



Department of Behavioral Health

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Innovation Change Request- Butte County Physician Committed

Restate the INN Project's primary learning question(s) or objective(s).

What is it you want to learn or better understand over the course of the Innovative Project?

1. Can behavioral health screenings be effectively and efficiently integrated into the comprehensive adolescent health physical?
2. Does this project provide the physician/primary care provider with more confidence and capacity in regards to screening for behavioral health issues?
3. Will physicians' comfort levels with discussing behavioral health and adolescents increase with comprehensive training and the implementation of a standardized tool?
4. Do adolescents feel more capable of managing early symptoms of behavioral health issues?

For each change, state what was approved and describe the change.

On May 25th, 2018, Butte County Physician Committed was approved by the MHSOAC. This program promotes interagency collaboration related to mental health services by introducing a new application of a promising practice into an alternative setting. This program trains and supports primary care providers in implementing behavioral health screenings for youth into their practice, and provides intervention and warm hand-off as appropriate. The following is the approved budget for program costs, which total \$767,900.

- 2 FTE Regular Help Behavioral Health Education Specialists- To facilitate a warm hand-off between Physician and referral to behavioral health services.
- Extra Help Behavioral Health Education Specialist- To provide support to the behavioral health education specialist. May be a peer.
- Training costs- To train Physicians and Medical Providers on the screening tools and process
- Production of toolkits, screening tools, flyers/posters, etc.- To provide tools to the Physicians and Medical Providers
- Production of staff/patient orientation video (one-time)- To supplement the training tools
- Program Supplies
- Computer Packages (one-time)
- Travel/mileage- To train Physicians throughout Butte County
- Food for trainings
- Indirect- To provide resources for the cost reporting and program evaluation

Butte County is requesting additional support in funding \$464,424 for:

- 1 FTE Clinician

- To provide specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal Beneficiaries.
- To engage indigent youth into services and assist with enrolling in Medi-Cal.
- To conduct a thorough survey of local, available behavioral health resources for privately insured youth.
- 2 FTE Behavioral Health Education Specialists
 - To facilitate a warm hand-off between Physician referral to behavioral health services.
 - To engage indigent youth into services and assist with connecting to an eligibility specialist.
 - To work with youth family members on overcoming stigma associated with participating in Behavioral Health services.

List the reasons for the change.

Increased need for interventions

During the first year of this program's implementation (July 2018-June 2019) our community was faced with the most destructive wildfire in California's history, with 85 deaths and approximately 13,000 homes destroyed. Butte County Behavioral Health (BCBH) could not have predicted the amount of youth who would be considered at-risk for behavioral health issues following the Physician Committed screening in the post-Camp Fire era. The trauma that our community has gone through since the Camp Fire began in November 2018, can be seen through the outcomes of this program. In the spring of 2019, 501 total screenings were completed by medical professionals in the city of Oroville (population approx. 20,000); which resulted in 191 interventions by BCBH Intervention Specialists. Following those interventions, 154 adolescents were referred on to a higher level of service.

The addition of 2 FTE Behavioral Health Education Specialists, known hereafter as Intervention Specialists, would be able to accommodate the high volume of interventions that were not anticipated when the program was designed.

High frequency of non Medi-Cal beneficiaries

The results of this program also revealed many characteristics of the youth we serve. There 154 youth who received a brief intervention from the Intervention Specialist and were referred on for further services. The number of youth who either had private insurance or no insurance was very high, and therefore referral has been difficult. The city of Oroville lays at the base of the ridge that was most affected by the fire. Oroville, already an impoverished community, now contains many of our rural residents that were displaced by the fire. Many of these residents opt out of participating in any type of social services, and there is an elevated level of stigma around accessing behavioral health services. Increasing Intervention Specialists in this program would allow for expansion of interventions provided to the at-risk youth. This expanded intervention would include efforts to increase awareness surrounding whole person care, and to reduce stigma around seeking mental health treatment. The

addition of a Clinician would be able to serve those youth temporarily, building trust with the youth and their family, and eventually assist with enrolling the youth/families in Medi-Cal to allow for reimbursement of services.

Navigation Research

As mentioned above, there is a high rate of youth eligible for behavioral health services who have private insurance. With the recent disaster, the network of behavioral health care has diminished drastically. Many private providers have either had to 1) relocate due to the extreme housing shortage, 2) reduce their caseload to personally deal with post-disaster tasks, 3) refuse new clients to focus on established clients that are affected by trauma related to the disaster. The schools that participated in the initial screenings for their youth have asked to suspend the Physician Committed program until additional clinical support can be found for these youth. The proposed additional Clinician would work with the Quality Management Department to research potential providers, in the community and the school system, to refer youth to ensure that they receive the appropriate level of care.

Do individuals with serious mental illness receive services from this project? If yes, describe the plan for how to protect and provide continuity for these individuals.

Individuals with serious mental illness may be identified through the screening process. The approval of the proposed program expansion will ensure that these individuals receive the adequate level of services and support.

Describe how stakeholder involvement informed this change.

- The Butte Youth Now Coalition, which includes many of the community partners that are involved in the facilitation and implementation of Physician Committed, meets on a monthly basis. The meeting minutes from the February and March meetings discuss the issues identified in this document, and include consensus in the additional support needed for this program.
- Butte County Behavioral Health participates in the Long Term Recovery group, which currently has over 100 community partners to address recovery efforts following the Camp Fire. This group has requested additional mental health support for youth who may have been affected by the fire. The expansion of this program would contribute to this need.
- This proposal will be posted for a 30-day public review from August 12th, 2019- September 11th, 2019.

Date that the change took effect.

This program would implement the proposed changes upon approval from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.