Behavioral Health Director’s Report  
August 2019

**AOT:** Placer County has done a lot in the past 2 years to enhance our utilization of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). Changes include: Judge Nichols was assigned AOT and takes an active role in all referrals (not just court ordered), encouraged mobile crisis team to use AOT as a referral source for appropriate candidates (versus all people to outpatient mental health), had meetings with staff to encourage utilization of the court order as a “treatment tool” and that it is not a “punishment” or last resort. As a result of these changes, our program has grown. This year we receive 2.3 average referrals monthly, compared to 1.1 average referrals last year. In addition, last year we had 1 Court referral go forward (toward the end of the year) and this year we’ve had 3 additional court referrals. Finally, last year we had 207 referrals from ASOC staff and this year with data only through May we’ve had 354 referrals already come forward. This demonstrates a much larger commitment from ASOC staff in referring to AOT. Lastly, there is a first annual national symposium for AOT best practices happening in October and we are hoping to have a small team of Placer County professionals attend, to learn even more ways that we can improve.

**MHSA:** As many of you are aware, there is a vacancy on the leadership team of the Campaign for Community Wellness (CCW). The leadership team has been taking applications and hopes to fill that vacancy soon. Members of the leadership group provide direct feedback to County leadership on gaps in service and provide help plan the CCW monthly meetings. MHSA funding decisions are made by County leadership and are approved by the Board of Supervisors, but this group plays a crucial role in how community input is gathered and helps determine focus of the group. Community leaders have been encouraged to apply. The CCW is also updating its charter, with input from the leadership team. The updated DRAFT version will be available by next month. It will go to our Board of Supervisors to be finalized and adopted soon thereafter.

**Stepping Up!** A group of staff from the Sheriff Department, Probation, HHS, Public Defender’s office, District Attorney’s office, CFMG, and outpatient providers have been meeting to find ways to increase the connection from jail to the Adult System of Care and other treatment providers upon discharge. The group has been working to better share data and work together to develop treatment plans to better engage individuals upon release. The group will be putting together their proposal to enhance resources toward this goal. Part of the proposal is to better use data in order to identify individuals that have previously been “falling through the cracks”.

**Recovery Happens!** September is Recovery month and Older Adult Awareness Month. The Adult System of Care is taking forward 2 separate items on September 10th in honor of those events. We will be asking the Board of Supervisors to receive a presentation about the Substance Use programs in Placer County, to demonstrate commitment to mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, and recovery and to support our local “Recovery Happens” event on September 21, 2019 from 10-2pm at Auburn Recreation District Park. Thanks to the MHADAB who will be out there supporting this event. Hope to see you all there!