Director’s Report – August 30, 2018

- I’m pleased to announce at this month’s Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission meeting, Monterey County’s MHSA Innovation (INN) Projects were approved! We can now move forward on our “Micro-Innovation Grant Activities for Increasing Latino Engagement” and the “Transportation Coaching by Wellness Navigators” projects. Our third project, “Screening to Timely Assessment” has been incorporated into a multi-County technology collaborative called the “Tech Suite” and is expected to be presented for Commission approval in September. Our success is largely due to the work of Wesley Schweikhard. The requirements for INN project proposals are arduous. For the better part of a year, Wes has been working with me and our leadership team to develop the project proposals, share them with the community through our annual MHSA planning process and complete each proposal according to strict State requirements. During the Public Comment period, there were compelling testimonials by Kontrena McPheter, Antonio Garibaldi and Mario Ramirez. These individuals are true examples of how our Adult System of Care benefits tremendously from peers providing navigation and advocacy as they do every day. I can’t thank them enough for making the trip to Sacramento to share their stories in support of our INN project proposals.

- We have an inpatient audit scheduled for December of this year.

- This month we have the following outreach events scheduled:

Prevention and Early Intervention Activities for September 2018

Suicide Prevention Activities:

15 Toolkits will be distributed to Monterey County Behavioral Health Clinics and community based locations, such as the OMNI Wellness Center and the Epicenter. Toolkits have information and resources to promote the “Know the Signs” campaign which promotes increased community understanding of suicide along with tools for individuals to act if they have knowledge that someone is at risk of suicide.

Presentations/Trainings on Suicide Awareness

- 9-10-18: Soledad Unified School District – Suicide Prevention Services will be providing a bilingual workshop to parents and caregivers on suicide awareness and prevention.
- 9-11-18: NAMI has organized a bilingual panel to present on suicide awareness and will facilitate a community dialogue on the topic at the Greenfield library. A bilingual MCBH therapist will be on the panel and will share information regarding MCBH.
- 9-27-18: OMNI is hosting a workshop for the community with Suicide Prevention Services on suicide awareness and prevention.

Workshop for Students
- 9-12-18 MCBH will provide a workshop for students at Pinnacles High school on suicide awareness and prevention.

In partnership with Sun Street Centers, MCBH is preparing a Resolution for the Board of Supervisors to recognize September as National Recovery Month. We will include recognizing Suicide Prevention Week of September 9-15 along with positive efforts that are occurring in our County to address mental health, substance use and suicide.

Outreach events for September
- Labor of Love – MCBH will have a resource table at this event focusing on Maternal Mental Health.
- Sun Street Centers – MCBH will have a resource table at the grand opening of the new outpatient facility on September 7th.
- Ciclovia – MCBH will have a resource table at this event in Gonzales on September 9th.
- Trail Walk – MCBH will support the annual walk sponsored by the Suicide Prevention Services of the Central Coast on September 15.

Mental Health 101 Presentation
- 9-24-18 MCBH will present in partnership with Beacon to the Commission on Disabilities.

Youth Mental Health First Aid
- 9-19-18 – This evidence based workshop will be offered at the Monterey County Office of Education as part of a series to provide crucial information on youth mental health to community.