

Behavioral Health Director's Report
April 2023

Bridge Housing: Placer County has submitted our plan for utilization of the noncompetitive funding allocation for Bridge Housing in the amount of 4,364,704. With these funds we hope to expand the Casa Dewitt (bridge housing) program, provide rental assistance, and increase housing navigation services. We will have about 4 years to spend down these funds to additionally support the housing needs of the behavioral health population.

Rates and payment reform: This week the county will begin conversations with providers who bill medi-cal about their new rates for services under Cal Aim payment reform. Their contracted rates will be built on units of service by provider type. Each type of provider will have an associated rate that will be paid for direct client care. The rate they receive will include all admin, overhead, and other administrative (include travel time to appointments). No longer will provider contracts be built around actual costs of business, but on services provided. This is a huge change for our providers (and our entire system) that is causing some trepidation. Upon review of the state rates to counties and the prospective rates to providers, we do anticipate that providers will end up receiving the same amount of revenue so long as their client service staff bill a minimum of 40 percent of their time to direct client care. If they have a higher percent of face-to-face contact, this payment methodology could actually increase their bottom line. **This is a simplified description- and actual results will vary from provider to provider and depends heavily on their staffing and business models.*

Homekey 3: The county continues to explore potential project ideas for a potential Homekey 3 application. We have no site identified nor do we have a developer/ operator identified. We have hit some obstacles on this path and it is undermined if we will be submitting an application this round- but we have not given up. Our facilities team along with HHS continues to search for available land and/or properties to consider for permanent supportive housing. We should know by next month's meeting whether an application/ project submittal is possible for this round. If a project is identified, we would work with our board of supervisors, any applicable city representatives, county council, and the neighbors/surrounding community (as able). There is a lot of confidentiality throughout this process due to the provision of real estate and being able to negotiate the best price on any opportunities, but we commit to transparency throughout the process as soon as is practical.

Technology grant for seniors and those who have disabilities: In an effort to bridge the "digital divide" many older adults face in our growing digital world the Adult System of Care has partnered with Agency On Aging, Area 4 to operate the Access To Technology (ATT) Program. This grant program is funded by the California Department of Aging. ATT Program funding will be used to increase access to digital devices and connectivity for older adults and individuals with disabilities in Placer County. Program goals are to reduce isolation, increase social connections, and enhance self-confidence in navigating digital and online resources. Several unique devices are being offered to meet the individual needs of each program participant, as well as ongoing training and support to increase their digital literacy. The ATT Program will serve the community through December 31, 2023.