



Behavioral Health Services - *Communications*

Mental Health Board of San Francisco Award Ceremony

On June 25, 2019, at the Google Community Space, the Mental Health Board of San Francisco honored 31 outstanding individuals for their dedication and commitment to their job. They have consistently gone above and beyond their job responsibilities and requirements to contribute to the mental health and well-being of the people and communities they serve. They have continued to serve year after year without receiving recognition for the work they do.



Award Recipients

Eleven of the awardees were employees of the Department of Public Health who have interacted over the years with Mental Health Board Staff and the members of the Mental Health Board. DPH staff who received awards include *Marlo Simmons, Maureen Edwards, Russell Berman, Alex Wan Ming Liu, Bonnie Friedman, Charles Maranon, Irene Sung, John Grimes, Tom Mesa, Michelle Long and Charles Houston*. *Georgia Jackson*, a former DPH employee, now working with the Human Services Administration, received an award acknowledging her for the years she worked in the training division and Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Two other people who work in the 1380 building who received awards were *Joseph Rivera*, who manages the 5th floor café, and *Marie Castro* who is the administrative staff for the Opioid Buprenorphine Induction Clinic.

For more information about the Mental Health Board please contact Helynna Brooke at hbrooke@mhbsf.org.

Job Opportunity: Director of Behavioral Health Services

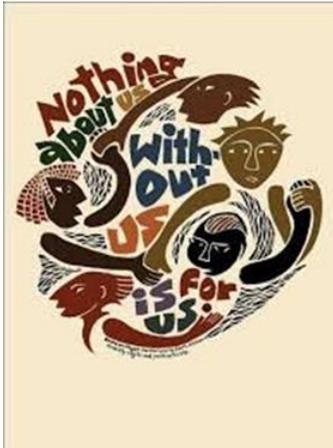
The San Francisco Department of Public Health is searching for a new Director of Behavioral Health Services:

0942 – Manager VII – Director of Behavioral Health Services

Filing Deadline	Continuous
Job Type/Employment Type	Permanent Exempt/Full Time
Salary	\$165,412 - \$211,094 (Up to \$244,348, based on experience/qualification)

Click [here](#) to access the job announcement.

"Nothing About Us Without Us" Peer Event



On June 26, 2019, the event "Nothing About Us Without Us: The Roles of Peer Providers in Behavioral Health" was held at the San Francisco Main Library, facilitated by Tracey Helton, Behavioral Health Services' (BHS) Peer Programs Manager. Peer providers, health agencies and other interested parties were in attendance to learn about changes that have occurred as a result of the Mental Health Services Act. Topics included the history and roles of peers in BHS, unique assets and challenges related to peer employment, and best practices for integrating peers into a worksite.

Panelists included peer and provider representatives from: BHS Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program; The Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF); National Alliance on Mental Illness in San Francisco (NAMI SF); Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. (RAMS); and San Francisco Study Center's Transgender Pilot Project.

Below is testimony from a peer on the personal impact of the event:

"Tracey's panelists have shown me how important it is to be courageous and how choosing self-respect over self-destruction plays a huge part in dealing with our inner demons. There absolutely needs to be training opportunities to integrate people back into gainful employment and there needs to be other people who are models within the community that prove to us that we can lead productive lives even after years of self-abuse and life on the street."

For more information, please contact Tracey Helton at Tracey.Helton@sfdph.org.

For Providers: BHS Drug Information Contact Updates



The BHS Drug Information Consultation Service has established another method for providers to submit requests. In addition to calling the current telephone line [(415) 255-3705], requests can now be sent to a dedicated email address [druginfo.bhs@sfdph.org].

Requests should include the following information: name and profession of the person making the request; location; phone or pager number; fax number for contact reference; time frame when a response is needed; questions; and patient-specific information, if applicable.

Actual response time may depend on the complexity of the question, acuteness of any patient-specific problem, and staff resources. The goal is to complete requests within one to five business days.

For more information contact Michelle Geier at michelle.geier@sfdph.org.

Filipino-American Mental Health Professionals Meet with Philippine Senator



Members of the Filipino-American Counseling & Treatment Team (FACT) of the South of Market Mental Health Clinic (led by FACT Team director Raud de Silva), and other BHS staff joined about 60 other Filipino-American health and mental health professionals from around the Bay Area to meet with visiting Philippine Senator Risa Hontiveros, at the Bayanihan Community Center in San Francisco on June 21, 2019.

Senator Hontiveros shared with the group the progressive health initiatives being championed by her office for Filipinos in the Philippines, including the Mental Health Law that was signed in June 2018, for which she was the principal sponsor. The Mental Health Law provides for accessible and affordable mental health services for Filipinos in the Philippines, and integrates mental health care into the country's public health care system. Senator Hontiveros also co-authored the Philippine Universal Health Care Law, which was signed into law in February 2019. The Universal Health Care Law entitles every Filipino to health coverage that lowers out-of-pocket health expenses.

Joining the San Francisco participants to meet with Senator Hontiveros were Marin County Behavioral Health Director Jei Africa, Filipino-American mental health workers involved with Filipino Mental Health Initiatives in San Mateo and Solano counties, and advocates from the Tagalog-Speaking Social Services Coalition in San Francisco – who all shared with the Senator the work they are doing to improve access to mental health services for Filipino-Americans in the Bay Area.



Joyce Vives, a member of the FACT Team, also talked about her upcoming visit to the Philippines to train various Philippine government units, under the auspices of the county's Department of Health, in the dissemination of Mental Health First Aid capability via training of trainers, under the Tulong, Alalay, at Gabay (Help, Support, Guidance) project.

The gathering of Filipino-American mental health advocates was energized by Senator Hontiveros's mental health advocacies in the Philippines. Jeannie Celestial, a psychologist with Kaiser-Permanente, declared that Senator Hontiveros's health advocacy in the Philippines is "not only progressive, but revolutionary." At stake in Senator Hontiveros legislative work, she said, is the "thousands of people who lose their lives because of stigmatization," referring also to the thousands killed in the Philippine drug war. The group pledged to continue working together, and with Senator Hontiveros, to advance the health and mental health of Filipino-Americans and Filipinos in the Philippines.



Meeting with San Francisco County Supervisor – Matt Haney

Senator Hontiveros also met for an hour on the same day with San Francisco County Supervisor Matt Haney, who had sponsored a resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year that condemned the human rights catastrophe caused by the current Philippine drug war.

For more information please contact Edwin Batongbacal at edwin.batongbacal@sfdph.org

Gender Health SF Presents Annual Update to SF Health Commission

In 2012, following Resolution 288-12, SFDPH established Gender Health SF, a first-of-its-kind peer-based program whose mission is to increase access to quality gender affirming health care for underserved transgender and non-binary residents in San Francisco, regardless of immigration status and/or lack of income. GHSF recently received their 1000th program referral, and they have served over 540 San Francisco residents!

This past June, GHSF presented its annual update to the SF Health Commission. Program highlights included that GHSF now offers:



- Expanded wrap-around peer navigation with access to integrated, interdisciplinary care coordination between BHS, Primary Care, and the identified surgery team;
- Weekly peer-run drop-in services and education activities that increase surgical preparation and social connectedness for clients awaiting or recovering from gender-affirming surgeries; and
- Client-centered advocacy that increased access to body hair reduction services for uninsured clients.

The Commissioners recognized GHSF as one of the most necessary and important programs that the City sponsors. The program evaluation showed that people receiving peer-navigation from GHSF throughout their surgery preparation and recovery processes reported better overall health, less serious psychological distress, and less alcohol use.

The program evaluation also highlighted that program demand is on the rise. Referrals to GHSF are increasing annually, and GHSF is ready to grow! The program has an opening for a [part-time bilingual peer navigator](#). Submit cover letter and resume to genderhealthsf@sfdph.org by July 12, 2019.

BHS Programs Prepare for Launch of Medi-Cal Health Home

Mental health staff at the Mission Mental Health Center (Mission MH) and the UC Citywide Case Management programs (CWCM), are to be commended for being at the forefront yet again of piloting an innovative health program – this time to provide Medi-Cal Health Home care coordination services for clients.



In July 2018, the San Francisco Health Plan (SFHP) became the first California Health Plan, in conjunction with Anthem Blue Cross, to launch the Health Homes Program (HHP) a new Medi-Cal benefit administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

The intent of the HHP is to promote coordination of care for the highest-risk three to five percent of the Medi-Cal population who present the best opportunity for improved health outcomes through expanded services. The second phase of the HHP implementation is expansion of services for HHP eligible members with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) by January 1, 2019 (referred to as second State Plan Amendment - SPA). The HHP criteria for the SMI include; major depression disorders, bipolar disorder, psychotic disorders including schizophrenia.

Mission MH and UC CWCM stepped up to plate as the first BHS provider organizations to become Community Based Care Management Entities (CB-CME) for SPA two. In the past several months, Mission MH and UC CWCM have been engaged in preparedness activities to ensure ability to implement the HHP as required by the SFHP and the California Department of Health Care Services. The SFHP requires that the participating BHS provider organizations have the technical capability to capture, track, and report HHP required client health measures, including utilizing Health Information Technology to ensure communication flow across entire care teams, and to connect to SFHP SFTP site to retrieve and deliver Eligibility and Engagement files in support of the Health Homes program.

The two BHS CB-CME programs are adding staff positions to augment the provision of Health Home care coordination services that address the medical, social, behavioral health, functional impairment, cultural and environmental factors attending health and healthcare choices available to HHP members. Health Home services specifically include: comprehensive care management, care coordination, health promotion, comprehensive transitional care, individual and family support services, and referral to community and social supports.

For more information please contact Edwin Batongbacal at Edwin.batongbacal@sfdph.org.

Program Highlight: Community Justice Center

The Community Justice Center (CJC) is a community-based collaborative court program which partners with the San Francisco Superior Court, the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, Human Services Agency and the San Francisco Adult Probation Department. The goal of this court is to provide services to people who are charged within the geographic area of the Tenderloin, Civic Center, parts of the South of Market neighborhood, and Union Square. DPH staff provide linkage to social services agencies; community resources; and primary, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment programs.

In My Own Words...

CJC participant, Patrick Rushing, recently shared an essay about their personal experience with CJC and working with their DPH case manager, Denise Gotthardt. We want to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of this participant and appreciate all the amazing work that DPH staff do to support participants on their journey to recovery and wellness.



L-R: Denise Gotthardt and Patrick Rushing

"My journey to recovery started soon as I was being arrested the second time in 1 week. I realized my addiction was out of control. While I was in custody, another inmate told me about 'CJC' and the opportunities that were available through the program. The first thing that I had to do was to be honest about my addiction and pray I would be accepted into the program. I was released from jail and entered the program and ever since then, my life has been good and productive. I met Denise my first day in the program and we discussed a treatment plan as well as a life plan. I was accepted into 'Walden House' on Feb. 16, 2019 with dedication and guidance from Denise. I'm proud to say that I'm very happy in life. I'm clean and sober, I'm working full time, I have no desire to use nor break the law and I found a life time Friend in Denise and Family (my CJC Family). I believe without 'CJC', I would be lost in the system and still stuck in my addiction. I thank the program for saving my life."

For questions of more information please contact Akiko Allen at 415-202-2813 or akiko.allen@sfdph.org.



beINVINCIBLE Women's Summit

Our very own Natalie Henry Barry, Clinic Director, South of Market Mental Health, was a featured panelist at the June 14, 2019 beINVINCIBLE Women's Summit hosted by Mayor London N. Breed. The Summit celebrated the power, strength and resilience of San Francisco's extraordinary women and served to inspire women to improve their health, advance their careers, grow their networks and identify ways to engage their communities and build diverse coalitions. Keynote speakers included Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former Obama White House Senior Advisor Valerie B. Jarrett

Community Advisory Board Update: Children, Youth & Families (CYF)

June 4, 2019 was the year-end, quarterly, Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting for the Children, Youth & Families (CYF) community of clinics which includes *Chinatown Child Development Center, Family Mosaic Project, Foster Care Mental Health, LEGACY, Mission Family Center and the Southeast Child & Family Therapy Center*. The CAB is a forum where caregivers and transitional age youth bring their experiences and recommendations to inform improvements to the overall CYF – System of Care. Acting Director Max Rocha & Deputy Director Farah Farahmand were present to hear families' feedback in person as well as to distribute certificates of recognition for the families' invaluable participation. Pamela Powell, Sr. Family Specialist, Ionina Antonio and others from our family of agencies worked hard to put together a small gift of appreciation (with little goodies like tea bags and Starbursts as well as affirmations) for each participant.

Finally, Ms. Antonio was able to procure a donation from Cakes for Kids, to celebrate the caregivers and youth. Each year the CYF CAB progresses in its mission. This year was no exception and moved us toward new goals. We thank the 20 caregivers and 10 youth that make a year-long commitment to the CYF CAB every year. We look forward to new members and new goals in the coming year.



We thank the staff from each CYF clinic that support this invaluable endeavor –

everything from buying and serving dinner, to providing transportation to and from the meeting, to meeting facilitation, child watch, scribing and minutes. We look forward to new members and new goals in the coming year.

If you know of any youth, ages 14- 21, with past or current involvement in the San Francisco Behavioral Health System, who are interested in sharing their experiences, please contact Inez Love at (415) 920-7714.

New Program Manager – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program

Forensic and Justice Involved Behavioral Health Services is proud to announce our new Program Manager for the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program, Christine Wright, Psy.D.. Dr. Wright joins the team with a long history of working with clients with severe mental illness, complex trauma, and substance use. Prior to joining AOT, she worked as a senior counselor/trainer with CAAP Counseling and the Director of Mental Health at BAART Community Healthcare. In addition to continuing to support the amazing work of AOT, Dr. Wright will also be responsible for supporting the implementation of SB1045 and coordinating with the Office of Conservatorship Services. **Welcome!**

Youth Empowerment: L.E.G.A.C.Y.



L.E.G.A.C.Y. (Lifting and Empowering Generations of Adults, Children and Youth) is Children, Youth & Families (CYF's) peer support program that provides caregivers and transitional aged youth assistance in navigating child serving systems.

L.E.G.A.C.Y.'s Youth Development Team (YDT) hosted three summer trips during the month of June to promote peer socialization and expose youth to something new. On June 6, staff took youth to Great America. On June 14, TAY Community Advisory Board (CAB) facilitators took the TAY CAB participants to the movies. On June 28, staff took youth to Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Upcoming: Peer-Based Services Training

Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. is pleased to present its July 2019 Leadership Academy Training designed to support and educate peer counselors, advocates, and others providing or interested in providing peer support services in the mental health field in San Francisco. Please see below for further details and RSVP instructions.

July 2019 Leadership Academy Training

When: Friday, July 26th, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: San Francisco State Downtown Campus @ 835 Market Street, room 619

Cost: FREE! Light breakfast provided

Topic: Helping Clients Change their Relationship to Substances

About the Training: Jennifer Fernández, PhD, a specialist in harm reduction psychotherapy, will facilitate this training using materials from her book, "Power Over Addiction: A Harm Reduction Workbook for Changing Your Relationship to Drugs." Participants will practice helping clients move through the change process and make engaged decisions regarding their substance use. Additionally, the training will discuss how peer providers can support clients in developing healthy boundaries with the people in their lives in order to further support harm reduction.

RSVP [here](#). For more information please contact Ida Poberezovsky, at (415) 579-3021 extension 120.

Dear DPH Staff and Providers: In any circumstance **where you observe, know of, or suspect any acts of misconduct to client or staff**, please report the situation to either your supervisor, program director, or call the confidential compliance line at (855) 729-6040. Thank you ensuring care and safety for your colleagues and clients.