

Planning and Technical Assistance Proposal Abstract

REDWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY'S 2019 Mental Health Services Planning Project

Mental Health Services Planning Project:

These funds would allow us to investigate the feasibility and planning of a fully staffed Outpatient/Mobile MH Program to serve the larger Eureka community, as historically the clientele base for these services has primarily been those children/youth that are enrolled in other RCAA programs. RCAA's Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) program for children and youth 0-21 y.o., allows us to provide a wide variety of multidisciplinary supports (individual and family therapy, clinical case management, linkages and referrals, 1:1 or group community integration opportunities and activities) that are individually tailored through a holistic, evidence based and trauma-informed framework. Being that we are one of only five SMHS Organizational Providers in Humboldt County, there are hundreds of children, youth and families that are potentially eligible for services and their needs are going unmet. Several local task force groups and committees are working to establish new approaches and systems to increase the capacity and focus on early childhood intervention and provide quality mental health services to infants and children, birth-8 years old, and their parents/caregivers. Is there a need and is it financially feasible to expand these services into the larger Eureka community which would allow us to specifically target and support families with children that are burdened with barriers in accessing behavioral health services (homelessness, lack of transportation, Child Welfare involvement, and substance use histories). In addition, RCAA is currently moving through the BEACON behavioral health credentialing process, which will allow for our licensed Clinical staff to provide in-home or community based psychotherapy services for adults and children that are covered through BEACON. Historically, RCAA has not had the capacity to provide direct Clinical services to the adult population and this could have a tremendous impact to the community as well, due to the limited number of providers that accept traditional MediCal, Partnership and/or Beacon insurances and that are able to serve in a mobile capacity throughout the community.

Mental Health Services Planning Project points of interest:

- Challenge in Eureka and surrounding communities for people on state/local medical insurance, to access mental health services that are not attached to the government and/or that have availability and openings. Currently most private-sector mental health providers in the area have an extensive waiting list and/or may not be taking on new clients. This is a tremendous challenge in our community for people to obtain Clinical and Therapeutic services.

ATTACHMENT 5

- Able to serve children, youth and adults, ages birth through elderly (no age limit)
- Eligibility requirements: Willingness to be an active participant in services, current Partnership/Beacon insurance coverage (no age requirement) or covered by full-scope MediCal for children and youth 0-21 y.o.
- Mobile capacity-ability to meet clients in the community, home, school, vehicle, or RCAA office. Many clients will participate in services if they feel the comfortable in the environment (work with clients where they feel the most comfortable and safe).
- The insurances (full scope MediCal and Partnership/Beacon) are for low or no-income folks and individuals with disabilities.
- The services would specifically target and support those people and families that may not have access to private mental health care/treatment, may have challenges with accessing public transportation, may not have the wherewithal to make it to appointments on time or at all, etc.
- Potential clients may not be permitted to receive mental/behavioral health services with previous providers due to: behaviors, lack of participation, record/pattern of no-show's for appointments, lapse with insurance coverage, general issues with homelessness status, etc.
- Is there a need for service for toddlers, children, youth, young adults, adults and seniors in a mobile capacity and truly meet clients "where they are at" emotionally and physically.