

Mendocino County Behavioral Health System Program Gap Analysis & Recommendations for Allocation of Measure B Revenues

Comments by: Mendocino Coast Clinics a FQHC located in Fort Bragg that services both the medical and behavioral health needs of the coast residents of Mendocino County

1. Mobility of Fort Bragg Crisis Team:

The mobile crisis teams that services Ft. Bragg needs to have the ability to respond to a need for a crisis assessment at Mendocino Coast Clinics (MCC). Currently, when a licensed social worker or Psychologist is requesting a crisis assessment for a patient located at MCC, the options are as follows:

- a- Tell patient to either go to the ED of MCDH or to the Crisis Center run by RQMC
- b- Call Ft Bragg Police & request the patient be taken to the ED of MCDH

Our recommendation would be for the Crisis Worker to assess at MCC and if needed after Assessment call the Ft Bragg Police for transport to MCDH

2-Creation of a Psychiatric Urgent Care/Living Room Model on the Coast:

Create a space that is an alternative to the ED, Crisis Residential Treatment or Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU). It is different from a CSU in that it does not need to be open 24/7. The operational Days/hours can be limited. There are no beds located at the "Living Room" and maximum hours of stay per client can be determined. Clients can walk in or be referred by a Crisis Worker, Law Enforcement or Behavioral Health Professionals. The goal would be to provide clients access to resolve crises and expedite connections to services such as Psychiatric Assessments, Psychiatric Evaluations, Medication Management, therapy and case management in the least restrictive and most supportive setting possible. The current Access Center could be the space used to bring this model to the coast, it is a matter of changing the workflow for crisis intervention and adequate staffing but would not mean a new 24/7 facility with all the overhead and infrastructure costs that would come along with the CSU.

Staffing & Services:

BH Professional: Performing Psychiatric Assessment to:

- 1-Determine if a more restrictive setting is needed at this time
- 2-Use to initiate the scheduling a psychiatric evaluation/medication management appointment
Expedited appointments need to be placed in Psychiatrists schedule for this use (expanded psychiatric time at the coast/telemed would probably be needed to ensure this expedited access.)
- 3-Use to initiate the scheduling of a therapy appointment. Expedited appointments need to be placed in therapist schedules for this use (expanded therapist time at the coast would probably be needed to ensure this expedited access.)
- 4-Provide some interventional counselling

Case Manager: Assisting in real time with the linkages to the additional support services that will help the client

Peer Counselors: Aid in de-escalation in a non-judgmental calm & safe environment

"Living Room" articles attached.