PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONERS or PHYSICIANS’ ASSISTANTS Tele-Supervision
Sub-Committee Discussion:

First conference call held on 9/29/2014 from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM. Call in number (916) 552-6503

Second conference call held on 12/16/14 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Call in number (916) 552-6503

Update from first call:

1) Current psychiatrist needs:
   a. Wait lists (Updated): Merced, Tuolumne, and Fresno indicated that their wait lists are from 30 to 90 days for first appointments.
   b. Timely Return visits: Merced and Tuolumne did not have problems in this area. Fresno County stated that their follow-up visits are between 30-60 days.
   c. Crisis medication referrals: See notes from 9/29/14 for details.

2) Some options for discussion:
   a. Physician’s Assistants or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners working under a Telepsychiatrist. How many are required?
      i. Fresno reported that they have paid (unfilled) positions for four psychiatrists and two nurse practitioners. Fresno also said they do not have any Physician’s Assistants who work for them. They have 1-2 PA students from SJVC who rotate monthly and they would like to recruit more Nurse Practitioners to work there.
      ii. Madera reports they need a children’s psychiatrist (Spanish Speaking preferable), 20 hours per week. They also have need of a Spanish speaking adult psychiatrist 20-40 hours per week (for now). Madera currently does not have the medial staff to supervise a Nurse Practitioner or Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant or a Psych Tech.
   b. This was answered in a. above. See notes from 9/29/14 for details.
   c. Type of County liability. See notes from 9/29/14 for details.
   d. Feasibility of a group of counties contracting with a Telepsychiatrist coordinated through a JPA or through a Managed Care Organization. Nothing new. John Lawless to check with CalMHSA to determine if this is a realistic plan and if they would be willing to help. The Central Region Partnership may be able to assist with attorney’s fees for getting this set up.
   e. Where would they (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners) be recruited from?
      i. Two schools were discussed, CSU, Fresno and UCSF. It was reported that CSU, Fresno applied for funding to OSHPD to restart this program. They should know something by February.
      ii. John Lawless has contacted UCSF and found a contact person he will talk to and get details about their program before the next phone call.
   f. Nothing new on CSU, Fresno at this time. See notes from 9/29/14 for details.
   g. Coordination of schedules. See notes from 9/29/14 for details.
h. Who would supervise them (Nurse Practitioners or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners)?
   i. Dr. Mkhkerjee (Dr. M) of Stanislaus County stated that they learned that Nurse Practitioners will need supervision under a psychiatrist for 540 hours and it is unclear about the guidelines for ongoing supervision after they have complete the initial 540 hours of supervision.
   ii. Dr. M stated that Stanislaus County has used Physician’s Assistants trained at San Joaquin Valley College but the college has not been able to convince students to go into psychiatry so the program is no longer active.

i. Would it be feasible to go with Locum Tenens?
   i. Dr. M said that Stanislaus County has used Locum Tenens for telepsych services. He added that they are more consistent than on site Locum Tenen psychiatrists in that they stay longer. The drawback of this system is that they are required to have a nurse sit in on the sessions and they have been unable to bill Medi-Cal for her time.
   ii. We also discussed how practical it would be to hire J1 and H1 visa doctors. It sounds like hiring a J1 doctor would require a lot of legal help which would prohibitive for most counties. The H1 visa doctors would be easier to hire as the regulations are a little more relaxed and the fees are around $2,000. More research needs to be done in this. Any updates will be included in the next phone conference.

j. Would it be feasible to get more time with current Telepsych providers or recruit for others to provide Telepsych services? **No feedback on this item.**

3) Cost:
   a. What are counties currently paying Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners. **See notes from 9/29/14 for details.**
   b. For Telepsych doctors. **See notes from 9/29/14 for details.**
   c. Cost of additional Telepsychiatrists for counties to share. **See notes from 9/29/14 for details.**
   d. Cost of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners: **See notes from 9/29/14 for details.**
   e. Cost of Telepsych supervision (per hour)? **See notes from 9/29/14 for details.**