Karen Larsen LMFT
Director, Yolo County Health & Human Services
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IMPROVING THE MEDI-CAL MENTAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM
What Works Well

Expansion of Affordable Care Act + Serving more Mild to Moderate

Flexibility in MHSA Funding that allows county to serve community needs.

Partnerships and Collaboration
**What Needs Improvement**

An estimated 5% of Californians are SMI, while an estimated 25% of Homeless Californians are SMI.

In California, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 25-34 and the 3rd leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24.

Approximately 21% of California’s inmates statewide have been identified as being SMI.

1 in 3 youth who exit foster care in California experience homelessness within 24 months.
Current Structural Challenges

• Each county manages behavioral health benefits
  • Missed opportunities for economies of scale, shared infrastructure
  • Differences in population density and other local characteristics produce unique challenges by county

• Inefficient, Fee-For-Service Reimbursement Structure
  • Arduous documentation requirements: time-intensive process for diagnosis, treatment plan, progress notes required to substantiate medical necessity and bill by the minute
  • Not designed to incentivize quality or truly “manage care”

• Cross-System Care Coordination
  • High cost beneficiaries with complex needs are driving physical health care costs
  • Reduced lifespan of MH consumers due to comorbid physical illness
  • Information-sharing between providers and plans needs improvement
Improvements to Statewide Mental Health Benefits

• Pursue IMD exclusion waiver
  • Draw down federal funds for IMD stays
  • Strengthen community-based services & supports

• Reinforce upstream investment
  • Early childhood investment
  • Universal Trauma Screening
  • Continue to expand community-based services and partnerships

• “Pay for Performance” Model
  • Simplify billing to ensure focus on care, not documentation
  • Develop outcomes-focused dashboards
  • Incentivize quality of care, not volume
Integration

Mental Health

Substance Use

Physical Health
Vision for Behavioral Health Transformation

Regional Approaches

Integrated Care

Payment Reform

Better Access, Higher Quality, Healthier Californians
Questions?

Thank You!

Karen Larsen, Director
Yolo County Health & Human Services
Karen.Larsen@yolocounty.org