

# TULARE COUNTY: DATA NOTEBOOK 2018

## FOR CALIFORNIA

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



*Prepared by California Behavioral Health Planning Council, in collaboration with:  
California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions*

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (Council) is under federal and state mandate to advocate on behalf of adults with severe mental illness and children with severe emotional disturbance and their families. The Council is also statutorily required to advise the Legislature on behavioral health issues, policies and priorities in California. 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 promote 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.

Tulare County

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## **Introduction: Purpose and Goals**

What is the “Data Notebook?”

The Data Notebook is a structured format for reviewing information and reporting on specific mental health services in each county. The goal of our 2018 Data Notebook is to survey types of services and needs in the behavioral health systems of care for children, adults, and older adults. This topic follows our yearly practice of focusing on different parts of the behavioral health system. However, this year we are taking a survey approach to collect data as the foundation for an overall needs review.

Local behavioral health boards/commissions are required annually to review performance data for mental health services in their county and to report their findings to the CBHPC. To provide structure for the report and to make the reporting easier, each year we create a Data Notebook for local behavioral health boards to complete and submit to the CBHPC. Afterward, the responses are compiled and analyzed by our staff to create a yearly report for policy makers, stakeholders and the general public.

The Data Notebook structure and questions are designed to meet important goals:

- To assist local boards to meet their legal mandates<sup>1</sup> to review performance data for their county mental health services and report on performance every year,
- To serve as an educational resource on behavioral health data for local boards,
- To obtain opinion and thoughts of local mental health boards on specific topics,
- To identify unmet needs and make recommendations.

We encourage members of all local behavioral health boards to participate in reviewing and developing the responses for the Data Notebook. This is an opportunity for the local boards and their county behavioral health departments to work together to identify critical issues that are most important to your county. Your work will help inform county and state leadership plans for behavioral health programs.

We thank everyone for your interest and continued participation.

We are taking a somewhat different approach for the 2018 Data Notebook (DN). The 2018 DN does not include county-specific data but rather is a brief general survey about mental health services and needs in the counties to guide our advocacy in the coming year. It is anticipated that we will resume our practice of presenting county-specific data in the 2019 Data Notebook.

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<sup>1</sup> W.I.C. 5604.2, regarding mandated reporting roles of MH Boards and Commissions in California.

## **System of Care: What BH Services are CA Counties Required to Provide?**

California's Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) sets forth a number of definitions, responsibilities and requirements for the public mental health system. Below are a few excerpts from the WIC to provide context for some questions in this Data Notebook.

### **WIC Section 5600.1**

The mission of California's mental health system shall be to enable persons experiencing severe and disabling mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances to access services and programs that assist them, in a manner tailored to each individual, to better control their illness, to achieve their personal goals, and to develop skills and supports leading to their living the most constructive and satisfying lives possible in the least restrictive available settings.

### **WIC 5600.4**

Community mental health services should be organized to provide an array of treatment options in the following areas, to the extent resources are available:

- (a) **Precrisis and Crisis Services.** Immediate response to individuals in precrisis and crisis and to members of the individual's support system, on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis. Crisis services may be provided offsite through mobile services. The focus of precrisis services is to offer ideas and strategies to improve the person's situation, and help access what is needed to avoid crisis. The focus of crisis services is stabilization and crisis resolution, assessment of precipitating and attending factors, and recommendations for meeting identified needs.
- (b) **Comprehensive Evaluation and Assessment.** Includes, but is not limited to, evaluation and assessment of physical and mental health, income support, housing, vocational training and employment, and social support services needs. Evaluation and assessment may be provided offsite through mobile services.
- (c) **Individual Service Plan.** Identification of the short- and long-term service needs of the individual, advocating for, and coordinating the provision of these services. The development of the plan should include the participation of the client, family members, friends, and providers of services to the client, as appropriate.
- (d) **Medication Education and Management.** Includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of the need for administration of, and education about, the risks and benefits associated with medication. Clients should be provided this information prior to the administration of medications pursuant to state law. To the extent practicable, families and caregivers should also be informed about medications.

(e) Case Management. Client-specific services that assist clients in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services. Case management may be provided offsite through mobile services.

(f) Twenty-four Hour Treatment Services. Treatment provided in any of the following: an acute psychiatric hospital, an acute psychiatric unit of a general hospital, a psychiatric health facility, an institute for mental disease, a community treatment facility, or community residential treatment programs, including crisis, transitional and long-term programs.

(g) Rehabilitation and Support Services. Treatment and rehabilitation services designed to stabilize symptoms, and to develop, improve, and maintain the skills and supports necessary to live in the community. These services may be provided through various modes of services, including, but not limited to, individual and group counseling, day treatment programs, collateral contacts with friends and family, and peer counseling programs. These services may be provided offsite through mobile services.

(h) Vocational Rehabilitation. Services which provide a range of vocational services to assist individuals to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.

(i) Residential Services. Room and board and 24-hour care and supervision.

(j) Services for Homeless Persons. Services designed to assist mentally ill persons who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless, to secure housing and financial resources.

(k) Group Services. Services to two or more clients at the same time.

#### WIC Section 5600.5

The minimum array of services for children and youth meeting the target population criteria established in subdivision (a) of Section 5600.3<sup>2</sup> should include the following modes of service in every geographical area, to the extent resources are available:

(a) Precrisis and crisis services.

(b) Assessment.

(c) Medication education and management.

(d) Case management.

(e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services.

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<sup>2</sup> See attached Appendix for presentation of the full definition of the target population criteria set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5600.3.

(f) Rehabilitation and support services designed to alleviate symptoms and foster development of age appropriate cognitive, emotional, and behavioral skills necessary for maturation.

WIC 5600.6

The minimum array of services for adults meeting the target population criteria established in subdivision (b) of Section 5600.3 should include the following modes of service in every geographical area, to the extent resources are available:

- (a) Precrisis and crisis services.
- (b) Assessment.
- (c) Medication education and management.
- (d) Case management.
- (e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services.
- (f) Rehabilitation and support services.
- (g) Vocational services.
- (h) Residential services.

WIC 5600.7

The minimum array of services for older adults meeting the target population criteria established in subdivision (b) of Section 5600.3 should include the following modes of service in every geographical area, to the extent resources are available:

- (a) Precrisis and crisis services, including mobile services.
- (b) Assessment, including mobile services.
- (c) Medication education and management.
- (d) Case management, including mobile services.
- (e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services.
- (f) Residential services.
- (g) Rehabilitation and support services, including mobile services.



**Your County: Evaluation of Services, Barriers to Access, and Unmet Needs**

Below we ask a series of questions about the above services in your county regardless of fund source. We ask whether there are barriers to service access, unmet needs, or lack of continued or sustainable funding for a particular service or program.

**1) Please indicate (X) any service areas for which your county has identified that persons are substantially underserved or experience substantial unmet BH needs.**

For each age Group:

- (a) Pre-crisis and crisis services.
- (b) Assessment
- (c) Medication education & management
- (d) Case management
- (e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services
- (f) Rehabilitation and support services
- (g) Vocational services
- (h) Residential services

Child	TAY (age 16-25)	Adult	Older Adult
X	X	X	X
X	X		
X	X	X	X

**Comments:** Tulare County is classified as a mental health provider shortage area (MHPSA). We sustain difficulty recruiting licensed providers. Consequently, psychiatric services for new or newly returning consumers within the State's timely access standards (within 15 days of request) have posed occasional challenges. Additionally, there are no 24-hour inpatient psychiatric facilities or residential services for youth within the County. Limited funding also constrains availability of supportive housing programs.

**2) What are the major barriers to BH service access for persons who are in need of these services? Indicate any reasons; mark as many as apply.**

For each age Group:

- A: Lack of Program Funding
- B: Lack specialized prof. expertise
- C: Lack BH workforce/providers
- D: Clients dispersed outlying areas
- E: Transportation problems (bus, etc.)
- F: Lack available appointment times
- G: Fear government involvement
- H: Linguistic needs (translation, etc.)
- J: Culturally relevant needs
- K: Other barrier, specify:  
**Limited number of low-income housing available**

Child	TAY (age 16-25)	Adult	Older Adult
	X	X	X
			*
*	X	X	X
*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*
			*
		*	*
		*	*
	X	X	X

**3) Please indicate (X) any areas for which your county has implemented new programs within the last 3 years.**

For each age Group:

- (a) Pre-crisis and crisis services.
- (b) Assessment
- (c) Medication education & management
- (d) Case management
- (e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services
- (f) Rehabilitation and support services
- (g) Vocational services
- (h) Residential services

Child	TAY (age 16-25)	Adult	Older Adult
X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X
	X	X	X
	X	X	X
	X	X	X

**Comments:** Tulare County Mental Health redesigned their Mental Health System of Care in FY 2014-2015. A Wellness and Recovery Model (WRAP) was instituted in part to (1) address increasing inpatient psychiatric hospitalization rates, and (2) better integrate Mental Health Services Act into our traditional mental health system of care. We instituted a children's Full Service Partnership program and adult Assertive Community Treatment Team. Services at the largest adult clinic (Visalia Adult Integrated Clinic (VAIC) were redesigned to team-based, consumer-centered groups. These specialized, acuity-level teams better customized levels of care with individual consumer needs. TCMH implemented an Outreach & Engagement Team (O&E), and a Welcoming & Accessibility Team (assessment services) to initiate services. The Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team serves highest outpatient acuity (intensive, near daily treatment). The Full Service Partnership (FSP) Team serves moderate to high outpatient acuity with intensive and frequent case management. The Recovery-Oriented Services (ROS) Team serves individuals who are engaged but poorly self-coordinating to maintain TCMH programming. FY 2014-2015, Tulare County Mental Health also implemented its first Mental Health Supported Employment and Volunteer Program in collaboration with CSET (Community Services Employment and Training). This has added an array of services to assist consumers with individually customized employment, volunteer, and training opportunities based on capabilities and personal preferences. In 2017, our first large-scale Wellness Center opened in south Tulare County in the city of Porterville. This expanded support services and resources augmenting the Porterville Adult Integrated Clinic. A second large-scale Wellness Center is scheduled to open in the North region of the County in Visalia in May 2019. Spring 2019 we are scheduled to open two more permanent supportive housing sites. This will expand TCMH total supportive housing to 159 beds via 6 housing programs funded by Tulare County.

**4) Indicate (X) whether any of the following services are funded with temporary (one-time, time-limited) funding for which you are seeking a sustainable fund source to continue services? No temporary funding**

For each age Group:

- (a) Pre-crisis and crisis services.
- (b) Assessment
- (c) Medication education & management
- (d) Case management
- (e) Twenty-four-hour treatment services
- (f) Rehabilitation and support services
- (g) Vocational services
- (h) Residential services

Child	TAY (age 16-25)	Adult	Older Adult

**5) If you could have one new program or facility or resource within the next three years, what would be your highest priority need? Please limit your response to 25 words or less.**

Mandated Alcohol & Drug services integration with mental health will require more program space and staff. Staff recruiting, retaining and evidence-based training are critical, chronic challenges.

## **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Components**

Background and Definitions of the MHSA (below) are excerpted from a description contained in the Executive Summary<sup>3</sup> of a 2018 Report by NAMI California.

Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, was passed by voters in 2004. At the time, California was struggling to meet the mental health needs of its residents. A 2003 report by the California Mental Health Planning Council estimated that as many as 1.7 million Californians were not receiving the mental health services they needed. As many as 80% of children with mental health needs were undiagnosed or unserved. The consequences of untreated mental illness were seen through health systems, school systems, and the criminal justice system. Therefore, the Act was designed to reduce homelessness, incarceration, and preventable hospitalizations, and to increase access to behavioral health services.

The Act imposes a 1% tax on personal income over \$1 million and places revenues into the Mental Health Services Fund. Counties receive annual distributions from the Fund, and are responsible for providing community-based mental health services. Program expenditures align with the five core components of the Act:

Community Services and Support (CSS) is the largest component of the MHSA. The CSS component is focused on community collaboration, cultural competence, client and family driven services and systems, and wellness focus. This programming applies concepts of recovery and resilience, integrated service experiences for clients and families, as well as serving the unserved and underserved. Housing is also a large part of the CSS component. [Full Service Partnerships are another example of CSS-funded programs].

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) is intended to help counties implement services that promote wellness, foster health, and prevent the suffering that can result from untreated mental illness. The PEI component requires collaboration with consumers and family members in the development of PEI projects and programs.

Innovation (INN) projects aim to increase access to underserved groups, increase the quality of services, and promote interagency collaboration and increase access to services. Counties select one or more goals and use those goals as the primary priority or priorities for their proposed Innovation plan.

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<sup>3</sup> 2018 MHSA County Programs: Services That Change Lives. A report created by NAMI California 2018, pages iii-iv. Downloaded from:  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ab2d59489c1724bd8a2ca78/t/5b7de7d370a6adca27a8a959/1534978017856/NAMI+CA+2018+MHSA+Rept\\_072318\\_03\\_FINAL.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ab2d59489c1724bd8a2ca78/t/5b7de7d370a6adca27a8a959/1534978017856/NAMI+CA+2018+MHSA+Rept_072318_03_FINAL.pdf)

Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) works toward the creation of facilities that are used for the delivery of MHSA services to mental health consumers and their families or for administrative offices. Funds may also be used to support an increase in peer-support and consumer-run facilities, development of community-based settings, and the development of a technological infrastructure for the mental health system to facilitate the highest quality and most cost-effective services and supports for clients and their families.

Workforce Education and Training (WET) is intended to develop a diverse workforce. Clients and families/caregivers are given training to help others by providing skills to promote wellness and other positive mental health outcomes. They work collaboratively to deliver client- and family-driven services, provide outreach and services that are linguistically and culturally competent and relevant, and include the viewpoints and expertise of clients and their families/caregivers.

The CSS, PEI and INN components are funded through ongoing revenue into the MHSA Fund. Per provisions of the MHSA, the Workforce Education and Training, Capital Facilities and Technological Needs components were initially funded up front in the early years and are not currently actively funded through MHSA revenues. Although counties can transfer some CSS funds for these purposes each year, essentially, the availability of that upfront funding for Workforce Education and Training, Capital Facilities and Technological Needs ended on June 30, 2018.

**6) Is there still a need for any of these three components in your county?**

**Yes\_x\_\_ No\_\_.**

**If yes, please rank the following in priority order of need, #1 being highest.**

- \_\_1\_\_ Workforce Education and Training**
- \_\_2\_\_ Capital Facilities**
- \_\_3\_\_ Technological Needs**

**Optional: In 25 words or less, please specify what those needs are.**

1. Health Shortage area, WET can fund efforts to bring and keep staff here.
2. Additional Permanent Supportive Housing.
3. To further integration efforts by developing systems that can speak across departments.

- 7) Do you have a particularly successful program funded by CSS, Innovation, or PEI funds that you would like to share with us? Yes\_x\_\_ No\_\_.**

**If yes, please describe briefly (maximum one paragraph, 150 words or less).**

The My Voice Media Center (MVMC) was an Innovative project from 2012 through 2015, and continues under CSS as it was deemed to have successful outcomes. The purpose of the MVMC is to provide adult individuals with lived experience with the opportunity and resources to express themselves through a variety of artistic media. Through participation in community events, displaying art of participants, MVMC continues to have a positive impact on participants, and the community at large, reducing stigma. Some of the sessions held at MVMC include poetry, drawing, photography, and videography. Over 350 participants have created works of art that have been shared on PBS, as well as in local publications.

**REMINDER: Please submit this Data Notebook by March 31, 2019.**

Thank you for your participation in completing your Data Notebook report.

Please feel free to provide feedback or recommendations you may have to improve this project for next year. As always, we welcome your input.

**Please submit your Data Notebook report by email to:**

**[DataNotebook@CMHPC.ca.gov](mailto:DataNotebook@CMHPC.ca.gov)** .

**For information, you may contact the email address above, or telephone:**

**(916) 327-6560**

Or, you may contact us by postal mail to:

- Data Notebook
- California Mental Health Planning Council
- 1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 2706
- P.O. Box 997413
- Sacramento, CA 95899-7413



## APPENDIX

### WIC 5600.3

To the extent resources are available, the primary goal of the use of funds deposited in the mental health account of the local health and welfare trust fund should be to serve the target populations identified in the following categories, which shall not be construed as establishing an order of priority:

(a)(1) Seriously emotionally disturbed children or adolescents.

(2) For the purposes of this part, “seriously emotionally disturbed children or adolescents” means minors under the age of 18 years who have a mental disorder as identified in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, other than a primary substance use disorder or developmental disorder, which results in behavior inappropriate to the child's age according to expected developmental norms. Members of this target population shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

(A) As a result of the mental disorder, the child has substantial impairment in at least two of the following areas: self-care, school functioning, family relationships, or ability to function in the community; and either of the following occur:

(i) The child is at risk of removal from home or has already been removed from the home.

(ii) The mental disorder and impairments have been present for more than six months or are likely to continue for more than one year without treatment.

(B) The child displays one of the following: psychotic features, risk of suicide or risk of violence due to a mental disorder.

(C) The child has been assessed pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 56320) of Chapter 4 of Part 30 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code and determined to have an emotional disturbance, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 300.8 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations .

(b)(1) Adults and older adults who have a serious mental disorder.

(2) For the purposes of this part, “serious mental disorder” means a mental disorder that is severe in degree and persistent in duration, which may cause behavioral functioning which interferes substantially with the primary activities of daily living, and which may result in an inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without treatment, support, and rehabilitation for a long or indefinite period of time. Serious mental disorders include, but are not limited to, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as major affective disorders or other severely disabling mental disorders. This section shall not be construed to exclude



persons with a serious mental disorder and a diagnosis of substance abuse, developmental disability, or other physical or mental disorder.

(3) Members of this target population shall meet all of the following criteria:

(A) The person has a mental disorder as identified in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, other than a substance use disorder or developmental disorder or acquired traumatic brain injury pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4354 unless that person also has a serious mental disorder as defined in paragraph (2).

(B)(i) As a result of the mental disorder, the person has substantial functional impairments or symptoms, or a psychiatric history demonstrating that without treatment there is an imminent risk of decompensation to having substantial impairments or symptoms.

(ii) For the purposes of this part, "functional impairment" means being substantially impaired as the result of a mental disorder in independent living, social relationships, vocational skills, or physical condition.

(C) As a result of a mental functional impairment and circumstances, the person is likely to become so disabled as to require public assistance, services, or entitlements.

(4) For the purpose of organizing outreach and treatment options, to the extent resources are available, this target population includes, but is not limited to, persons who are any of the following:

(A) Homeless persons who are mentally ill.

(B) Persons evaluated by appropriately licensed persons as requiring care in acute treatment facilities including state hospitals, acute inpatient facilities, institutes for mental disease, and crisis residential programs.

(C) Persons arrested or convicted of crimes.

(D) Persons who require acute treatment as a result of a first episode of mental illness with psychotic features.

(5) California veterans in need of mental health services and who meet the existing eligibility requirements of this section, shall be provided services to the extent services are available to other adults pursuant to this section. Veterans who may be eligible for mental health services through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs should be advised of these services by the county and assisted in linking to those services.

(A) No eligible veteran shall be denied county mental health services based solely on his or her status as a veteran.

(B) Counties shall refer a veteran to the county veterans service officer, if any, to determine the veteran's eligibility for, and the availability of, mental health services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other federal health care provider.

(C) Counties should consider contracting with community-based veterans' services agencies, where possible, to provide high-quality, veteran specific mental health services.

(c) Adults or older adults who require or are at risk of requiring acute psychiatric inpatient care, residential treatment, or outpatient crisis intervention because of a mental disorder with symptoms of psychosis, suicidality, or violence.

(d) Persons who need brief treatment as a result of a natural disaster or severe local emergency.