

Third Annual MHSA Boot Camp



2020 MHSA Boot Camp Virtual Convenings

PROGRAM

SESSION 1: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

SESSION 2: Wednesday, August 19, 2020

SESSION 3: Wednesday, September 2, 2020

SESSION 4: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

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Wednesday, September 2, 2020

9:00 am – 9:15 am **OPENING REMARKS**

9:15 am – 10:15 am **THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING THE PUBLIC AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS SO EVERYONE'S VOICES ARE HEARD**

Ahmad Bahrami, MBA, Division Manager–Public Behavioral Health/Ethnic Services Manager, Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health

Sharon Jones, LMFT, MHSA Coordinator and Ethnic Service Manager, County of Merced

Christina Rajlal, MBA, PhD, MHSA Coordinator, Kern County

MHSA requires, per statute, a robust and meaningful community planning process (CCP) to gain input from stakeholders in shaping and developing each county's MHSA Three Year Plan and Annual Updates. This presentation shall provide some insights into the details around the CPP, what is required, what are tested strategies to help conduct an effective and successful CPP, as well as ways to engage communities and how to leverage technology for virtual options for CCP.

10:15 am – 10:30 am **BREAK**

10:30 am – 11:30 am **THE MHSA FISCAL FORECAST**

Mike Geiss, Geiss Consulting

This session will provide an overview of the revenue sources that fund the Mental Health Services Act and describe the economic and policy impacts of COVID-19 on MHSA funding.

11:30 am – 11:45 am **BREAK**

11:45 am – 12:30 pm **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: A SUMMARY OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE CURRENT WITH POLICY RELATED TO MHSA**

Elia V. Gallardo, Esq., Director, Government Affairs, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)

This legislative session began with projections that MHSA revenue would surpass all prior years resulting in some legislators and stakeholders proposing to divert MHSA funds from county behavioral health systems and a call by the Governor to reform the MHSA. Then COVID hit and MHSA revenue dropped almost immediately. The dramatic change in the economic landscape impacted how policymakers viewed MHSA. This session will focus on MHSA proposals throughout the 2020 legislative year, highlight policy changes adopted in 2020 and foreshadow what the next legislative year may bring.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

AHMAD BAHRAMI, MBA, Ahmad is the Division Manager over the Public Behavioral Health Division for Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health. He is also the Ethnic Services Manager for Fresno County. Ahmad has worked in County Behavioral Health for over 11 years (one and a half with Fresno and nine with Kings County). As the Division Manager for the Public Behavioral Health Division he and his team oversee the county's prevention efforts (SUD, mental health and suicide prevention), community and public relations for the department, community outreach and education, oversight of the Mental Health Services Act (including the development of plans and projects), and work on reducing health disparities within the system of care. Previously Ahmad worked as part of the leadership team with the Kings County Behavioral Health Department where his assignments/roles included, Administrative Program Manager, Prevention and Early Intervention Manager, Ethnic Services Manager, MHSA Coordinator, Public Information Officer, Marketing, HIPAA Compliance, etc.

Ahmad has been involved at the state and regional level working on cultural humility and reducing disparities, education/student mental health, truancy prevention, suicide prevention, etc. Ahmad serves on several committees, boards and workgroups, including the appointment by the State Superintendent of Public Education to the California Department of Education's Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup.

Prior to his work in county behavioral health, Ahmad had worked with various community-based providers in Fresno as both a direct service provider and in leadership roles. His experience outside of county behavioral health has included criminal justice settings, community public health, substance use, housing, and workforce development.

Ahmad's educational background includes a BS in Criminology, an MBA with an HR emphasis, and completion of doctoral work in Organizational Development. Ahmad was named as a Behavioral Health Champion in 2019 by the Steinberg Institute for his work around reducing health disparities.

ELIA V. GALLARDO, ESQ., is the Director of Government Affairs at the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, where she oversees CBHDA's policy work related to the Mental Health Services Act, among other responsibilities. For over 20 years, Elia has worked in diverse capacities in the health care and behavioral health arena. Prior to joining CBHDA, Elia was the Director of Health Policy Research at the Insure the Uninsured Project, where she monitored and analyzed federal, state and local policies, legislation and research affecting health care coverage, access and health care delivery in California. Elia was the Executive Director of Government Relations and Program Oversight with the Alameda Alliance for Health, a county-initiated Medi-Cal managed care plan serving almost 300,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Prior to the Alliance, Elia worked for the California Primary Care Association, a trade association representing community clinics and federally qualified health centers, where she oversaw the Association's health policy platform.

Ms. Gallardo's experience in the health policy sector has garnered her recognition as a National Service Award recipient recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Primary Health Care and as a Public Service Award recipient recognized by the Los Angeles County Bar Association. In 2005, Elia also received a Champions of Health Professions Diversity Award from the California Wellness Foundation. Elia attended U.C. Berkeley as an undergraduate and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. She received a law degree from UCLA School of Law and has been admitted to the California State Bar.

MICHAEL R. GEISS is the founder of Geiss Consulting, a Sacramento-based management consulting firm. He has over thirty years' experience providing services to public sector agencies. Prior to establishing Geiss Consulting, he had over nine years management consulting experience with NewPoint Group and seven years with Ernst & Young. He specializes in financial and economic analyses, business process improvement and operations analyses. Mr. Geiss has managed and participated in over one-hundred separate

engagements for various State of California and other government entities, including more than twenty projects for the California Department of Mental Health, numerous projects for more than 42 county mental health agencies in California, and various projects for the California Behavioral Health Directors' Association and the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions.

SHARON JONES, LMFT, was born in the city of Shreveport, Louisiana and raised in the rural area of Coushatta, Louisiana in the Northwest area of Louisiana and has resided in California since September 19, 1987. She is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, University of Phoenix in Pleasanton, CA and University of Phoenix in Lathrop, CA. She has a BA in Rehabilitation Psychology, Master of Science in Organizational Management and a Master of Arts in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling.

Sharon is employed at Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services serving as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordinator and Ethnic Services Manager. She has a work history of over 30 years which includes experience working in residential treatment with children, outpatient services in mental health with children and adults, crisis services for domestic violence and sexual assault, foster care, shelter services for the homeless, adults with disabilities, individuals with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ plus and inpatient psychiatric hospitalization care. Her current work is dedicated to MHSA program development, facilitating culturally responsive and stigma reduction training, community stakeholder planning process, and working with diverse communities.

Sharon is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, a group facilitator and resident trainer certified through California Institute of Mental Health for the California Brief Multicultural Scale Multicultural Training, Mental Health First Aid for youth and adults, Raising the Emotionally Healthy Child, safeTALK and ASIST Suicide Prevention. Sharon wrote the Merced County MHSA Innovation Plan Strengthening Families Program and Innovative Strategist Network.

Sharon has actively contributed to several committees: CMHDA MHSA Committee, CMHDA Cultural Competence Ethnic Social Justice Committee and Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Cultural and Linguistic Committee. Sharon facilitates at a local level, the MHSA Planning Council, the Cultural Competence Committee and Prevention and Early Intervention Quarterly Meeting. Sharon has worked and lived in Merced County for 14 years and is dedicated to healthy children and families and community health. Sharon's favorite quotes that guide her work are Maya Angelou, "I come as one, but I stand as 10,000," and Dr. Albert Schweitzer, "At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

CHRISTINA RAJLAL, PhD, MBA, is the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Coordinator for Kern County at Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. In her current role, Christina manages all MHSA programming and funding for Kern County. The Kern native attended the University of California, Los Angeles where she earned her BA in English. She then went on to complete her MBA in 2008. Finally, she completed her PhD in Industrial and Organizational Leadership. Christina has worked in the behavioral health and social service sector for 22 years. Prior to her professional career in behavioral health, she was an actor in Los Angeles. When Christina isn't working, you can find her wanderlusting all over the globe, tending to her garden for her vegan family, or attending one of the many sports or activities her two children attend.

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MHPA BOOT CAMP PLANNING COMMITTEE

We thank the following individuals for their time and contributions as
Planning Team members:

Heather Anders

Membership Services and
Board Engagement Manager
County Behavioral Health Directors
Association of California (CBHDA)

Ahmad Bahrami, MBA

Division Manager-Public Behavioral Health
Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health

LaNia Bussey

Program Specialist
Department of Health Care Services

Jennifer Cook, LCSW

MHPA Coordinator
Placer County

Michelle Dusick

MHPA Administrative Manager
San Bernardino County

Doris Y. Estremera, MPH

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Mental Health Services Act (MHPA) Manager
San Mateo County Behavioral
Health & Recovery Services,
Office of Diversity and Equity

Elia V. Gallardo, Esq.

Director, Government Affairs
County Behavioral Health Directors
Association of California

Rick Goscha, PhD, MSW

Senior Vice President
California Institute for Behavioral
Health Solutions (CIBHS)

Tracy Hazelton, MPH

Division Director, Mental Health Services Act
Alameda County

Priya Kannall

Mental Health Services Act Coordinator
Deputy Privacy Officer
Nevada County Behavioral Health Department

Gayaneh Karapetian, MA, LMFT

Director
California Institute for Behavioral
Health Solutions (CIBHS)

Danyte S. Mockus-Valenzuela, PhD, MPH

Prevention and Planning Manager
Behavioral Health Services
County of San Diego Health & Human
Services Agency

Kiran Sahota, MA

Sr. Behavioral Health Manager
Mental Health Services Act
Ventura County Behavioral Health

Evelyn Castillo Tirumalai, MPH

Mental Health Services Act (MHPA) Sr. Manager
Behavioral Health Services Department
County of Santa Clara Health System

Donna Ures

Department of Health Care Services

Frank Warren, M.P.P.

Division Manager, Prevention & Outreach
Mental Health Services Act Coord.
Behavioral Health Department
San Luis Obispo County Health Agency

2125 19th Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916.556.3480
Fax: 916.556.3478

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