



MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network (MCAVHN) Winter2019

Update on MCAVHN Activities

By Libby Guthrie, Executive Director,
MCAVHN Care & Prevention Network

MCAVHN has experienced a very interesting, challenging, and rewarding past year. We have had some of our long standing services reduced, and have been able to make expansions in others. Some of the reduction occurred because of decisions made in a vacuum at the State level; "consolidation" was the phrase used when our participants living with HIV were unceremoniously stripped of MCAVHN services, and placed in a medical case management program.

MCAVHN is extremely proud of the individualized care and services provided for our extended family of those living with HIV for 3 decades. We continue to work in the areas of prevention of HIV and Hepatitis C, care coordination services for multiple chronic health conditions and behavioral health and co-occurring disorders services.

We also submitted a successful proposal to Mendocino County Health and Human Service Administration for the essential support of our harm reduction program; finally providing us with the ability to meet face to face with our highest risk clients in all (even remote) areas of our county. This funding will allow us to meet people exactly where they are, deliver clean harm reduction supplies, distribute Narcan/naloxone to those at-risk of overdose, do infectious disease testing, provide linkages to medical, behavioral health and substance use treatment resources in local communities, or help participants access services where they are available. Prior to this award, we had already begun re-establishing connections with our local tribal members, and to help with community planning for the development of culturally ap-

propriate services; especially to address the needs of our most vulnerable homeless citizens who experience multiple co-morbid conditions, including infectious and/or other chronic health conditions, substance use disorders and severe and persistent mental health challenges.

One of the amazing events that we coordinated with assistance from our partner Buffy Wright and Safe Rx Mendocino, was our Overdose Awareness Event on August 31st in Alex Thomas Plaza. Our District 2 Supervisor John McCowen helped us pull this together, by taking charge of getting the lights and electrical connections we needed. This event memorialized and brought a human face to the hundreds of lives that have been lost right here in Mendocino County from overdose. While attending this event, we supported a grieving mother who was experiencing the final days of her daughter's life, cut short by overdose. She was showered by support, and the loving care she received from her community at this event. People spoke from their hearts, sharing their own stories, and there was a beautiful slide show provided by Leslie Michels to honor lost lives; bringing awareness for the epidemic level of overdose world-wide. Thank you all who helped and attended.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year; filled with new opportunities and hope for both MCAVHN, and the people we serve in our communities. Thank you all for your enduring support!!!

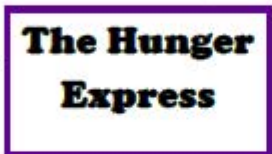
Harm Reduction: 1. Modality of working with individuals and communities to minimize adverse consequences of drug use. E.g. Overdose prevention, syringe access, healthcare especially for HIV, hepatitis and mental health needs, drug law reform including prison reform, housing, and drug treatment options. 2. A movement for social justice.

Many THANKS to the 2019 Event of the Heart Sponsors, Donors and Rent Angels



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MCAVHN SERVICES

Specialty Mental Health Services

Medi-Cal reimbursed coordination of care for those meeting medical necessity for Serious Mental Illness and/or Co-occurring Disorders—this includes:

Individual therapy, medication management, rehabilitation services, coordinated Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and linkages, life skills training, housing resources; assistance/advocacy with SSI/SSDI applications or job placement

Behavioral Health Court

Provide intake and bio-psycho-social assessments on referrals from Judge Moorman, the Public Defender's, D.A.'s offices, and Probation Department

Care coordination and supportive services for persons who repeatedly commit criminal offenses due to their psychiatric diagnoses and/or problematic substance use

Focus on medical and behavioral healthcare linkage and (particularly medication adherence), life skills, housing resources and stability, assistance with SSI/SSDI applications as well as other financial resources eligibility

Case conference weekly with multi-disciplinary team; focusing on both individual client-centered goals as well as sanctions presented by the criminal justice system

Whole Person Care Services

Identify, intake and assess individuals with co-occurring disorders and/or chronic health conditions who have high utilization of emergency department medical care and/or jail services, and those who have experienced serious barriers to obtaining and engaging with available community resources

Provide holistic care services, linking and monitoring services for primary medical and behavioral health; develop service plan in conjunction with client; support adherence to prescribed medications and treatment plans

MCAVHN SERVICES

HCV Care and Advocacy Services

Care Coordination for individuals with active Hepatitis C in need of a medical provider who will evaluate and treat chronic HCV. Both practical assistance and care coordination which includes medical referral and monitoring, benefits advocacy – as well as counseling for those who are interested in or are currently in treatment for their HCV disease

Medical evaluation and treatment for chronic hepatitis C, provided by Hepatitis specialist

Coordinated Entry

Housing vulnerability assessments (VI-SPDAT) for chronically homeless and unstably-housed individuals and families; access to multiple housing assistance programs

Case management for Permanent Supportive Housing

Outreach for Harm Reduction

Harm reduction education and support counseling.

Syringe exchange services and harm reduction materials

Overdose prevention education and supplies

Re-establishing partnerships with tribal communities, and assisting in the establishment of Medication-Assisted-Treatment (MAT) programs that are culturally appropriate and relevant to multiple populations

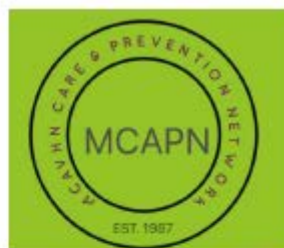
Engaging exchangers trained to work in communities that do not utilize face-to-face contacts with agency staff

Counseling and testing for Hepatitis C and HIV in the office and the field at outreach sites

Referrals and resources for positives; linkage to, and coordination of care

Overdose prevention education and, Naloxone distribution and overdose prevention training for opioid users and people with prescription opioids

Wound care information and products



MCAVHN SERVICES

Drop-in Wellness Center

Monthly socials for all program clients and guests

Community garden.

Benefits and housing resources & education for clients who drop-in

Referrals for other medical and behavioral health care

Other Coordinated Services

Rotation through the Building Bridges Homeless Resource Center and winter shelter

Co-occurring Disorders Groups at Behavioral Health Housing sites

Off site services in client's homes, Building Bridges, and street outreach to homeless

Additional Opportunities

Training for Human Services and SUDT/AOD program interns

Specialty training for outreach to PWID's

Training for community volunteers

Fundraising activities and learning opportunities

Work Experience and Community Service hours

Recovery
Is about PROGRESSION
not PERFECTION



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Save the date to attend MCAVHN's 33rd
Event of the Heart.
February 8, 2020 5:30-10:30
At the Ukiah Valley Conference Center
Tickets \$90 in advance, \$100 at the door

