

Siskiyou County
Behavioral Health Board Annual Report:
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, 2019



Introduction

The Siskiyou County Behavioral Health Board (Board) has had an active year. From policy revisions to community interactions, this Board has learned a great deal of the scope and responsibilities that govern the Board under the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), how it applies to consumers, professionals, and the community. In 2019, community interest in serving on the Board resulted in a waiting list which culminated in an increase of sitting members on the Board. New members as well as pre-existing members were required to undergo ethics training and certification. All members expressed interest in training seminars through the California Behavioral Health Board and Commissions (CALBHBC), therefore an effort was made to attend an all-day training seminar offered through CALBHBC in Redding as an entire group. The Redding seminar targeted challenges that are faced by Behavioral Health Boards in small and rural counties. By gaining training and knowledge, the Board has achieved greater insight as to how the WIC code can be integrated into greater community participation and outreach.

In 2019, many new city regulations within Siskiyou County had resulted in sociological concerns by both the public and individual board members regarding the safety of Behavioral Health consumers. While addressing city regulations are not within the scope of the Board, it was and continues to be important that the community feel able to participate in identifying those concerns and be heard, while learning what responsibilities the Board has in the Behavioral Health community. This has spurred the Board towards identifying new ways to reach out to the community. Community outreach has involved board members bringing to the table concerns over local legislation and inviting the community to attend and voice their concerns on how local legislation could impact Behavioral Health consumers. Work groups have also been formed to put together information booths that can be used at family and community resource centers, social events, and fairs.

Data Notebook

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (Council) is under federal and state mandate to advocate on behalf of adults with severe mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance and their families. The Board is a part of the Council and answers to the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors as well as to the Council. The Council advocates for an accountable system of seamless, responsive services that are strength-based, consumer and family member driven, recovery oriented, culturally and linguistically responsive and cost effective. Council recommendations promotes cross-system collaboration to address the issues of access and effective treatment for the recovery, resiliency and wellness of Californians living with severe mental illness. Board requirements include participation with the Council and the

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors which takes the form of data gathering and research for the Data Notebook.

The Data Notebook reports on activity and information from fiscal year 18/19. An essential part of the Data Notebook involves reporting on new programs instituted over the last three years.

Programs reported in the 2018 Data Notebook include:


- Mental Health Court- Behavioral Health staff, in collaboration with the Public Defender, the Probation Department and the Courts have drafted policies and procedures to implement a mental health diversion program as well as a collaborative court. Staff members have attended training seminars in Southern California to learn how to increase efficacy within this consumer population group.
- SARA- Behavioral Health is an active partner with Siskiyou Against Rx Addiction (SARA), Partnership Health, and Aegis in addressing substance abuse in Siskiyou County. The Department anticipates implementation of the Drug-Medical Organized Delivery System for substance use services in January of 2020.
- Integrated Care Project (Innovation Program)- In partnership with Fairchild Medical Clinic, Behavioral Health has developed a whole person care/integrated care project serving individuals with co-occurring medical and behavioral health issues.
- Housing Programs- Siskiyou County has MHSA-CSS housing funds set aside with the State's previous CalHFA housing program (now Local Government Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP)). These funds will potentially be utilized for a permanent supportive housing facility in conjunction with the proposed No Place Like Home funding allocation.

Siskiyou Behavioral Health continues to move CSS funds to Technological Needs and Workforce Education and Training (WET) per statute. Tech dollars are used to help support the migration to electronic health records, maintain our electronic healthcare database, as well as software and support. WET funds are utilized to support ongoing countywide mental health training and workshops for community members, partners and providers in the mental health field. Behavioral Health also uses WET funds to support staff when participating in evidenced-based trainings as well as reimbursement of continuing education units/expenses pertaining to courses in the mental health field.

Transportation continues to be a challenging hurdle for consumers throughout the county as evidenced in both provider and consumer interviews taken during the Data Notebook process. A systemic issue, this topic is one of the most current concerns during Behavioral Health Board meetings, seconded only to concerns of housing.

Looking Forward

The Siskiyou County Behavioral Health Board bylaws were revised in 2019. Revisions included the clarification of conflict of interest in relation to employment of board members, the scope of duties and responsibilities, an increase in the number of sitting members, clarification of title and duties of the Board of Supervisor members, and revisions to the ratio of sitting board member representation for each classification: consumer advocate, family advocate, professional advocate, and community member. Since then, two new members have joined the board under the professional advocate classification. Each of these successes lays a foundation for success and stability for the Behavioral Health Board looking towards 2020 and successive years to come.



Jenny Signor
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