

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
Behavioral Health Services Division

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## Memorandum

To: Local Behavioral Health Advisory Boards (MHAB/ADAB)  
From: Emery Cowan, LPCC, LMHC- Chief Deputy, BH Director  
Date: May 3, 2023  
RE: Monthly report of significant issues

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*This report is shared across advisory boards on a monthly or at least quarterly frequency. Any questions can be sent to [ecowan@solanocounty.com](mailto:ecowan@solanocounty.com)*

**Mobile Crisis Team-** The Pacific Clinics team is ready to relaunch! Starting May 15<sup>th</sup> the team will go live with Fairfield and Suisun (830am-430pm Team #1 & 11am-7pm Team #2) to cross-train new staff and new officers/dispatch. The team will go live to the full county on June 5<sup>th</sup> with 3½ overlapping teams to cover 830am-9pm. In the next few months, we will have to work to meet the new requirements set forth in the BH Information Notice [draft](#) shared by the state that will require all counties to offer mobile crisis as an entitlement benefit.

**Open Access-** Walk In psychiatry services have started March 2023 as a pilot in Vacaville. Every Tuesday from 8-12 pm, we are offering walk-in psychiatry services for new or returning clients who are experiencing worsening mental health symptoms or need urgent psychiatric medications. People should arrive by 11 am to complete forms and be seen by a psychiatric provider that day.

**Opioid Settlement Funds-** Access to the state portal was received in April which will allow us to get updated amounts for funding. As was shared in the January 2023 report to the boards, BH received community feedback on a survey, informed by the DHCS Eligible Uses, open from September 2022 - January 2023, shared and discussed with MHAB and ADAB asking for priorities. Furthermore, Solano BH asked this to be a topic of discussion and exploration within the Public Health prevention group and Drug Safe Solano meetings. We are compiling feedback to draft the plan and Board item. Currently areas of most need include expansion of Medicated Assisted Treatment, Harm reduction approaches, Recovery coaches, and prevention efforts.

**May MH Month Proclamation-** On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Solano County Board of Supervisors adopted an official proclamation recognizing May as [Mental Health Month \(MHM\)](#). We also recognized Maternal Mental Health Day, May 3, 2023. Those who addressed the Board of Supervisors included Solano County Behavioral Health Director Emery Cowan. Joining her were Peer Support Specialist, Nicole Sharp, Mental Health Advisory Board member Mike Wright, Health Services Manager with Public Health, Deborah Espinoza, and several other supporters. Read the full report from the [Daily Republic](#) or check out the meeting recording [here](#).

**CalAIM-** BH has hired a consultant, [Open Minds](#), who supports states and governments with managed care infrastructure, to support us in rolling out Payment Reform (CPT codes, rates for contractors, IGT payments, etc), as well as guiding us towards the future of managed care that

includes updating our contracts and outcomes to support value based reimbursement. These CalAIM changes impact all mental health and substance use contracts, including those under Partnership Health Plan regional model. The goal is to reduce burden, improve reimbursement processes, use data more effectively, and preparation for population health management.

**Workforce Crisis-** BH has 43 current vacancies as of 5/3/23. BH is working wrapping up the work with the recruiter on the Deputy Director and the Administrator; the MHSA coordinator is still pending posting. We continue to need HR assistance in updating classifications and salaries to ensure there is parity with competitors and growing demand. We ask that our boards share our openings via the job posting link: <https://jobapscloud.com/solano/> .

**Newsletter-** You can review past and current issues [here](#) and anyone in the community can go to our website and sign up to get future emails <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bh/default.asp>. Contractors who have MH/SUD related news, events, & trainings that they'd like to be shared, can contact us at [bhinfo@solanocounty.com](mailto:bhinfo@solanocounty.com)

**Forensic Referrals-**

April 2023			
FORENSIC TRIAGE TEAM			
Referral Breakdown			
MH Diversion	MH Court	MH Services	AOT
8	0	15	0
Total: 23			