisors Approved Agreements – May 18, 2021
 - 1. FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services with Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families (Casa Pacifica).
 - 2. FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Mental Health Services with Vista Woods Health Associates LLC (Vista Woods).
 - 3. FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Temporary Staffing Services with Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. (Maxim).
 - 4. FY 2020-21 The First Amendment to the Agreement for Outreach and Engagement Peer services with Turning Point Foundation (Turning Point).
 - 5. FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 Agreement for Augmented Board and Care Services with Turning Point.

XVIII. Public Comments (3 min. per speaker)

XIX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, 2021

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Assistant at bhabadmin@ventura.org or in person at Ventura County Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor, 1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, California. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: www.vcbh.org/en/behavioral-health-advisory-board-meetings.

Welcome to the meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board of the County of Ventura. The following information is provided to help you understand, follow, and participate in the Board meeting:

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking the link provided on the agenda at the scheduled time and date. Zoom will initially start with a **waiting room** — you will be admitted into the meeting room when the meeting starts. All participants are muted upon entry to minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. Please keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.

Members of the public making oral presentations to the Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total time not to exceed (5) minutes for all of their oral presentations at such meeting unless otherwise provided. Public comments on agenda items must be made prior to board member deliberations of agenda items. The entire public comment period is limited to no more than (20) minutes total for all speakers. NOTE: The Chair may limit the number or duration of speakers on a matter. In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Behavioral Health Administration at (805) 981-6830. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (48 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Note: The meeting is recorded.

Public Comments

- The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) welcomes comments from the community, consumers and family members.
- The BHAB operates under the Brown Act. This requires that all meetings be open meetings, with the agenda and minutes posted. A public comment period will be provided on all meeting agendas.
- Due to confidentiality laws, the Board is unable to respond directly to a public comment or to discuss client-specific issues without proper releases from the individuals concerned.
- At all BHAB meetings, the BHAB Assistant provides a Grievance Form for individuals who have concerns. The form is reviewed promptly by VCBH Quality Management. Individuals can also contact the BHAB Assistant to request a VCBH Grievance Form outside a BHAB meeting or call 1-888-567-2122.
- Individuals who have further concerns are welcome to return to the BHAB for assistance.

Public comments may be provided using one of the following options:

Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

To make a public comment, you must send an email to bhabadmin@ventura.org, with the specific agenda item or topic, if a general comment, by no later than 10:00 AM on the day of the BHAB meeting. Your public comment may also be submitted in writing and mailed to:

BHAB Assistant
1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036

Please indicate in the subject line the agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email will be distributed to the BHAB Members and placed into the item's record of the meeting.

Video Public Comment using Zoom

You may use the raise hand feature when the Chair invites public comments in the following ways:

If you are running an older version of Zoom, you can raise your hand by clicking on the Participant button at the bottom of the Zoom screen and then click on the raise hand feature in that participant window.

If you are running the most current version of Zoom (5.4.9 and above) you can raise your hand by clicking on the Reactions button and then clicking on raise hand feature. Your hand will appear in the upper left-hand corner of your individual Zoom window as well as the participant window.

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Call-In Public Comment using Zoom

If you are joining the meeting by telephone only, you can join the comment queue by pressing *9. When it is your turn to make your comment, press *6 to unmute and then again to mute yourself after speaking.

Note: Your raised hand will appear TO THE HOST in the order it was received.

Comments are taken in the order they are received in the queue/participant window. When it is your turn to make a comment, you will be asked to unmute yourself. **Public comments may be up to 3 minutes during the public comment periods, or before an agenda item, with a cumulative total time not to exceed 5 minutes.** The assigned timekeeper will track each public comment time as well as the total time per speaker. When your time is up, the timekeeper will interrupt to let you know that you have reached the 3-minute maximum as well as when you have reached your total allotted time. At the end of the three minutes and/or allotted time, the next person in the comment queue will be invited to speak.

REMINDER: In order to minimize distractions during public meetings, all personal communication devices should be turned off or put in a non-audible mode.

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Parents Together

Achieving Well-being

Survey Results

Declaration of Necessity

Covid-19 has created an increased need for mental health services among Latinos. More and more families are suffering from trauma that requires attention. Achieving Bienestar (LB) was implemented to increase the number of Latinos receiving HVV services to make services more equitable for Latinos. The main goal was to work through the primary schools and create a basis for working with the community. This would require maintaining an ongoing relationship with schools, keeping schools informed, and serving as an advocate for families. There have been concerns expressed in the community that LB did not connect with schools and therefore did not connect with families in need of services. VCBH assured us that we had coordinators assigned to specific schools, but we have not seen this completed.

Methodology

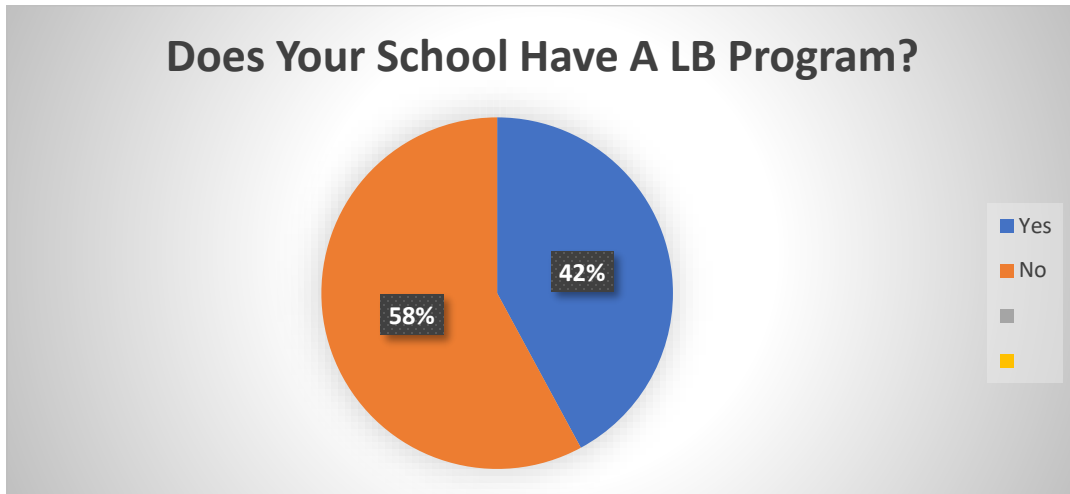
Parents Together, a community group of parents with children in schools, decided to examine how the person answering the phone at school would respond to a survey because the school office is the first log where parents go to ask for help. Phone calls were made to 27 elementary schools with zip codes identified as LB targets. Nineteen (19) schools responded, resulting in a response rate of 70%. Reasons for not responding included referring the interviewer to the District Office, no response, and/or not having calls returned. The target of the interview was the person in charge of the first part of each school. This was important because parents are more likely to ask the person answering the call for help. It was also important that the person answering the call was well informed of the LB Programs. The calls were made by parents with children enrolled in a public school. The calls were made between March 2 and March 5, 2021.

- The interview consisted of six questions:
- Does your school have the LB Program?
- Do you know what services LB provides?
- Can you give me the name of the lb person assigned to your school?
- Do you have contact information for the lb person assigned to your school?
- Do you know the process for referring someone?
- How often do you have contact with LB?

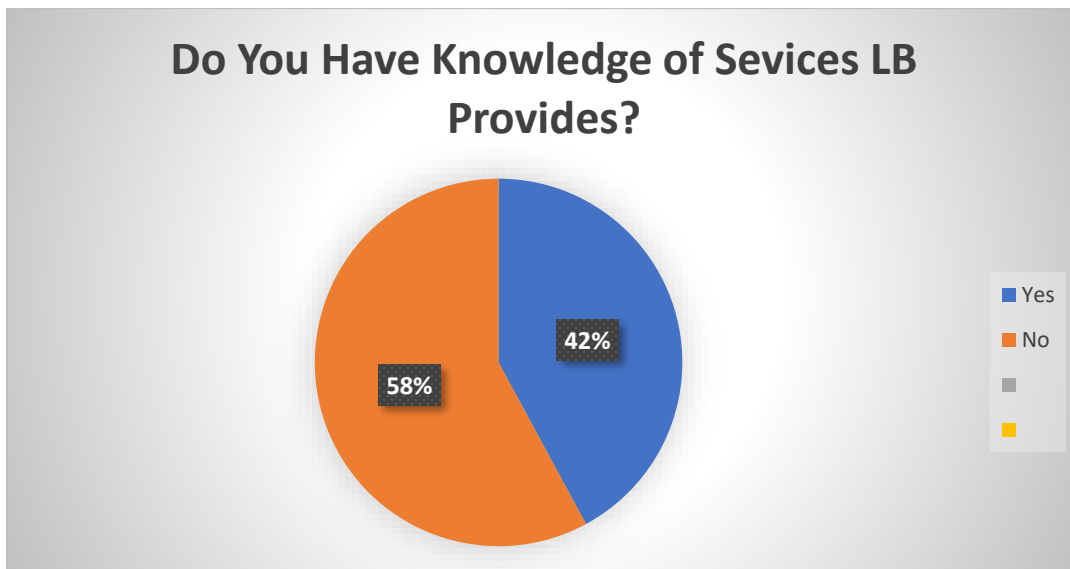
The list of called schools is attached.

Results

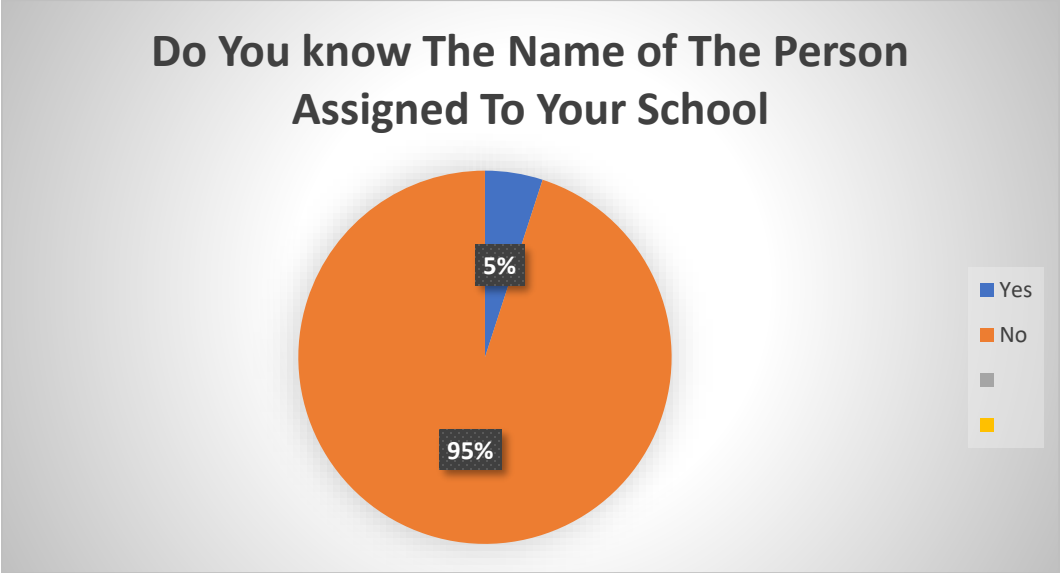
When asked if the school has an LB Program, 8 (42%) answered yes and 11 (58%) they replied that they were not or were not aware of the program. It was therefore expected that a larger number of respondents would have said yes, as it is the main office that deals with parents most frequently and confidently.



When the interviewee asked if they had knowledge of services, 8 (42%) answered yes and 11 (58%) they answered no. It is essential that the reception staff is aware of what services are being offered by LB, as they are the first point of contact.



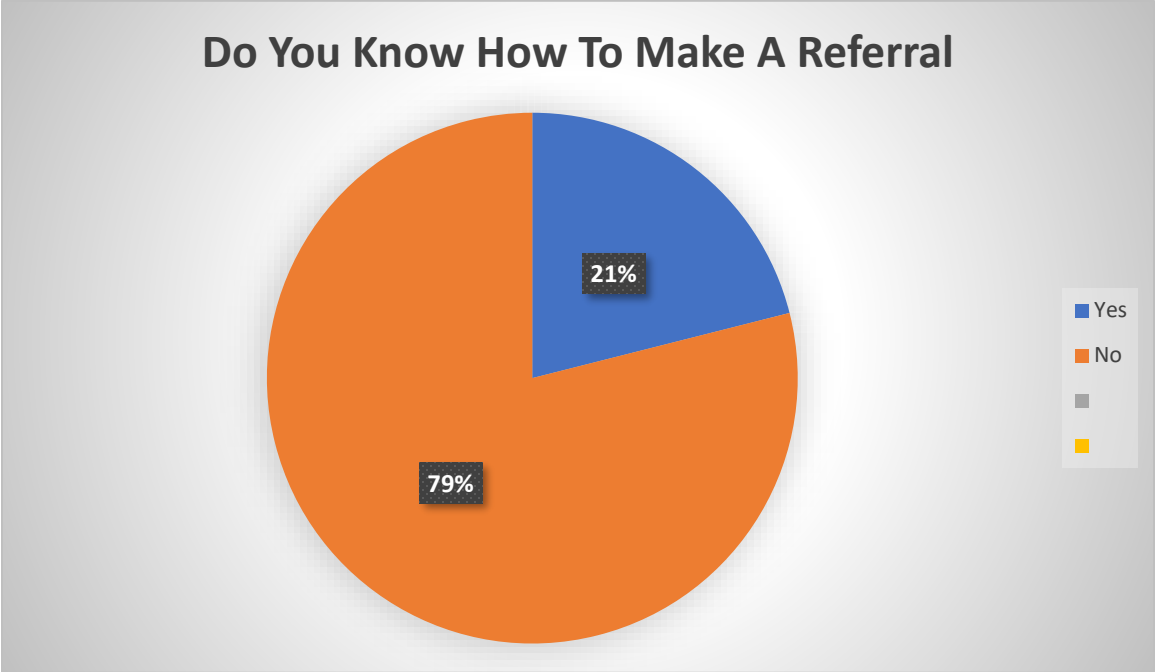
When asked if the interviewee knew the name of the person assigned to their school, the answer was 1 yes (5%) and 18 (95%) I said no. This was alarming because the overwhelming majority could not name the person assigned to their school. The LB Program was designed to have specific individuals assigned so that the LB staff person could develop and maintain a relationship with the school creating trust and continuity.



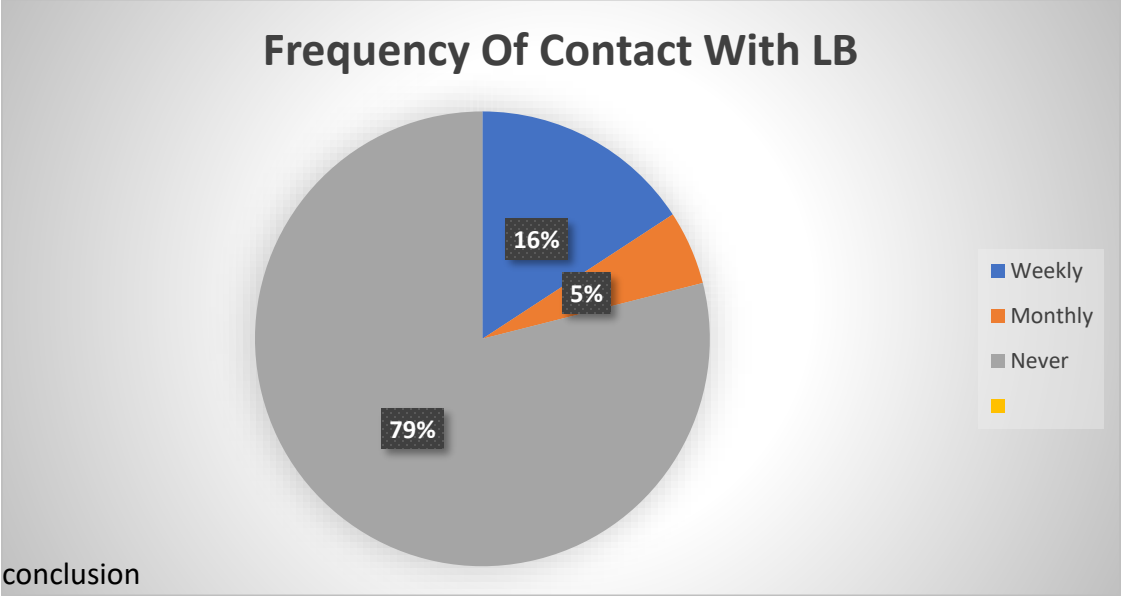
When asked if the interviewee knew the LB person's contact information, 17 (89%) said no and 2 (12%) he said yes. This says that even if the school's front office had a need there is no information on how to contact the LB person.



When asked if the interviewee knew how to make a reference, 4 (21%) said yes and 15 (79%) he said no. This is an important skill that every person who works in the school's main office should have knowledge of the referral process.



When asked how often LB staff contact the school, the answer was 3 (16%) weekly, 1 (5%) monthly and 15 (79%) he said never. This tells us that LB is not making regular contact with schools, which would result in not developing a strong relationship with school staff.



This comprehensive survey does not represent all LB service schools, but it is enough to demonstrate what would generally be found, particularly since these schools are LB target schools. We understand that Covid-19 has made it more difficult to provide services. We also understand that Covid-19 has greatly increased the need for mental health services for low-income Latinos. The gap in mental health services was large before the pandemic, but now it has become a big problem.

While it was encouraging that most of the schools interviewed knew the LB program was in their school, it is disheartening that nearly half of the schools were unable to say what services were provided.

This survey tells us that the vast majority of schools interviewed are not receiving LB services and at a very basic level do not know who their contact person is or who to contact if necessary. The original concept of the LB program was to have a Community Services Coordinator assigned to a specific school to provide consistency in the relationship. This does not appear to be happening.

More worrying is the lack of contact with schools by any means. Most responding schools never hear from LB. It is impossible to have an ongoing relationship with a school without regular communication.

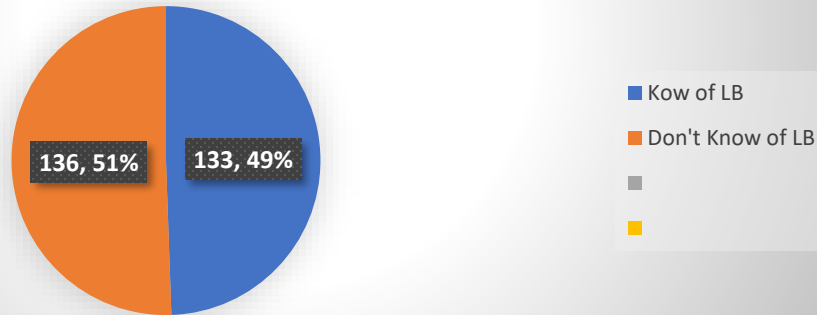
We as Padres Juntos are very concerned that VCBH is not achieving the commitment to increase the number of Latinos being served. This is demonstrated by the results of this survey, but also by the small number of new customers admitted.

The results of the first survey led us to conduct a second Family Survey at UFWF, Southwinds Park, Parents Together and Interface/Phoenix Project

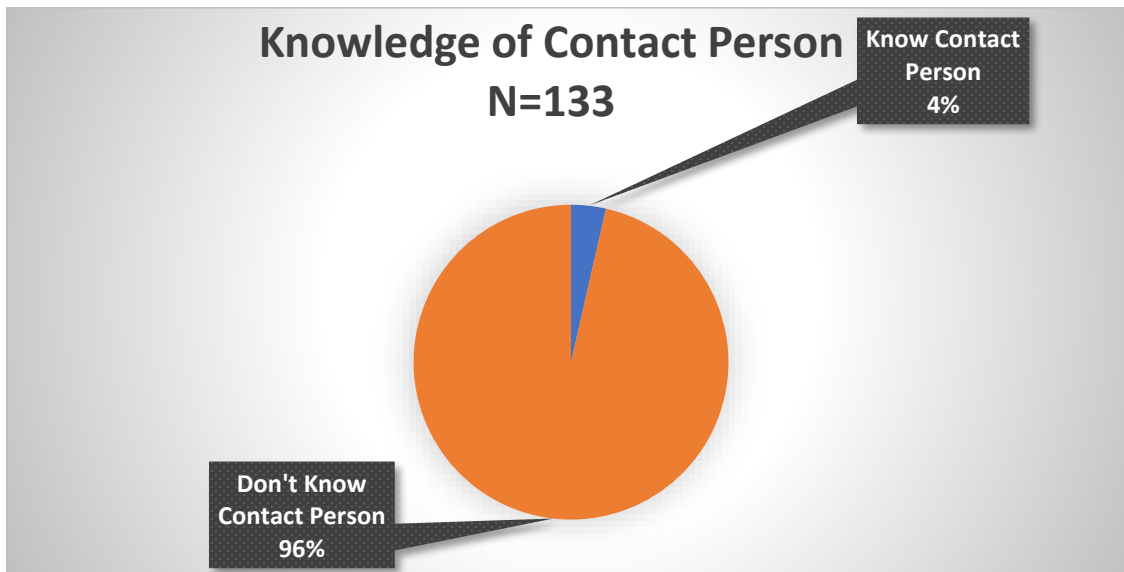
We were able to interview 269 and the results gave that:

When we asked them You Know About Achieving Well-being 136 (51%) answered yes and 133 (49%) they answered no.

**Knowledge of Logrando Bienestar. Survey
of families at UFWF, Soutwinds Park, Padres
Juntos and Interface/Phoenix Project
N=269**



When asked you know lb's contact person. Of the 133 who did know lb 4% answered yes but 96% answered that they do not know the person in contact with LB



Action:

Parents Together has expectations that the commitments will be fulfilled by VCBH. We expect the following:

- That each school has a Community Services Coordinator be specifically assigned to that school. The Coordinator serves as an advocate and facilitator of services for families at that specific school.
- That the staff of the main office of each school be trained in the services
- That you be provided with contact information for the specific Coordinator assigned to your school.
- That the staff of the reception school is trained on how to make a reference.
- That Community Service Coordinators maintain regular (weekly) contact with each assigned school and that they develop a positive relationship.
- That schools are retrained on LB services.

Answer:

Parents Together would like to receive a written opinion or response on how or what action will be taken in this regard to make changes possible if possible within 15 business days.

Achieving Wellness School Survey List

1. Ed Foster
2. Sheridan Way
3. Lincoln
4. Blanchard
5. McKeveitt
6. Grace Thille
7. Barbara Webster
8. Glenn City
9. Thurgood Marshal
10. Rio Real
11. Rosales River
12. Cesar Chavez
13. Rose Ave
14. Hueneme Elem
15. Lemonwood
16. Juan Laguna Soria
17. Driffil
18. Elm
19. Tierra Vista
20. Sea View
21. Art Haycox
22. Julien Hathaway
23. Fred William
24. Parkview
25. San Cayetano
26. Rio Vista
27. Sespe

Interviewee Comments

06/21/21 – BHAB GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM VIII.

THE PRESENTATION MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AND INCLUDED WITH THE MEETING MINUTES:

VIII. Presentation: Logrando Bienestar - Achieving Well Being Program (Survey Conducted by Parent Group) – Cynthia Salas, Equity Services Manager – Officer of Health Equity and Cultural Diversity (15 min.)



Ventura County

Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Members: June 21, 2021

Claudia Armann

Soledad Barragán

Ratan Bhavnani, 1st Vice Chair

Nancy Borchard

Gane Brooking

Kevin Clerici

Jose Estrada

Jesse Finkbeiner

Genevieve Flores-Haro

Cmdr. James Fryhoff

Janis Gardner, Chair Emeritus

Jerry Harris, Chair

Cheryl Heitmann

Carol J. Keavney

Matt LaVere, Supervisor

Jennifer Morrison

Patricia Mowlavi

Joe S. Ramirez, 2nd Vice Chair

Michael Rodriguez, Member At Large

Christopher Tejada

Carol Thomas

Marlen Torres

Dr. Sevet Johnson, Director
Ventura County Behavioral Health

Address:

1911 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-981-1115

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: **REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET**

Dear Supervisors,

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) requests that your Board establish a BHAB Budget to enable our Board to pursue its duties and responsibilities while encouraging peer participation in meetings.

Recommendations:

1. Approve and authorize a budget for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) for FY 2021-22.
2. Approve and authorize Ventura County Behavioral Health to administer the BHAB budget.

Discussion:

The California Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) has been updated to allow for funding related to behavioral health boards and commissions. WIC 5604.3 now reads:

- (a) "The Board of Supervisors may pay from any available funds the actual and necessary expenses of the members of the Mental Health Board of a Community mental health services incurred incident for the performance of their official duties and functions. The expenses may include travel, lodging, childcare and meals for the members of an advisory board while on official business as approved by the director of mental health programs.
- (b) Governing bodies are encouraged to provide a budget for the local mental health board, using MHSA Program Planning and Administrative revenues identified in WIC 5604.3, that is sufficient to facilitate the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the local mental health board."

Board of Supervisors
Request to Establish a BHAB Budget
June 21, 2021
Page 2 of 2

The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) supports the establishment of budgets for local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions and recommends these expenses be allocated from MHSAs Community Program Planning (CPP) funding, total not to exceed 5 percent of MHSAs annual revenue.

The BHAB believe that the proposed budget is modest and will enable the BHAB to ensure that expenses of consumer members are covered as needed to attend meetings, cover child care if necessary, and enable consumer members to attend conferences for education enhancement purposes. In addition, it will provide funding to support BHAB members to attend conferences and meeting with other Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions to share information, gain information to enhance the performance of the BHAB, learn about programs in other counties that may have the potential to improve and enhance services in Ventura County, and to network with members of other boards and commissions.

The proposed budget request for FY 2021-22 is attached for your review. In the meantime, should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

Jerry M. Harris
Chair, Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Ratan Bhavnani
First Vice-Chair, Behavioral Health Advisory Board

c: Dr. Sevet Johnson

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 - Budget

BUDGET REQUEST
 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
 FY 2021-22

	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	NOTES
1	Beverages and Snacks	Coffee and snacks at BHAB meetings, to engage community members.	\$1,200.00	At General meetings, Committee meetings, and Special meetings.
2	Transportation and Childcare	Cost of transportation to and from BHAB meetings to enable peers to attend meetings; childcare when necessary while attending meetings.	\$1,000.00	As needed, to encourage attendance by peers at BHAB meetings.
3	Registration Fees	Fees for BHAB members to attend conferences related to mental health or substance use disorders. Average \$300 each, 8 registrations.	\$2,400.00	Examples include: California Association of Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C) trainings, NAMI Conferences and National Substance Use Disorders Conferences.
4	Travel Expenses	Expenses to permit BHAB members to travel and attend conferences and meetings. May include travel, lodging and meals.	\$5,400.00	Mileage or airfare reimbursement. Most events are in California. Hotel costs paid when an overnight stay of one or more nights is required.
	TOTAL BUDGET		\$10,000.00	

Working with Interpreters *Best Practices*

Interpreters orally or visually relay a message, between 2 or more people that do not have a common language without adding, deleting, or changing the content or intent of the message.

Interpreter

- Interpreter explains basic rules and process
- Interpretations will be made in 1st person
 - *If the interpreter speaks for him/herself it will be in 3rd person*
- Impartiality
- Confidentiality
- All communication will be interpreted
 - *Including negative comments, obscenities, objectionable declarations, any comments by anyone that are heard*

Participant/Conversational Etiquette

- One person speaks at a time
- Speak loudly and clearly
- Speak at a moderate pace
 - *Please be careful not to speak too fast so interpreter can keep up*
- Speak directly to one another, not to the interpreter
- Observe interpreter signals, to stop, slow down...
- Jokes/idioms/inside jokes are often not interpretable; avoid when possible
- Avoid side conversations
 - *They are distracting, disrespectful, and lead to missed information*

Considerations

- Avoid dual roles for interpreters
 - *The rapid mental processing, attention, and focus required of interpreters does not allow them to effectively conduct a secondary role.*
- Any event longer than an hour requires 2 interpreters
- Provide pertinent information and documents to interpreter in advance



Date: October 6, 2020

To: Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Re: MHAB Recommendations to Reduce the Mentally Ill Population at Santa Rita Jail

Members:

Lee Davis, Chair
District 5

L.D. Louis, Vice Chair
District 4

Marcella Anthony
District 1

Marsha McInnis
District 1

Tamika Greenwood
District 2

Linda Ramus
District 2

Neil Penn
District 2

Loren Farrar
District 3

Ashlee Jemmott
District 3

Brian Bloom
District 4

Juliet Leftwich
District 5

Jessie C. Slaffer
District 5

**Board of Supervisors
Representative:
Vanessa Cedeño**
District 3

Introduction

The Alameda County Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB), duly appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS), provides these recommendations regarding actions the BOS can take to reduce the number of mentally ill individuals at Santa Rita Jail. The MHAB believes that any such actions will only be meaningful and long lasting, however, if they:

- Are based on an analysis of data that is made available to the public in an easily accessible form.¹
- Include a multi-year timetable with specific, quantifiable goals for each action, including a 50% reduction of the number of people with serious mental illness in Santa Rita Jail within 3 years.
- Are driven by these foundational, well-established principles: 1) incarceration exacerbates mental illness; 2) mental health services are more effective, more humane and more cost-effective than jail; and 3) the current system causes many of our most vulnerable community members to be caught in a vicious cycle of jail and homelessness, without any clear path forward.

The MHAB acknowledges the complexity and multi-faceted nature of this problem and has focused its resources accordingly. MHAB members have participated in each of the Justice Involved Mental Health Taskforce (JIMHT) meetings, the MHAB has dedicated several of its meetings to the topic (including those of the full board, Criminal Justice Committee and Ad Hoc Committee), and sought out and heard the views of the public. We have synthesized everything we have learned into the following specific, prioritized recommendations, each with long-term and short-term action items.

MHAB Priority Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Significantly increase the capacity of residential treatment beds countywide to ensure that effective, humane treatment is available at all levels of need. Alameda County must invest in the expansion of treatment bed capacity to provide a robust continuum of care – from locked beds at an acute crisis facility to treatment at sub-acute facilities, crisis residential facilities and licensed board and cares – each with the capacity to provide the appropriate type and length of treatment. Unless Alameda County aggressively expands residential treatment capacity, Santa Rita Jail will remain the county's primary locked mental health treatment facility.

Long-term action item:

- The building formerly referred to as Glenn Dyer Jail should be repurposed for RESIDENTIAL LOCKED AND UNLOCKED MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT. The building supplies adequate square footage to allow for a locked portion of the facility as well as unlocked residential capacity. Repurposing this location will reduce the NIMBY response since it was used as a jail in the past.

Short-term action items:

- The County should conduct a feasibility study for retrofitting the building formerly referred to as Glenn Dyer Jail as a locked and unlocked mental health treatment facility.
- The County should identify all vacant or underutilized county-owned buildings and properties to determine which of those could be repurposed or built upon to provide treatment at all levels of need.
- The County should support the creation and retention of licensed Board and Care facilities, including through direct subsidies.

Recommendation #2: Prioritize the care of “high utilizers”ⁱⁱ of county mental health and criminal justice services to ensure that they are connected to appropriate treatment and facilities. The JIMHT, using data supplied by Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH), has identified more than 900 “high utilizers” of services. These individuals cycle repeatedly in and out of acute crisis beds, jail or substance use detox facilities. The number of high utilizers has remained constant for at least 2 years.

Long-term action item:

- Create a team of Behavioral Health Care Services employees who are dedicated exclusively to “high utilizers.” Rapid turnover in Community Based Organizations (CBOs) leads to a failure in a continuity of care for our most vulnerable community members. Providing a small, dedicated clinical staff modeled after the highly effective and successful Conditional Release Program managed by the Department of State Hospitals would provide the continuity of care and reduction of recidivism badly needed in Alameda County. These employees – not outside contractors or CBOs - would serve as case managers for “high utilizers” to ensure that continuity of care is provided. County employment would increase retention through payment of a living wage as well as benefits.

Short-term action item:

- Identify “high utilizers” and prioritize them for substance use disorder and mental health services within the system of care.

Recommendation #3: Implement universal mental health and substance use disorder screening and assessment at booking into jail. One of the most effective ways to facilitate diversion and effectively reduce the population of mentally ill people who are incarcerated at Santa Rita would be to implement a system requiring all people who are incarcerated to receive mental health screening and assessment when they are booked. Currently, people who are incarcerated receive only a health screening by BHCS employees. Universal mental health and substance use screening and assessment, ideally by a team of independent clinical staff, would allow for mentally ill people who are incarcerated to

immediately be diverted to mental health facilities, Behavioral Health and/or treatment/collaborative courts as appropriate.

Long-term action item:

- Direct ACBH to dedicate staff from the newly-funded clinical positions at Santa Rita Jail for universal mental health and substance abuse screening and assessment.

Short-term action item:

- Direct ACBH to identify appropriate screening and assessment tools.

Recommendation #4: Enhance accountability and oversight of Community Based Organizations that are in contract with the County for the provision of mental health and substance use services. The County should ensure the quality and impact of contracted mental health and substance use services by implementing an effective performance accountability system and allocating resources to support the needed infrastructure and capacity to deliver high quality services.

Long-term action item:

- Implement service agreements with CBOs that have at least some of their reimbursement tied to quantifiable performance measures.

Short-term action item:

- Direct ACBH to provide a detailed, publicly available report on the performance of CBOs and their provision of services. This report should include recidivism data after services have been provided.

Other MHAB Recommendations

The Jail:

- Direct ACBH to hire a dedicated staff person for discharge planning and coordination from the jail to outside programs.
- Direct ACBH to expand or create additional programs for the re-entry population.
- Direct ACBH to operate the Safe Landing Project 24/7 and expand its services to ensure that newly-released people who are incarcerated have transportation, particularly if they are released after public transportation has stopped operating.

ACBH:

- Direct ACBH to increase 5150 authorization to licensed social workers, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals in non-volatile situations.
- Direct ACBH to increase the capacity of existing Intensive Outpatient Programs for individuals living with serious mental illness.

The Courts:

- Direct ACBH to increase treatment and assessment capacity within the Behavioral Health Court. This would allow the Court to meet in Oakland more than once a week and also meet in another part of the county.

Conclusion

The MHAB feels that the foregoing recommendations, if implemented, would significantly reduce the number of seriously mentally ill individuals in Santa Rita Jail. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lee Davis, MHAB Chair



L.D. Louis, MHAB Vice-Chair

ⁱ The following data is needed, at a minimum:

- the number of seriously mentally ill people who are incarcerated at the Jail
- the number of seriously mentally ill people in the general Alameda County population, with specific data for these people on:
 - their race, age, and gender identity
 - geographic location
 - whether they suffer from anosognosia (impaired ability to perceive one's mental illness)
- for each existing mental health facility (including those with locked and unlocked beds), how many individuals are treated
 - over what period of time,
 - the average length of stay,
 - how many people were turned away,
 - the length of the waiting list, if any, and
 - what happened to those individuals after they left the facility

This data should be compiled and publicly available on the internet on an annual basis.

ⁱⁱ In the context of JIMHTF, "high utilizer" refers to a person who has a high level of involvement in the mental health system over a "trailing" 12 month period since the last incidence as defined by: having Justice Involvement (see definition below) and 2 or more CSU i.e., John George episodes and/or having had 2 or more Cherry Hill episodes and/or having had 1 or more Inpatient episodes; or are in conservatorship.

"Justice Involved" means:

- Served by Behavioral Health Court
- Served by a court advocacy program
- Seen by the drug court
- Served by a MH AB109 Program or
- Had arrest or citation at intercept 0.



Napolitano's growing behavioral health treatment law, supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

April 20, 2021

press release

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors [moved unanimously to support](#) Rep. Grace F. Napolitano's H.R. 2611, the Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act. The bill would repeal the payment ban on Medicaid Mental Illness Institutions (IMDs) and require states to submit a plan to: increase access to outpatient and community-based behavioral health care; increase the availability of crisis stabilization services; and improve data sharing and coordination between physical health, mental health and addiction treatment providers and first responders." Medicaid is the largest payer of mental health services in our country, and the expansion of this critical coverage is long overdue,"

Napolitano said. "Without patient beds, people experiencing mental health crises are often released from emergency departments and forced to deal with their illness without professional care. Tragically too often they end up in prison or on the streets, which not only worsens mental health conditions, but increases the cost of care to the state and the federal government. Providing relief from the IMD payment ban would eventually give California and other states the ability to use federal funds to cover Medicaid-eligible individuals who need behavioral health treatment. I thank the Board of Supervisors for supporting my legislation and recognizing that we must do everything we can to provide life-saving care to any resident in need." Through my motion, passed unanimously today, the Board of Supervisors will send a 5-signature letter in support of H.R. 2611, the Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act, introduced by Rep. Grace Napolitano,"

said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, 5th District. "This is important federal legislation that will help provide adequate inpatient or residential mental health treatment beds for people ages 16 to 64 who need critical services. I thank Representative Napolitano, who shares my commitment and dedication to providing compassionate mental health care, and to ensuring that people receive the most appropriate care in the most appropriate setting. The IMD payment ban is a long-standing policy that

prohibits the federal government from providing Medicaid matching funds to states for services provided to certain Medicaid-eligible individuals, ages 21 to 64, who are patients on IMDs. The term "IMD" is defined as a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution with more than 16 beds, which is primarily dedicated to providing diagnosis, treatment, or care to people with mental illness, including medical care, nursing care, and related services." Repealing the IMD exclusion is not only necessary to address the mental health care needs of people who require and deserve adequate residential services to heal, it is also an important step in resolving both the critical parity gap between physical and mental health care that continues to plague this field from a fiscal perspective, and the social stigma that interferes with access to treatment at the expense of those most affected by brain disease," said

Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. If you or someone you know needs help, call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

###

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Behavioral Health Bed Optimization Project

Analysis and Recommendations for Improving Patient Flow

June 2020

Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland, Director of Mental Health Reform

Lauren Brunner, MPH, Program Coordinator, Mental Health Reform

Executive Summary

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), like most other health systems in the world, is challenged to consistently match its behavioral health bed supply with the demand for services across the spectrum of care. The advantages of a system with optimized bed capacity are significant; patients get the care they need when they need it, the system benefits when resources are used efficiently, and investments have the greatest impact.

In early 2020, through the financial support of Tipping Point Community, the DPH Mental Health Reform team engaged a simulation modeling vendor, Mosimtec, to answer this most pressing question: *How many beds are needed in each behavioral health bed category to maintain consistent patient flow for adult clients in San Francisco with zero wait time?*

Through an in-depth analysis of patient placements in nearly 1,000 beds in the DPH behavioral health system of care in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, bed simulation modeling offered quantitative recommendations for improving patient flow. Furthermore, the Mental Health Reform team, through discussions with subject matter experts, contemplated additional considerations for behavioral health bed investments.

Summary Recommendations:

1. Invest in **additional bed capacity** in the following categories of care:
 - a. Locked Subacute Treatment
 - b. Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - c. Residential Care Facilities, aka Board and Care
 - d. Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly
 - e. Mental Health Residential Treatment (12-month programs)
2. Complement all **behavioral health bed investments one-to-one with long-term housing placements** such as Permanent Supportive Housing or Residential Care Facilities, to better serve the high volume of people experiencing homelessness who use the system.
3. **Address the unique needs of specialized populations** who commonly encounter longer wait times, including but not limited to monolingual non-English speakers, people with criminal justice involvement, and patients who are non-ambulatory.
4. Create a **robust wait time and patient placement data-tracking system** to better understand the impact of operational barriers on patient wait time.
5. Invest in facilities with **fixed beds dedicated for use by DPH clients** rather than shared with other health systems. Currently DPH does not have fixed beds set aside for its patients at a number of facilities, challenging its exercise to plan and place patients in a timely manner.
6. **Repeat bed simulation annually** to understand trends and inform long-term planning, mitigate data limitations encountered in this project, and explore other interventions that would improve patient experience.

Background

Managing behavioral health beds – how many a system of care needs to serve its clients – is a consistent challenge for healthcare systems worldwide. A mismatch of bed capacity to demand has significant implications for both client health outcomes and a healthcare system’s bottom line. A system with capacity that matches demand is one that provides optimal patient “flow.” In an optimized system, patients flow freely between levels of care according to their clinical health needs rather than system constraints. In San Francisco, where the Department of Public Health (DPH) serves nearly 30,000 behavioral health clients per year, highly variable bed demand, persistent bed constraints, and inconsistent data collection prevent DPH from comprehensively understanding bed capacity needs and optimizing patient flow.

In Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (FY1819), DPH provided behavioral health care to people in more than 2,000 beds across a continuum from high acuity (e.g. Acute Inpatient Psychiatry) to low acuity (e.g. Hummingbird Psychiatric Respite).¹ As the behavioral health needs of the population shift with time, the demand for services similarly shifts, further complicating the need to appropriately finance and provide services for clients. Various previous reports evaluating DPH’s behavioral health system, including the *BHS Performance Audit* (BLA, 2018) and *Homelessness and Behavioral Health* (JSI-Tipping Point, 2019), have called for improvements in patient wait times, investments in additional beds, and data to quantify and qualify capacity needs.

In early 2020, the Mental Health Reform team identified an innovative solution to its behavioral health bed optimization challenge: bed simulation modeling. Bed simulation modeling has been used internationally as a risk-free strategy for quantifying demand and identifying the impact of novel allocations of treatment beds on patient flow. Recent studies have concluded that using historical, operational data in a simulation model can help identify the appropriate type and number of beds required in public behavioral health systems.²

Methods

Through the financial support of Tipping Point Community, DPH engaged an experienced simulation modeling vendor, Mosimtec, to produce a mathematical model that would answer the key question: *How many beds are needed in each behavioral health bed category to maintain consistent patient flow for adult clients in San Francisco with zero wait time?* To answer this question, the model used FY1819 billing data of more than 25,000 admissions to mental health and substance use residential programs (greater than 24-hour stays) and urgent care settings (Psychiatric Emergency Services at Zuckerberg San Francisco General, Psychiatric Urgent Care, and Sobering Center). The data incorporated the demographics of the patients admitted to these care settings, including gender, age, race and ethnicity, and housing status. The analysis also considered the transitions of individuals across the behavioral health care continuum. The analysis

¹An overview of the bed categories and counts is provided in the Appendix. A subset of 1,000 of these beds was included in the analysis due to data availability.

²La et al. “Increasing Access to State Psychiatric Hospital Beds: Exploring Supply-Side Solutions.” *Psychiatric Services*, 67:5, May 2016, 523-528.
Devapriya et al. “StratBAM: A Discrete-Event Simulation Model to Support Strategic Hospital Bed Capacity Decisions.” *J Med Syst*, 39:130, 2015, 130.
Yin et al. “Applying Simulation Modeling to Quantify the Impact of Population Health and Capacity Interventions on Hospital Bed Demand” *Proceedings of the 2018 IISE Annual Conference*, 2018.

was not able to calculate “true” demand; that is, people who attempted to receive services but were unsuccessful in doing so. This limitation is considered in more detail in the Discussion section.

To ensure the input data would generate model results that accurately reflect the real-world system, the Mental Health Reform team worked closely with Mosimtec and City subject matter experts to verify that the data provided were complete and that preliminary outputs of the analysis were consistent with operational experience.

Results

The results from the simulation model are presented as “input analysis” – detailed information about how DPH’s system of behavioral health beds operated in FY1819 – and “output analysis” showing how the system functions in hypothetical scenarios.

Input Analysis: The input analysis provides critical information about how and by whom the behavioral health system was utilized in FY1819. More than 7,000 individuals accounted for more than 25,000 admissions in the fiscal year at nearly 1,000 different bed placements. *Table 1* provides a summary analysis of the characteristics of the patients who used behavioral health beds in FY1819; people experiencing homelessness represent a significant share. Males experiencing homelessness were the most common patient demographic to admit to the

Table 1: Characteristics of Patients Admitted to nearly 1,000 DPH Behavioral Health Beds FY1819

Characteristic		Number of Unique Patients ³	Percent of Total Unique Patients
Homelessness ⁴	Yes	4,140	68%
	No	1,955	32%
Gender	Male	4,032	66%
	Female	1,763	29%
	Other	300	5%
Race/Ethnicity	White	2,015	33%
	Black/African American	1,434	24%
	Latino/a	720	12%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	359	6%
	Other/Not Stated	1,567	26%
Total		6,095	100%

system. A disproportionate share of Black/African Americans utilized the system, representing 24 percent compared to 6 percent of the population of San Francisco. In future reports, DPH will recommend ways to address the equity issues highlighted by this analysis.

The input analysis also helped visualize where the system is currently overburdened, by revealing the utilization of beds in each category (for programs with fixed bed counts).⁵ Utilization is calculated as the ratio of bed days occupied, divided by bed days available.⁶ Due to limitations in the input data, utilization

³ An additional 1,387 identified clients did not have demographic information to include in this analysis.

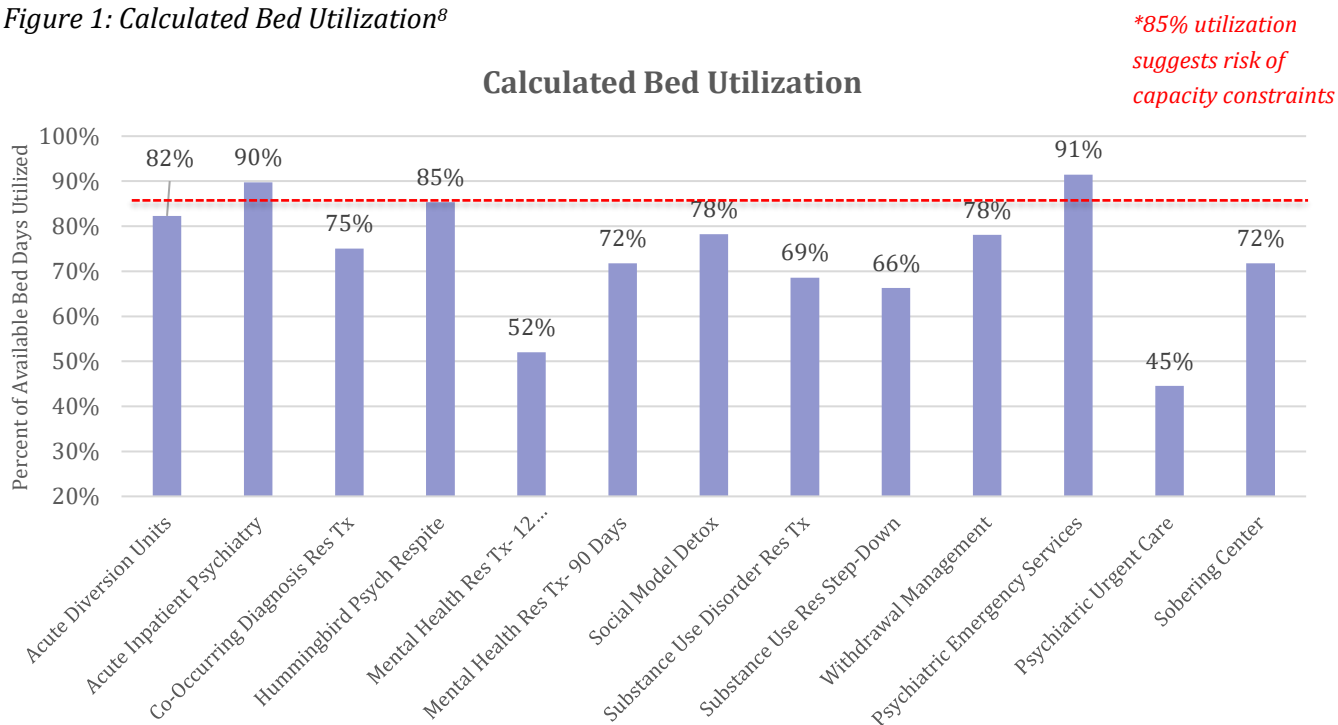
⁴ Homelessness defined by DPH Coordinated Care Management System (CCMS). CCMS defines people as experiencing homelessness in the fiscal year if they either: 1) utilize a City service that indicates housing instability, for example, a City shelter, or 2) self-report homelessness while accessing health care services.

⁵ Most of DPH-funded behavioral health beds are contracted annually at a “fixed” bed count. Other beds are purchased individually as needed and as budget and facilities allow.

⁶ Bed utilization calculations relied on bed counts provided by the DPH Bed Inventory.

calculations for certain bed categories likely underrepresent the true demand on these services. These categories include Sobering Center, Psychiatric Urgent Care, and Mental Health Residential Treatment 12-month programs. These limitations are detailed, and adjusted as needed, in the Discussion section of this report. Utilization calculations of over 85 percent indicate a care setting that is at risk of being capacity-strained.⁷ Using this rule, *Figure 1* demonstrates the categories with potential bed capacity shortages.

Figure 1: Calculated Bed Utilization⁸



Output Analysis: The model then created a hypothetical scenario to identify bed capacity adjustments that would improve patient flow by decreasing patient wait times. In general, waiting time experienced by patients in the system can be attributed to limited bed capacity and/or operational processing time (required health screenings, missed appointments, transportation, legal permissions, and other intake protocols). This analysis focused on quantifying wait time that occurs due to capacity constraints. The model considered the system holistically, identifying where patients currently wait prior to admission and then modeling the capacity needed to eliminate the observed wait times. Additionally, as outlined in the Appendix, the model considered a scenario specific to Psychiatric Emergency Services and Acute Inpatient Psychiatry.

The model carefully estimated current utilization in order to identify bed categories with wait times that occur due to capacity constraints. Then, the model simulated expansion scenarios that would reduce wait time to zero.

⁷ Bagust A, Place M, Posnett JW. "Dynamics of bed use in accommodating emergency admissions: stochastic simulation model." *BMJ*. 1999; 319 (7203):155-158

⁸ Locked Subacute Treatment, Residential Care Facilities, and Psychiatric Skilled Nursing do not have fixed bed counts and therefore do not have input data Bed-Day Utilization Calculations.

Table 2: Recommended Bed Counts to Decrease Patient Wait Due to Capacity Constraints

Bed Category	Average Wait Due to Capacity (Days) ⁹	Recommended Bed Count Increase For Zero Wait	Bed Count Increase for 50% Wait Time Reduction
Locked Subacute Treatment	62	31	20
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities	121	13	8
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care	60	31	13
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly	44	22	9

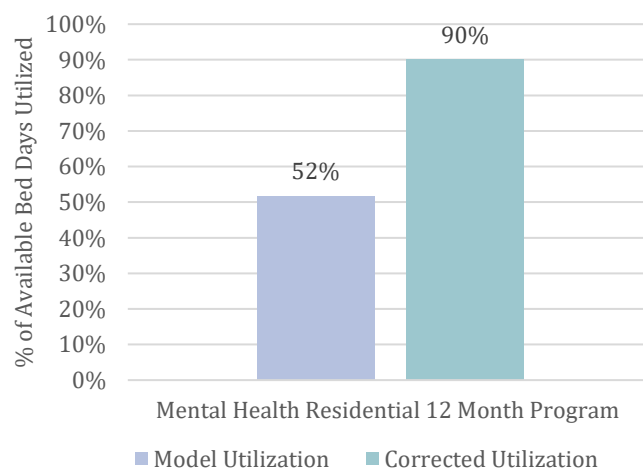
Table 2 displays the four bed categories the model identified as having wait times greater than one day. For each of these bed categories with wait times, the model then recommended a bed count increase that would reduce wait time to zero in order to create optimal flow. The table also provides an estimate for halving current waits.

Discussion

The model results provide substantial information for improving operations and recommending investments. Because each recommendation to increase capacity in identified bed categories has a different impact on patient flow and budget, the model results must be carefully evaluated in collaboration with DPH’s clinical, operational, policy, and financial leadership. Funding priorities must be accompanied by strong policy recommendations. For example, the value of increasing capacity in Locked Subacute Treatment and Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities is only achieved when matched with conservatorship policies that enable efficient patient placements. Furthermore, recommendations must be refined to target populations who historically encounter more challenges in finding appropriate placements, such as people with a history of criminal justice involvement, monolingual non-English speakers, and people who are non-ambulatory.

In reviewing the model results, the Mental Health Reform team found a significant limitation in the utilization calculation for Mental Health Residential Treatment, 12-month programs. Certain bed days were excluded from the input data due to the analysis’ inclusion criteria: admissions that occurred within the fiscal year. For Mental Health Residential Treatment, this unintentionally excluded many patients who occupied beds at the start of, and well into, the reporting period. To correct for this limitation, the Mental Health Reform team considered additional billed days that were originally excluded. This had a significant impact on results. The inclusion of the previously excluded data resulted in a report of 90 percent utilization of these beds, as

Figure 2: Adjusted Utilization Using All Billed Days



⁹ The model identified wait directly associated with the patient arrivals per day against the bed capacity. The model is not able to account for waiting time associated with processing and other operational barriers that DPH clients often encounter.

demonstrated in *Figure 2*. Because utilization of over 85 percent suggests a need for additional capacity, and due to the recommended increase at the upstream category, Locked Subacute Treatment, an additional investment of 20 Mental Health Residential Treatment 12-month beds is recommended to improve flow.

The Mental Health Reform team recommends that all investments be directed toward facilities where DPH has a fixed number of beds that are dedicated for use by its clients. Currently, many counties share contracted facilities, which often leads to delays in client placement and a lack of transparency about the length of those delays for DPH clients.

The Mental Health Reform team also recommends that, because of the high volume of people experiencing homelessness utilizing the system, each behavioral health treatment investment be paired with a similar expansion of housing options for those clients. The benefits of treatment can quickly diminish if a client is discharged without adequate housing, and waits for housing can impede flow throughout the behavioral health system.

Contextualizing the Recommendations: The DPH Behavioral Health System of Care is represented in Figure 3. Services range from prevention and early intervention for low-acuity patients to intensive treatment, provided in locked facilities, for the most acute patients. This analysis focused on adult residential settings, which are the bottom four categories represented in Figure 3. The results highlight two broad categories that currently bottleneck the system: residential treatment and locked facilities. The specific categories include Mental Health Residential Treatment, Locked Subacute Treatment, Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Residential Care Facilities (for adults and older adults). Detail on these categories and the services provided are listed in *Table 3*. In addition to identifying categories that are overburdened, the model highlighted bed categories with utilization levels and capacity that sufficiently accommodate flow in current operations. These categories include Acute Diversion Units, Substance Use Residential Treatment, and Withdrawal Management programs.

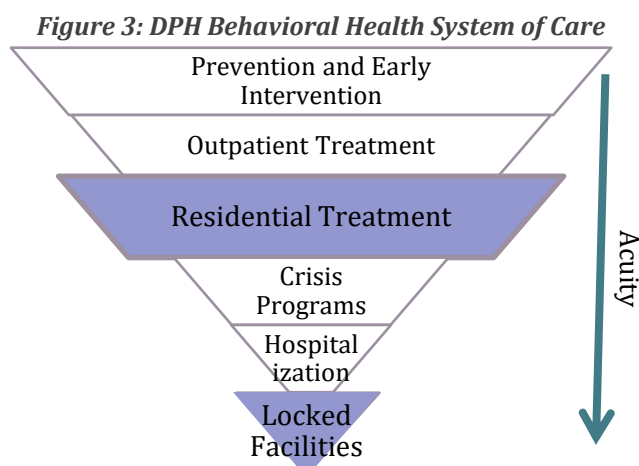


Table 3: Programmatic Detail on Categories with Recommended Capacity Increase

Bed Category	Description	FY1819 Bed Count ¹⁰	Example Facilities
Mental Health Residential Treatment, 12-month	Residential group living program that provides treatment for managing life with mental illness, building life skills and social skills, developing positive coping strategies, pre-vocational/vocational skills, medication adherence and wellness recovery stabilization. Twelve-month programs are commonly used for patients discharging from Locked Subacute Treatment.	30	Progress Foundation Clay Street and Dorine Loso Houses

¹⁰ Bed count based on FY1819 contracts for Mental Health Residential Treatment Programs (12-month) and the patient census as of April 30, 2019 for all other categories.

Bed Category	Description	FY1819 Bed Count ¹⁰	Example Facilities
Locked Subacute Treatment – aka Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) and Institute of Mental Disease (IMD)	These facilities are for clients placed on a Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship due to grave disability or on a forensic court-ordered hold. These programs provide psychosocial rehabilitation to stabilize mental illness impact on daily functioning, establish medication adherence, improve life and social skills, develop positive coping strategies, and stabilize wellness and recovery.	132	MHRC at SF Behavioral Health Center, Crestwood (SF Healing Center, Canyon Manor, Vallejo)
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facility	A licensed health facility, or a distinct part of a hospital, providing 24-hour inpatient care that includes physician, skilled nursing, dietary, and pharmaceutical services, and an activity program. The Psychiatric SNF specializes in treating patients with severe psychiatric disorders who cannot be safely managed in other settings. This setting can be locked or unlocked.	160	Idylwood Care Center, Crestwood (Fremont, Stevenson, Stockton), Medical Hill
Residential Care Facilities (RCF)– also known as Board and Care	RCFs offer group living for people with disabilities (either medical or psychiatric) who need help with meal preparation, medication monitoring, and personal care, but do not need daily acute medical care. Individual RCFs may specialize in certain clinical areas such as mental health rehabilitation and geriatrics.	305	United Family Home Care, South Van Ness Manor, BMB Sunshine Residential Care
Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)	RCFEs generally offer group living for seniors (with either medical or psychiatric needs) who need help with meal preparation, medication monitoring, and personal care, but do not need daily acute medical care. Individual RCFEs may specialize in certain clinical areas such as mental health rehabilitation and geriatrics.	267	Crestwood Hope, Victoria Manor, Country Place Assisted Living

When conducting the cost-benefit analysis of adding beds at different levels of care, it is important to understand how the system functions dynamically as a continuum. Investments at each level of care impact not only that bed category, but also the upstream and downstream bed categories. For example, if DPH follows the recommendation to increase bed capacity in Locked Subacute Treatment, the upstream bed categories Acute Inpatient Psychiatry and Psychiatric Emergency Services will be able to release the patients waiting for that downstream category. Furthermore, choosing to increase capacity only at Locked Subacute Treatment could result in a new bottleneck if housing or step-down programs are not secured for patients discharging from that care level.

Because of the high volume of people experiencing homelessness utilizing the system, all temporary placement investments (e.g. Locked Subacute Treatment) should be complemented one-to-one by investments in permanent placements such as Permanent Supportive Housing or Residential Care Facilities. Without a pathway to reliable housing upon discharge, patients who are experiencing homelessness will struggle to maintain the benefits of treatment.

Cost Analysis: DPH should identify which sequence of investments would have the biggest impact on health outcomes and budget, while maintaining focus on what is operationally feasible. The Mental Health Reform team will work with DPH operational subject matter experts and the Controller’s Office, which

completed a flow analysis project for DPH in 2019, to create a decision-making framework for prioritizing investments. Once prioritized and sequenced, these recommendations should be incorporated into San Francisco’s budgeting and planning processes, including in the allocation of 2,000 placements that Mayor London Breed has committed to create for people experiencing homelessness and behavioral health issues.

Because the system is financially constrained, the prioritization process must consider the marginal cost benefit of adding a bed to one category versus another. *Table 4* outlines the associated operating costs for the bed increases suggested by the model. An additional cost would be associated with any start-up required, such as building acquisition.

Table 4: Cost of Recommended Bed Investments

Bed Category	Annualized Median Cost Per Bed	Recommended Bed Increase	Annual Cost Recommended Bed Increase
Locked Subacute Treatment	\$177,208	31	\$5,493,433
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facility	\$106,580	13	\$1,385,540
Residential Care Facilities aka Board and Care	\$31,390	31	\$973,090
Residential Care Facilities for Elderly	\$38,873	22	\$855,195
Mental Health Residential Treatment (12-month)	\$97,127	20	\$1,942,530
Total	N/A	117	\$10,649,788

It is important to also consider the anticipated cost savings that result from relieving the bottlenecks occurring in high-cost care settings. For every patient who spends “extra” time – beyond what is clinically necessary – in Acute Inpatient Psychiatry while waiting for a lower level of care, DPH is unable to bill Medi-Cal for the service. These days spent waiting are therefore a burden for both the client’s recovery and for the financial health of the organization. By calculating the annual revenue potential lost due to this issue, we can balance the cost of the bed investments against the revenue gained by using Acute Inpatient Psychiatry resources for patients who clinically need the service. *Table 5* demonstrates the potential revenue recovery and net difference from the recommended investment using this model.

Table 5: Potential Revenue Recovery and Net Cost Difference

Bed Category	Admin Days Inpatient Psychiatry	Potential Revenue Recovery*	Annual Cost Recommended Bed Increase	Annual Net Cost Difference
Locked Subacute Treatment	4,131	\$4,361,964	\$5,493,433	(\$1,131,469)
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facility	1,060	\$1,694,060	\$1,385,540	\$308,520
Residential Care Facilities aka Board and Care	1,351	\$2,159,128	\$973,090	\$1,186,038
Residential Care Facilities for Elderly	289	\$461,871	\$855,195	(\$393,324)
Mental Health Residential Treatment (12-month)	531	\$858,217	\$1,942,530	(\$1,084,313)

*DPH receives \$1,598.17 per day for acute level patients at ZSFG Acute Inpatient Psychiatry. The revenue recovery calculation assumes the non-billable days in FY1819 convert to acute patient bed days. For patients waiting for Locked Subacute Treatment, DPH can bill Medi-Cal for administrative days at \$542.26 per day, making the revenue recovery per day \$1,055.91. For patients waiting for other bed categories listed, DPH receives no reimbursement from Medi-Cal.

Limitations: The information used for this analysis is limited by two main factors. First, DPH does not have a centralized data system to capture admissions for all 2,000 of its behavioral health beds. In order to include the full continuum of care in the study, a significant effort was made to unify the data. However, the project was limited by the source data systems and their disparate methods for data management. Second, DPH used only one fiscal year of admissions to these beds. The decision to use one year of data balanced the advantage of relying on recent data and fixed bed counts against the disadvantage of undercounting information related to programs with long lengths of stay (e.g. 12-month Mental Health Residential Treatment, Residential Care Facilities, Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities, Substance Use Residential Step-Down). The Mental Health Reform team worked with the DPH subject matter experts and Mosimtec to mitigate the impact of these limitations on the results of the project. As shown earlier in the discussion section, the limitation affiliated with long-stay programs was corrected in the case of Mental Health Residential Treatment through post-modeling analysis.

Furthermore, while the model can estimate wait times based on input data, this wait-time calculation is limited and not fully representative of reality. For example, in the real system, certain patients may be redirected or choose alternative care settings when wait times are not tolerated by the system or the patient. In this way, it is likely that wait times, and therefore capacity needs, are underrepresented in this exercise. Additionally, the model failed to identify wait times in bed categories where clients are known to wait in practice, for example, Mental Health Residential Treatment. This result is attributable to a few factors; there is no data system concretely tracking wait time, and wait time in the current system could be fully due to processing time and operational barriers rather than capacity shortages. These possibilities and limitations will be fully evaluated by the Mental Health Reform team in collaboration with Behavioral Health Services as a follow-up to this report. Critical to this follow-up is the development of a robust wait time and patient placement data-tracking system. This system will enable a better understanding of the impact of operational barriers on patient wait time.

Conclusion

The Behavioral Health Bed Optimization Project offers new and important insights for expanding the current capacity and improving the flow of behavioral health beds in San Francisco. In addition to recommendations for bed investments, the model illuminates who uses the complex system of care, and how. It also shows the limitations of current data systems. In summary, the final recommendations from this project include:

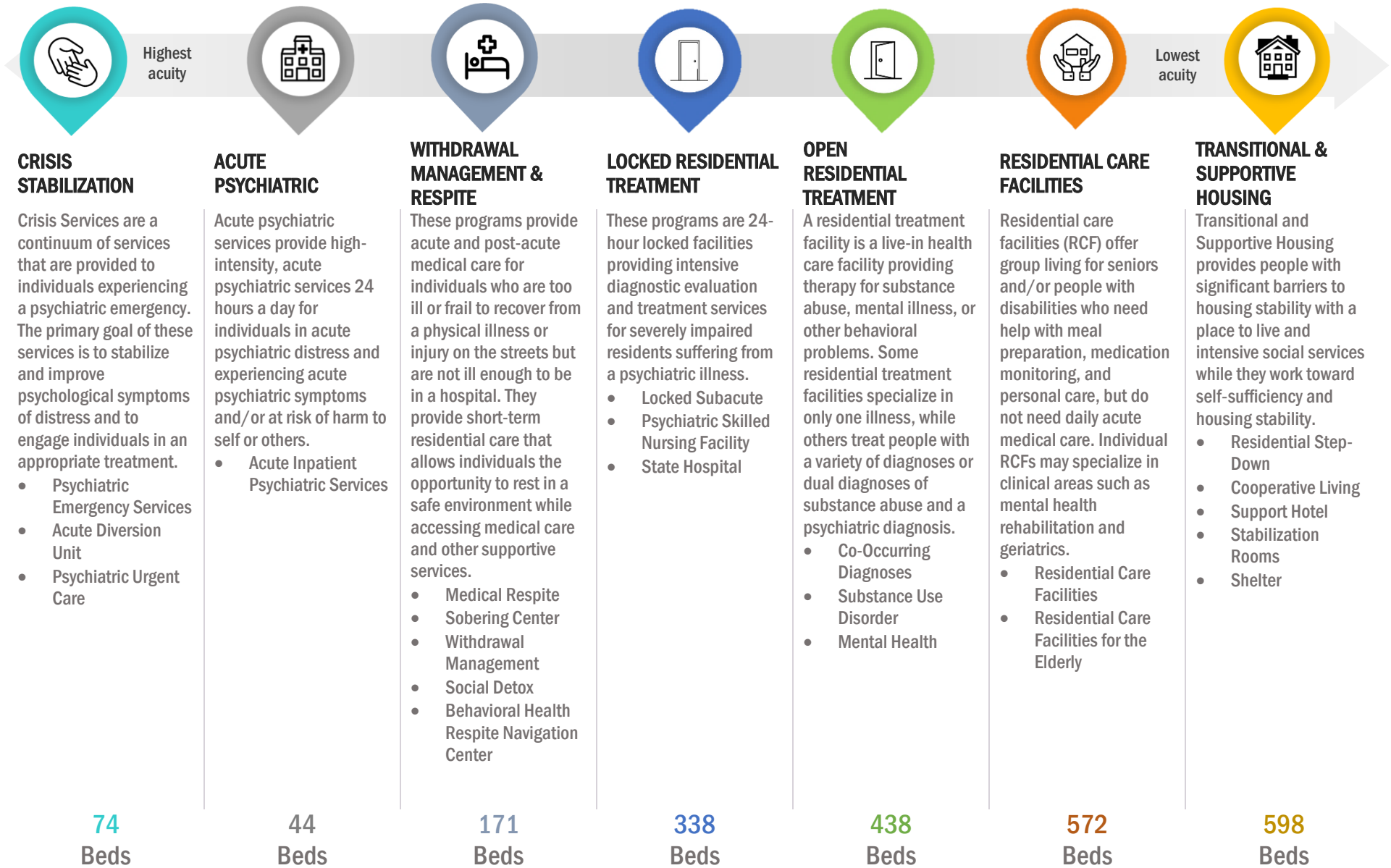
1. Invest in **additional bed capacity** in the following categories of care:
 - a. Locked Subacute Treatment
 - b. Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - c. Residential Care Facilities, aka Board and Care
 - d. Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly
 - e. Mental Health Residential Treatment (12-month programs)
2. Complement all **behavioral health bed investments one-to-one with long-term housing placements** such as Permanent Supportive Housing or Residential Care Facilities, to better serve the high volume of people experiencing homelessness who use the system.

3. **Address the unique needs of specialized populations** who commonly encounter longer wait times, including but not limited to monolingual non-English speakers, people with criminal justice involvement, and patients who are non-ambulatory.
4. Create a **robust wait time and patient placement data-tracking system** to better understand the impact of operational barriers on patient wait time.
5. Invest in facilities with **fixed beds dedicated for use by DPH clients** rather than shared with other health systems. Currently DPH does not have fixed beds set aside for its patients at a number of facilities, challenging its exercise to plan and place patients in a timely manner.
6. **Repeat bed simulation annually** to understand trends and inform long term planning, mitigate data limitations encountered in this project, and explore other interventions that would improve patient experience.

Despite the limitations mentioned in this analysis that likely contribute to an underestimation of capacity needs, the Mental Health Reform team is confident that the bed categories identified are consistent with the greatest need. A series of investments that include increasing capacity in high-demand bed categories downstream from Acute Inpatient Psychiatry, coupled with Permanent Supportive Housing units for the high proportion of patients experiencing homelessness, will undoubtedly improve flow and decrease cost and bottlenecks at upstream bed categories. The bed simulation methodology should be replicated to further interrogate the information available, mitigate the data limitations, and explore other interventions that would improve patient experience. Because the health care system and client needs are in constant evolution, the methodology is most effective if used at least annually. The exercise should therefore become a standard operating procedure for DPH to consistently improve health outcomes and reap financial rewards.

Appendix:

SFDPH Behavioral Health Beds FY 2018-19



Additional Model Results:

Scenario 2 Results: In Scenario 2, the model adjusted historical data using the assumption that all patients who stay more than 24 hours in Psychiatric Emergency Services do so because of a lack of capacity in the “next stop” treatment location, Acute Inpatient Psychiatry, at Zuckerberg San Francisco General (ZSFG). Subsequently, the model calculated the number of beds needed to prevent this wait time. In this scenario, the model identified that in order to prevent bottlenecks at Psychiatric Emergency Services, the bed count at Acute Inpatient Psychiatry would need to be increased significantly (61 percent). However, because investments made in downstream bed categories have been proven to reduce or even eliminate bottlenecks upstream, DPH, in discussion with the experts at Mosimtec, decided against including this result as a final recommendation. This approach will be tested and analyzed when the bed simulation modeling exercise is repeated annually.

Table 6: Scenario 2 Recommended Bed Counts

Bed Category	Baseline Bed Count	Recommended Bed Count	Percent Increase
ZSFG Acute Inpatient Psychiatry	44	71	61%

Validity Reports: The following tables provide detail on the outputs of the model compared with historical input data. These reports support the conclusion that the model reflected reality within a reasonable degree of confidence.

Table 7: Arrivals Per Day

Category	Calculated Input	Scenario 1 Output	% Difference
Acute Diversion Units	2.91	2.92	0%
Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Services	3.42	3.40	(1%)
Co-Occurring Diagnosis Residential Treatment	0.75	0.75	0%
Hummingbird Psychiatric Respite	1.79	1.79	0%
Locked Subacute Treatment	0.54	0.54	0%
Mental Health Residential Treatment	0.88	0.88	0%
Option - St Francis	0.81	0.81	0%
Psychiatric Emergency Services	21.94	21.95	0%
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities	0.21	0.22	5%
Psychiatric Urgent Care	7.07	7.06	0%
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - In County	0.27	0.27	0%
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - Out of County	0.12	0.11	(8%)
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - In County	0.23	0.23	0%

Category	Calculated Input	Scenario 1 Output	% Difference
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - Out of County	0.16	0.16	0%
Sobering Center	18.03	18.03	0%
Social Model Detox	2.88	2.87	0%
Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment	3.40	3.40	0%
Substance Use Residential Step-Down	0.65	0.65	0%
Withdrawal Management	2.12	2.12	0%

Table 8: Average Length of Stay (Days)

Category	Calculated Input	Scenario 1 Output	% Difference
Acute Diversion Units	13	12	(8%)
Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Services	12	11	(8%)
Co-Occurring Diagnosis Residential Treatment	52	51	(2%)
Hummingbird Psychiatric Respite	15	14	(7%)
Locked Subacute Treatment	205	203	(1%)
Mental Health Residential Treatment	65	64	(2%)
Option - St Francis	8	8	0%
Psychiatric Emergency Services	1	1	0%
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities	106	99	(7%)
Psychiatric Urgent Care	1	1	0%
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - In County	272	268	(1%)
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - Out of County	155	143	(8%)
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - In County	195	185	(5%)
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - Out of County	154	142	(8%)
Sobering Center	0	0	0%
Social Model Detox	6	6	0%
Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment	51	50	(2%)
Substance Use Residential Step-Down	99	97	(2%)
Withdrawal Management	10	10	0%

Table 9: Bed Utilization

Category	Calculated Input	Scenario 1 Output	% Difference
Acute Diversion Units	82%	79%	(4%)
Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Services	90%	83%	(8%)
Co-Occurring Diagnosis Residential Treatment	75%	73%	(3%)
Hummingbird Psychiatric Respite	85%	84%	(1%)
Locked Subacute Treatment	*unknown	79%	NA
Mental Health Residential Treatment	60%	52%	(13%)
Psychiatric Emergency Services	91%	82%	(10%)
Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities	*unknown	86%	NA
Psychiatric Urgent Care	45%	42%	(7%)
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - In County	*unknown	74%	NA
Residential Care Facility aka Board and Care - Out of County	*unknown	79%	NA
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - In County	*unknown	75%	NA
Residential Care Facility for the Elderly - Out of County	*unknown	75%	NA
Sobering Center	72%	36%	(50%)
Social Model Detox	78%	72%	(8%)
Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment	69%	64%	(7%)
Substance Use Residential Step-Down	66%	54%	(18%)
Withdrawal Management	78%	74%	(5%)

Ventura County Behavioral Health
Board Letter Summary of Contracts for May 2021

Board Date	Contractor	Amount	Term	Description
5/11/2021	Americas Health Plan	\$0	June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.	<p>Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Americas Health Plan (AHP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). AHP has entered into a Plan to Plan contract with Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) that has been approved by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Per AHP's contract responsibilities with GCHP, AHP must establish an MOU for County Mental Health services. The MOU clarifies and defines the roles and responsibilities, access, and care coordination information with respect to specialty mental health, mental health outpatient, and SUD services including the process for screening, referring, coordinating services, clinical consultation and dispute resolution. Under the MOU, VCBH provides or arranges for specialty mental health and SUD services for eligible individuals, and AHP provides or arranges for outpatient mental health and SUD services for eligible individuals, as specified in the AHP Medi-Cal Managed Care contract with DHCS. Outpatient mental health services covered by AHP are for individuals with mild to moderate impairment of mental, emotional or behavioral functioning resulting from a mental health disorder. Specialty mental health services provided by VCBH are for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness.</p>
5/18/2021	Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families	\$5,134,498	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services with Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families (Casa Pacifica). VCBH contracts with Casa Pacifica to provide residential/campus Specialty Mental Health Services through the following three programs: (1) Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP), (2) Non Public School Services (NPS), and (3) Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS). These programs serve children who are Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Specialty Mental Health Services provided may include assessment; individual, group and family therapy, collateral services, and rehabilitation; Crisis Intervention; Medication Management, and Case Management. The common goals of these programs are to transition children to lower levels of care and prevent further progression of mental health symptomology, deterioration, and functioning. The Second Amendment to the Agreement with Casa Pacifica: (1) revises the STRTP rates and increase the maximum agreement amount for this program from \$2,374,000 to \$2,700,000 (an increase of \$326,000); (2) revises the TBS rates and reduce the maximum contract amount for this program from \$2,200,000 to \$2,050,000 (decrease of \$150,000); and (3) increases the overall maximum agreement amount from \$4,958,498 to \$5,134,498 (an increase of \$176,000). These adjustments are being made in response to a census increase in the STRTP due to the opening of another cottage facility and a decrease in clients and expenses within the TBS program due to COVID-19. All services are funded with Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal Federal Financial Participation (SD/MC FFP) and EPSDT/Realignment.</p>
5/18/2021	Vista Woods Health Associates LLC	\$418,601	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Mental Health Services with Vista Woods Health Associates LLC (Vista Woods). VCBH contracts with Vista Woods to provide 24-hour Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services for seriously mentally ill clients who require a high level of care due to the severity of their illnesses. In addition to the SNF services, clients receive the following services: (1) medication management; (2) care and supervision; (3) daily activities; and (4) food services. The Second Amendment to the Agreement with Vista Woods revises the agreement to: (1) add new service rates for clients that do not have Medi-cal benefits and (2) increases the agreement maximum from \$347,610 to \$418,601 (an increase of \$70,991) to remit payment for VCBH clients who are not covered by Medi-Cal, without insurance, and have no other means to pay for necessary SNF services. This agreement is funded with State General Fund and Realignment funding.</p>

5/18/2021	Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc. DBA Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.	\$925,000	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 Second Amendment to the Agreement for Temporary Staffing Services with Maxim Healthcare Services Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc. (Maxim). Maxim provides certified and licensed temporary staff to help fill vacant positions with-in VCBH due to the difficulty in finding qualified and appropriately certified and licensed staff and to help backfill existing positions due to unexpected leaves of absence. VCBH is taking appropriate steps to expedite its recruitments for qualified and appropriately certified and licensed staff. However, until staff can be hired, VCBH needs temporary staff to maintain services for VCBH clients. VCBH uses a variety of temporary staff from Maxim, including Registered Nurses, Mental Health Associates, Case Managers, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. The Second Amendment to the Agreement with Maxim increases: (1) the agreement maximum from \$500,000 to \$925,000 (an increase of \$425,000) and (2) certain hourly rates for temporary staff to ensure rates are competitive with other neighboring counties and to ensure sufficient staffing for VCBH. This agreement is funded with SD/MC FFP, 2011 Realignment, State General Fund, Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and 1991 Realignment funding.</p>
5/18/2021	Turning Point Foundation	\$0	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	<p>FY 2020-21 The First Amendment to the Agreement for Outreach and Engagement Peer services with Turning Point Foundation (Turning Point). Turning Point provides outreach and engagement peer services to VCBH. The First Amendment to the Agreement with Turning Point revises the budget in order to adjust line items for program costs, insurance, vehicle expenses, and staff expenses. There is no change to the Agreement's maximum contract amount of \$239,936.</p>
5/18/2021	Turning Point Foundation	\$669,675	June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	<p>FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 Agreement for Augmented Board and Care Services with Turning Point. In January 2021, the long-time owner and operator of Hickory House, an Adult Residential Facility (ARF) for clients over 59 years of age located in Camarillo (Property), sold the Property and business to Channel Islands Holding Company, LLC (Channel Islands). Channel Islands agreed to continue to allow the Property to be used and operated as an ARF, but Channel Islands does not provide board and care services. The former owner agreed to continue providing services at the Property until VCBH could identify and select a new contractor. This arrangement allowed VCBH client residents to remain at the Property, rather than be relocated, until VCBH was able to identify a new operator and contract for the provision of board and care services at the Property. VCBH has selected Turning Point to operate the Property and provide augmented board and care services. The Property, will now be known as Oak Place. Under the new arrangement, the County, through the Public Works Agency, will lease Oak Place from Channel Islands, and in turn license Oak Place to Turning Point for its operation of the facility as an ARF for adults over the age of 59. The proposed budget includes startup funding that will allow Turning Point to furnish Oak Place, purchase communication equipment, and purchase needed materials and supplies. This agreement is funded with MHSA, Tobacco Settlement, and 1991 Realignment funding.</p>