

2024 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

LONG BEACH

How Hospitals Connect Patients to New Behavioral Health Services

Jodi Nerell, LCSW Director of Community Health, Mental Health & Addiction Services, Sutter Health

Amy R. Ellis, MFT, Deputy Director, Adult Care, Health and Human Services, County of Placer

Emery Cowan, LPCC, LMHC, Director of Health & Social Services, Solano County HSS

Mark Bontrager, Sr. Director of Behavioral Health, Partnership HealthPlan of California



Presenter

Jodi Nerell, LCSW

Director, Community Health, Mental Health & Addiction Services

Sutter Health

In her role, Ms. Nerell facilitates cross-sector (hospital, managed-care plans, CBO, NPOs, counties) and interdisciplinary partnerships (peer support, CHWs, RNs, MDs, clinicians) to better serve the behavioral health needs of our community. This includes addressing opportunities for innovation in the community setting specific to mental health and addiction- addressing ongoing systematic, programmatic, and operational issues for populations with complex health/social needs who are often faced with seeking care in acute settings due to lack of availability to or access to, outpatient behavioral health care.

Presenter

Amy Ellis, MFT

Deputy Director, Adult System of Care

Health and Human Services, County of Placer

Ms. Ellis has held varying clinical and administrative positions for Placer County serving children, families, and adults. She has been the Deputy Director of Health and Human Services since 2017. She oversees 250 County Staff and over 50 Contractors. Her programs include Behavioral Health, Housing and Homelessness, Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, Public Guardian and Public Administrator.

Presenter

Emery Cowan, LPCCC, LMHC

Director of Health & Social Services

Solano County HHS

Emery Cowan has 24 years of experience in the behavioral health field. Throughout her career across 3 states (FL, NC, CA), she has served in leadership and direct service roles, including expansion of evidence-based practices promoting recovery, cultural humility, social justice, and community inclusion for children, youth, families and adults with mental health and substance use challenges. She has worked in state and local government roles as well as direct service, has Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Florida International University, and is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCCC) in CA & Mental Health Counselor (FL).

Presenter

Mark Bontrager

Senior Director, Behavioral Health

Partnership Health Plan of California

Mark Bontrager is responsible for oversight and management of Partnership activities involving behavioral health (mental health and substance use) services and community projects that support access to and improvement of behavioral health. He also works with Partnership leadership, member counties, providers, and the community to develop the health plan's approach to behavioral health services.

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

Jodi Nerell, LCSW, reports no relevant financial relationships or relationships she has with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months.

Amy Ellis, MFT, reports no relevant financial relationships or relationships she has with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months.

Emery Cowan, LPPC, LMHC, reports no relevant financial relationships or relationships she has with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months.

Mark Bontrager reports no relevant financial relationships or relationships he has with ineligible companies of any amount during the past 24 months.

Connecting Patients to New Behavioral Health Services

Placer

- Behavioral Health Crisis Urgent Care: Lotus
 - ❖ Participated in evaluation and design
- MOU developed to outline hospital and County crisis worker roles and responsibilities
 - ❖ Process required time and multiple iterations.
- On going Placer-Sutter collaboration monthly meetings
- SUD coordination and referrals to ODS treatment system
- 2 BHCIP projects:
 - ❖ Substance Use short term recovery residence- online 12/2024
 - ❖ 2nd Psychiatric Health Facility in our County- online 2026

Connecting Patients to New Behavioral Health Services

Solano Behavioral Health and Sutter

- Housing respite pilot for post-discharge
- Hospital Liaison and Crisis Aftercare and Recovery Engagement (CARE) Team roles
- Continuous dialogue:
 - ❖ LPS & Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) recurring community partner meeting
 - ❖ SB43 workgroup
- Zero Suicide Framework

Partnership Health Plan:

- CHW grant with our contracted hospitals as a bridge from the Bridge Grant program to CHW work.
- Our work with county MHPs around data sharing and alerts,
- Regional Model approach as one answer for counties where resources and capacity is limited.



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Questions?



Thank you

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Sutter Health

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