

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Performance Review Report
Kern County Program Review
March 8, 2022

This Kern County MHSA Program Review consisted of the adopted FY 2017-20 Program and Expenditure Plan (Plan) and the adopted FY 2019-20 Annual Update (Update). During the desk review, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) identified the adopted FY 2019-20 Update was mislabeled and is actually their FY 2020-21 Update. The adopted FY 2018-19 Update, submitted to DHCS on July 1, 2019, is actually the correct FY 2019-20 Update reviewed by the DHCS.

FINDINGS

Finding #1: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Plan) did not include gender in the county demographic. However, Kern did include a description of the size of the county, threshold languages, unique characteristics, age, and race/ethnicity in the adopted FY 2017-20 Plan and the FY 2018-19 Annual Update (Update). (California Code of Regulations, title 9, § 3300(b)(4); Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-2017 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg 4); MHSOAC FY 2015-2016 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (p 5)).

Recommendation #1: The County must provide a description of the demographics of the County, including but not limited to size of the county, threshold languages, unique characteristics, age, gender, and race/ethnicity, in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #2: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Plan did not contain a budget summary for each fiscal year for Capital Facilities (CF) and Technological Needs (TN). However, the adopted FY 2017-20 Plan did include a budget summary for each funding category of Community Services and Supports (CSS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Workforce Education and Training (WET), and Innovation (INN). (Welfare and Institution Code (W&I Code) section 5847(e), Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, §§ 3650(a)(6)(c), 3755(l), 3930(d), 3820(e); IN 08-09 Enclosure 1-3; MHSOAC FY 2014-15 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions; MHSOAC FY 2015-2016 MHSA Annual Update Instructions).

Recommendation #2: The County must include a budget summary each fiscal year, including the total budgeted for each funding category of CSS, PEI, INN, WET, CF and TN in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter. If no anticipated funding for a category, indicate such on the budget summary.

Finding #3: Kern County did not include a narrative description of the training provided to participants in the Community Program Planning Process (CPPP) in the adopted FY 2017-20 Plan and FY 2018-19 Update. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3300(c); MHSOAC FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg 3); MHSOAC FY 2015-16 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (pg 3)).

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Recommendation #3: The County must include a narrative description of the training provided to participants in the CPPP in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #4: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Plan and FY 2018-19 Update did not include a description of how stakeholder involvement demonstrates a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on: mental health policy, program planning and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations. (W&I Code section 5848(a); MHSOAC FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg3); MHSOAC FY 2015-16 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (pg 2)).

Recommendation #4: The County must include a description of how stakeholder involvement demonstrates a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on mental health policy, program planning and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #5: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Plan did not include the dates of the 30-day public comment period. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3315(a)(1); MHSOAC FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg 4); MHSOAC FY 2015-16 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (pg 3)).

Recommendation #5: The County must include the dates of the 30-day public comment period in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #6: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Plan did not include a description of the methods used by the County to circulate for the purpose of eliciting public comment of the draft Plan to representatives of the stakeholders' interests and any other interested party who requested a copy. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3315(a)(1)(A)); MHSOAC FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg 4); MHSOAC FY 2015-16 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (pg 3)).

Recommendation #6: The County must include a description of the methods used by the County to circulate for the purpose of eliciting public comment of the draft Plan and Update to representatives of the stakeholders' interests and any other interested party who requested a copy in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #7: Kern County's adopted FY 2017-20 Plan did not include the date of the public hearing held by the local mental health board or commission. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3315(a)(2); MHSOAC FY 2014-2015 through FY 2016-17 MHSA Plan Instructions (pg 4); MHSOAC FY 2015-16 MHSA Annual Update Instructions (pg 3)).

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Recommendation #7: The County must include the dates of the public hearing held by the local mental health board or commission in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.

Finding #8: Kern County did not submit the adopted FY 2017-20 Plan to the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) within 30 days after adoption by the Board of Supervisors, which occurred on November 14, 2017, and submitted to DHCS on December 3, 2019. (W&I Code section 5847(a)).

Recommendation #8: The County must submit each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter to DHCS within 30 days of adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT

Suggested Improvement #1: DHCS recommends the Plan corresponds with the following three year cycle:

- The FY is July 1 through June 30.
- The FY 2020-23 Plan covers the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023 and encompasses the fiscal years:

FY 2020-21 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021),
FY 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022), and

FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023).

- The FY 2023-26 Plan covers the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026
- The FY 2026-29 Plan covers the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

Suggested Improvement #2: The Board of Supervisors meeting minutes, dated November 14, 2017, identifies the adoption of the FY 2017-18 Annual Plan Update. However, the meeting minutes are incorrect. The adoption was for the FY 2017-20 Plan which was verified by the county. DHCS recommends the county review and verify the correct FY and correct Plan or Update being adopted per the meeting minutes; and provide evidence that the subsequent meeting minutes reflect the correction.