NatCon: Late in March, I attended NatCon which is a national conference on the future of Behavioral health. Many States have moved to “carving” behavioral health services back into the Managed Care Plans. Preparing for and thriving in this environment was a main focus of the conference. Topics helped organizations learn to achieve the highest possible outcomes with the lowest amount of cost. Placer will be looking how to prepare themselves for this eventual possibility in CA. Another focus was on moving the Behavioral Health field to more of a “Public Health model”- finding ways to advance the mental wellness of others in a community oriented approach. One example of this was the use of Mental Health First Aide (MHFA)- training teachers, and other community organizations in the approach. They are coming out with a MHFA geared for adolescents soon. Lastly, some States (not California) have received national funding to launch a new service model called Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstrations. These facilities provide integrated services within the community and are showing early positive results. SAMHSA and the Federal government reported that they hope to roll out funding for this model to more States in the coming years. At least one Placer provider has shown interest in becoming a CCBHC – if this becomes a possibility in California.

Mental Health Awareness: May is mental health awareness month and there are a few local ways that you can demonstrate your support.

1- Placer County is planning a community “walk” on May 21 from 1-4pm on “Henry’s Lawn” at the Dewitt Campus in Auburn.
2- Each Mind Matters has partnered with CA Major League Baseball parks- you can wear lime and come show support by attending a Sacramento River Cats game on on Friday, May 24th at 7pm. [https://groupmatics.events/event/MentalHealthMonth](https://groupmatics.events/event/MentalHealthMonth)
3- Mental Health Matters day on May 22, 2019 from 9:30-2pm on the East Side of the California State Capitol.

Behavioral Health Goals for 2019: The Systems of Care have been hard at work to better identify funding opportunities, both by way of better billing and through competitive grant opportunities. We have been “mining” our data to find missed billing opportunities, finding areas of training needs for staff, and ways to increase our Medi-Cal billing rates. We have started through the identification of some staff re-training areas and going back to “re-bill” for eligible services that were not billed due to staff errors. We will then be working with outside consultants to identify even more ways to generate more revenue and improve client outcomes. We are interviewing outside consultants and other counties/behavioral health organizations to see how we compare and learn ways to improve our business practices and use data to better inform our business practices.

MHSA: The planning survey was distributed in early April and we’ve already received over 200 responses! We will go over some preliminary results at April 26th Campaign for Community Wellness (CCW) meeting - with a full presentation of survey results at the May 17th CCW meeting. Please join us if you’re able.