

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Scott Gilman, MSA, CBHE

Fair Oaks Commons Extends Supportive Housing Capacity



Fair Oaks Commons, a project by Alta Housing, opened their doors to residents last December. The new, four-story, 67-unit affordable housing development includes six (6) [Mental Health Services](#)

[Act](#) (MHSA) funded supported housing units for BHRS clients with a serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Twenty-seven (27) units are also allocated for Veterans (HUD-VASH vouchers) and 32 units for those with Section 8 vouchers (awarded by the San Mateo County Housing Authority).

Alta Housing has partnered with Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS), Mental Health Association and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide support services to residents. These services, which are available to all residents include resident engagement, assistance with accessing community resources, job readiness programs, financial planning courses, counseling services, and case management services.

Additional supportive housing services are provided to clients onsite by BHRS and their contracted providers. These services are based on the individual's goals and needs and can include independent living skills, medication support and management, crisis intervention, case management, supportive employment, housing retention skills, on-site community activities and more.

Supportive housing is an evidence-based practice that enables individuals to live independently in affordable housing with a level of service that allows the person

to maintain housing, obtain stability both in physical and mental health, and participate in a supportive community.

On-site amenities include a community room with a kitchen, technology lounge, on-site laundry, fitness equipment, and a picnic area.

Fair Oaks Commons is partially funded by San Mateo County's [Mental Health Services Act Housing Program](#) and voter-approved [Measure K](#).

To date, the MSHA Housing Program has funded a total of 62 supportive housing units across six different developments located throughout the County. One development—Arroyo Green Senior Housing located in Redwood City—is currently under construction and projected to open spring/summer 2021.

BHRS continues to work on finalizing all MHSA unit move ins so that clients can have a place they can finally call home to sustain their wellness. Watch the [virtual grand opening](#). [More info](#) about Fair Oaks Commons.



30.4%

Revenue Ratio (R3)

9,505

Total Clients

701

Admitted

712

Discharged

Service Connect Recognized as County's Team of the Month

San Mateo County recognized the Service Connect Reentry team last month with the County's Team of the Month award for their commitment, compassion, and diligence during the peak of the pandemic.

In an effort to mitigate the risk of COVID-19, the State prison system and local jails, released thousands of low-risk offenders back into the community with very little advanced notice, causing a drastic influx of new clients in San Mateo County.

Team efforts coordinated by the Service Connect Reentry Program (BHRS, Health Services Agency) and Adult Probation, supported the mass release of over 200 clients who returned to San Mateo County in a safe and timely manner.

Staff worked closely to ensure that those returning to the county were provided with vital resources to help them transition into the community successfully. Resources included shelter, psychiatric medication support, mental health therapy, linkage to specialty care and employment, and distributing food, hygiene kits, gift cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Staff also delivered resources to COVID-19 positive clients released from prison, and worked around the clock and on weekends to ensure they connected with clients who were released last minute.

Despite personal stressors related to the pandemic, adjusting to telework, and caring for their own loved ones, the Service Connect and Adult Probation team rose to the occasion and seamlessly executed a challenging, yet necessary service for clients. They have demonstrated that when we all come together, we can accomplish anything despite obstacles.

Congratulations to the Service Connect Reentry Program and Adult Probation team members:

BHRS: Tennille Tucker, Daniel Lanzarin, Lear Blitzstein, Gino Inesi, Caroline Leon Williams, Jose Cabrera, David

Bass, and Delicia Pennix.

Human Services Agency: Amanda Geipe, Roberto Gonzalez, Catherine LaCroix, Corina Enriquez, Ken Jones, Marco Romero, Juan Gutierrez, Amy Bayley.

Probation: Ramona Gabriel, Moniay Wade

George Culores Hall of Fame Award



Waynette Brock

The San Mateo County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission's George Culores Hall of Fame award recognizes consumer/clients who have made contributions to better the lives of other consumer/clients; shown leadership in the consumer movement or have a personal journey of recovery that inspires and gives hope to others.

Congratulations to 2021 recipient, Waynette Brock, CEO of One New Heartbeat, a non-profit community based organization (CBO) who, for the past 13 years, has provided wellness and recovery training, and support to anyone in San Mateo County who wishes to perform at their optimum and achieve success in their efforts towards healthy lifestyles.

She herself has personally conducted wellness and recovery groups at San Mateo County corrections facilities for eight years, and currently facilitates three weekly online wellness support groups—which are open to the public.

Under Waynette's direction, One New Heartbeat provides staff training, consultation and technical support to San Mateo County CBO's, as well as wellness support groups and resources to residents with life threatening illnesses—all at no cost to the recipient.

PIONEERS: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Prevention Program

The State of California Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission approved the [Mental Health Services Act](#) (MHSA) innovation project—Pacific Islanders Organizing, Nurturing and Empowering Everyone to Rise and Serve (PIONEERS)—on December 10, 2020. The program was approved for \$925,000 over



a four year period.

The PIONEER program offers a culturally responsive behavioral health prevention program for the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI)

community and addresses the need for behavioral health services for NHPI college-age youth.

Communities of color represent 61% of San Mateo County’s population and yet continue to be disproportionately impacted by negative health outcomes. NHPI’s in San Mateo County account for the largest population in the Bay Area and are anticipated to double in size by 2040. In addition, specialty mental health service penetration rates are the lowest for both youth (1.8%) and the adult (2.6%) Asian/Pacific Islander racial group. NHPI’s face cultural stigma that impacts their willingness to access services.

The PIONEERS program, launching FY 20/21, will be offered on college campuses to support linkages to treatment for NIPI youth. The program will include culturally focused strategies to support their understanding of cultural and mental health connections and education on suicide, mental illness, and emotional well being. The program will also develop NHPI advocates for behavioral health and leaders through community advocacy.

The PIONEER Program will consist of four key components:

- Youth Advisory Circle that will inform all aspects of the program.
- A five day PIONEER Institute program focusing on cultural education, discussions on identity, history, community, and leadership development.
- Mana Sessions to provide a safe space to decompress, engage in group discussions centered around mental health, wellness, and skills building workshops.

- PIONEER Forward Movement projects that support youth in identifying opportunities to be of service to their community.

By connecting NIPI young adults with culturally tailored behavioral health information and capacity development, supports, screenings, and treatment earlier in life, the program hopes to reduce the negative consequences of an undiagnosed mental illness—including visits to psychiatric emergency—and improve their overall quality of life.

MHSA Steering Committee

2021 Meetings Changes

Last December, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission (MHSARC) voted to amend their bylaws to recognize the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Steering Committee as a standing committee of the Commission. The MHSARC will assign a chairperson to the MHSA Steering Committee and hold two additional meetings this year (for a total of four meetings a year) to allow for deeper stakeholder engagement and information sharing.



MHSA Steering Committee meetings will be held the first Thursday in February, May, September and December from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. These meetings are open to the public to provide input, make recommendations and stay up-to-

date on new MHSA developments and ongoing programming.

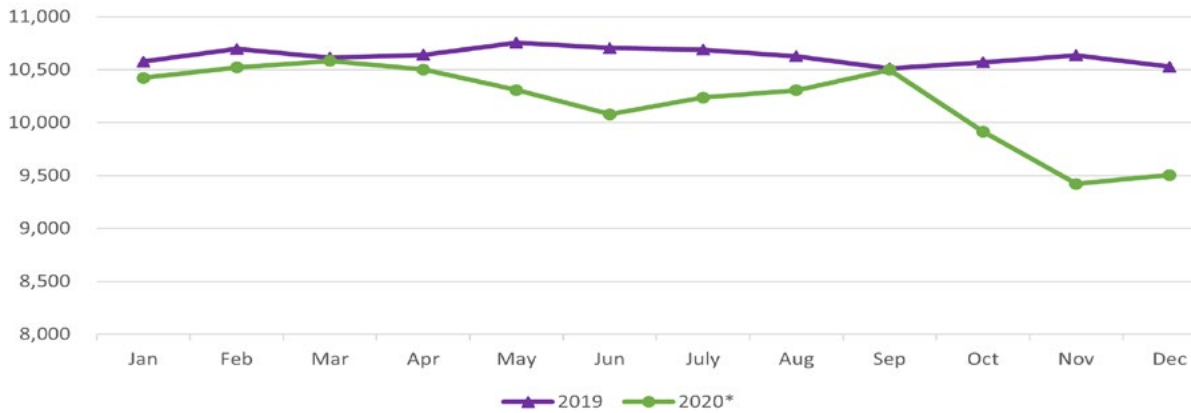
The upcoming February 4th meeting objectives include an orientation to MHSA and goal setting, and an opportunity for providing input on the use of MHSA funds to support ongoing programs.

Refer to the [event flier](#) for more information on the this meeting and the [BHRS meeting calendar](#) for future meetings.

Learn more about the County's [MHSA program](#).

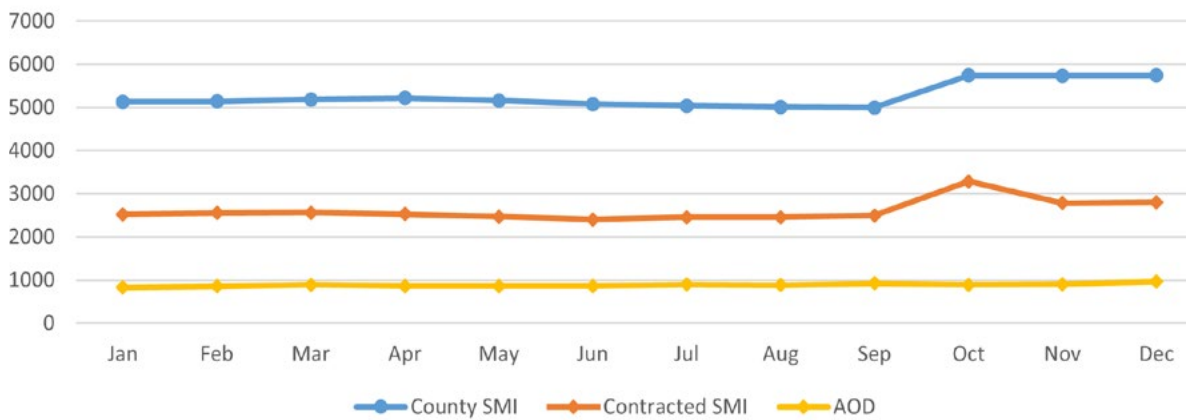
SNAPSHOT: BHRS Clients - as of December 31, 2020

Total BHRS Clients by Month (2020 vs. 2019)



*Mild to moderate services reverted to Health Plan of San Mateo 10/1/20.

Clients by Service Category - 2020



Service Category	Total Clients	Admitted - December	Discharged -December
Mental Health Services County SMI	5,740	518	500
Mental Health Services Contracted SMI	2,804	78	91
AOD Services	961	105	121
Total BHRS Clients	9,505	701	712

Total clients are unduplicated within each service category, however, if a client received services in more than one category during the same period, the client is counted in multiple categories.

R3% - 30.4% (revenue ratio of billed services as of 12/31/20)