



# SOLANO COUNTY

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator  
Date: July 22, 2019  
Subject: Significant Issues Update

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### **1) County Administrator's update on contracts**

The County Administrator signed the following contracts within her authority since the last Significant Issues memo, including:

- (1) Health and Social Services, Administration division, a contract with WBCP, Inc., to provide recruitment services for the Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager position, \$29,950, from May 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019. The funding source is a mixture of multiple H&SS sources.
- (2) Health and Social Services, Public Health division, a contract with Touro University, California, to facilitate and execute the Mobile Diabetes Education Center through weekly outreach to low income, high-risk population, \$35,000, from June 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019. The funding source is grant funding from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
- (3) Health and Social Services, Mental Health division, a contract with Gateway Pharmacy, to provide pharmacy services, \$35,000, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The funding sources are County General Fund and 2011 Realignment.
- (4) Health and Social Services, Mental Health division, a contract with Smith Forensic Psychological Services, Inc., to provide forensic psychological services including risk assessments, clinical supervision, evaluations and expert witness testimonies for LPS court hearings, \$38,000, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. The funding source is 1991 Realignment.
- (5) The County Administrator's Office, First 5 Solano, a contract with Fuel Creative Group, to provide design services for the new First 5 Center in Vallejo, \$40,500, from April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. The funding source is Prop 63 grant funds.
- (6) Health and Social Services, Mental Health division, a contract with Roberto Robles, LCSW, to provide mental health services to Managed Care Network Providers, \$40,000, from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021. The funding sources are Federal Short Doyle and 2011 Realignment.
- (7) Health and Social Services, Child Welfare division, a contract with California State University, Fresno Foundation, to provide direct training, field based training and coaching to Child Welfare staff, \$70,291, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The funding sources are Federal Title IVE and 2011 Realignment.

## **2) Update on 2017-2018 California Healthy Kids Survey - Solano County Results**

Data released from the 2017-2018 California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) shows that prevention efforts in reducing the rates of substance use among students countywide is working in Solano County. Per the new data, tobacco, alcohol and binge drinking is all at the lowest levels since tracking began in 2003.

Other successes include the 118 smoke-free parks accessible to residents, including 27 in Benicia, 19 in Suisun, 32 in Vacaville, 36 in Vallejo, and 4 in unincorporated Solano County. There are 19 smoke-free apartment complexes throughout Solano County, including two in Benicia, seven in Fairfield, four in Suisun City, and six in Vacaville. Additionally, Vallejo has smoke-free transit stops. All County facilities and campuses are smoke-free.

While this data is cause for celebration, many challenges remain. Despite lower rates of users reporting past 30-day substance use, students continue to report a reduced perception of harm in using tobacco, alcohol and cannabis products and prescription drugs. The number of students who think it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" to obtain these substances is decreasing, 40 to 60 percent of ninth and eleventh graders still say it is "easy" to get alcohol and cannabis at parties, older friends and/or siblings. The percentage of students who say it is "easy" to get cannabis at school is 41 percent of ninth graders and 49 percent of eleventh graders.

The Solano County Health and Social Services Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Prevention Program is currently engaged with partners to address these issues. In 2018, a five-year Strategic Prevention Plan was written and approved by the Department of Health Care Services for implementation in Solano County. This plan resulted in a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking community-based organizations that would assist the County with reducing access to alcohol and cannabis among youth.

The CHKS data available at that time (2015-2016) showed that young people were reporting a decreased perception of harm from tobacco, alcohol and cannabis products and prescription drugs, and a high level of "fairly easy" or "very easy" access to these substances. Contracts were awarded to address these issues through policy and education in four Solano cities – Benicia, Dixon, Rio Vista and Vallejo. County staff is currently working on similar efforts in the unincorporated areas of Solano County and will turn their attention to the three remaining cities, including Fairfield, Vacaville and Suisun City starting in 2020.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY**

The CHKS data collection is completed in all Solano County secondary schools with seventh, ninth, and eleventh graders. Participation in the 2017-2018 survey averaged 83 percent across the three grade levels, well above the 60 percent considered statistically significant. This data has been tracked since 2003 for alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis, asking students about past 30-day use, perceived harm, and ease of access. Solano County recently added questions to better understand where and how young people have access to some of these products, and their perception of peer and parental disapproval. County staff will continue to monitor these data for program improvements.

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## **3) Update on Solano County Opioid Safety Coalition**

The Solano Opioid Safety Coalition was founded in fall 2018, with generous start-up funding and continued support from MedMark Treatment Centers in Fairfield. The Opioid Coalition has successfully brought together a motivated, multi-disciplinary team to address opioid addiction issues in our community. Strategies are currently in development to improve opioid addiction, prevention, safety and

treatment efforts, including increasing access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for addicted individuals and increasing naloxone distribution throughout the County. Naloxone is used to rapidly reverse acute intoxication with opiates. Coalition members have provided educational trainings for the community, including one at the Fairfield Library in April, about the opioid epidemic and resources for the community; there are plans to reach out to all libraries in the County.

The Solano Opioid Safety Coalition is a member of the 'Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment in the Jails Learning Collaborative,' which started in August 2018. Members of the collaborative include the Sheriff's Office, the Courts, Probation, Health & Social Services Behavioral Health and the County Administrator's Office.

The Opioid Safety Coalition's 2019 goals are to:

- Conduct community outreach about opioid addiction and the availability and efficacy of Medication-Assisted Treatment through traditional media, social media outlets and at local libraries.
- Increase the number of physicians who can prescribe Medication-Assisted Treatment in our community.
- Increase the number of medication take-back boxes in Solano County, with a focus on areas with the highest rates of documented need.
- Increase use of naloxone in our community, especially among law enforcement officers and other first responders.
- Work with the Drug Court to ensure all appropriate offenders are given access to treatment options.

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#### **4) Update on Whole Person Care pilot program**

On October 25, 2016, the Board of Supervisors accepted the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) approval of the Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilot program which awarded grant funds of \$4,667,010 over five years (2015-2020) and \$1,426,608 has been paid to the WPC contractor through December 2018. During the first phase of the pilot, Health and Social Services' Public Health Division partnered with the Solano Coalition for Better Health to deliver case management services to WPC clients. In August 2018, this function was transferred to Bay Area Community Services (BACS) through a request for proposal process.

The WPC pilot targets individuals who use emergency departments as their regular source of medical care rather than primary care clinics. Solano's specific target population includes residents with two or more chronic and serious health conditions, at least one of which is a mental health or substance use disorder. Nearly seven out of ten (70 percent) of Solano's WPC clients are between 40 and 64 years of age and most are male.

WPC clients are served by care coordinators who ensure that clients receive appropriate services and support. These services may include connection with a primary care physician, transportation assistance, employment assistance, and assistance with obtaining housing. Clients who need mental health or substance abuse treatment are navigated through the care system by their care coordinator. The WPC program also serves as a pilot to improve integration of systems and services within Health & Social Services.

A comprehensive return on investment (ROI) analysis is in process and data is being collected to complete the ROI analysis. Based on the data collected from the start of the program through December 2018, WPC has been able to reduce the rate of inpatient hospitalizations by almost 78% and the rate of emergency room visits by 62% compared to client utilization before WPC began. A preliminary estimate of the system-wide cost savings associated with the reduction in ED visits, reduction in hospitalizations, and permanent housing placement is projected to be approximately \$5 million.

The Solano WPC pilot has had several notable successes through its third program year:

- The WPC pilot has served more than 140 clients, putting the program on track to meet its goal of 250 clients served over the five-year pilot period
- Through December 2018, 16 clients have been placed in permanent housing.
- Two of every three (67 percent) homeless clients who were placed in permanent housing maintained housing for more than seven months
- Nearly one out of four (24 percent) homeless clients referred for supportive housing were housed
- The rate of emergency department visits by WPC clients was reduced by almost half.
- The rate of inpatient hospital stays by WPC clients was reduced by a quarter (24%)
- Data sharing agreements have been established with the major local healthcare providers: NorthBay Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Solano Medical Center, La Clinica de la Raza, OLE Health, and Community Medical Centers
- Partnership HealthPlan continues to be a valuable partner and source of data

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