

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Performance Review Report  
Monterey County Program Review  
March 27- 29, 2023**

**FINDINGS**

**Finding #1:** Monterey County did not address all the components in their assessment of the county's capacity to implement proposed mental health programs and services in the adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-23 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Plan). (California Code of Regs., Title 9, section 3650(a)(5)). While the Plan did include bilingual proficiency in threshold languages, and identification of possible barriers to implementing the proposed programs/services and the strengths and limitations of the county and service providers that impact their ability to meet the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations, it did not include the percentages of diverse cultural, racial/ethnic and linguistic groups represented among direct service providers, as compared to percentage of the total population needing services and the total population being served.

The county provided a hyperlink to the county's Cultural Competency Plan which does address the specific requirements of the Plan per Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 9, § 3650(a)(5). The Cultural Competency Plan, however, cannot be used in lieu of the Plan or Update requirements.

Specifically, the county's capacity assessment must include all the following for each Plan and subsequent adopted Plan, thereafter:

- a. The strengths and limitations of the county and service providers that impact their ability to meet the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations,
- b. Bilingual proficiency in threshold languages,
- c. Percentages of diverse cultural, racial/ethnic and linguistic groups represented among direct service providers, as compared to percentage of the total population needing services and the total population being served, and
- d. Identification of possible barriers to implementing the proposed programs/services and methods of addressing these barriers.

**Recommendation #1:** The County must include an assessment of its capacity to implement mental health programs and services which addresses and includes all required components in the Plan and each subsequent adopted Plan, thereafter.

**Finding #2:** Monterey County did not explain how each Access and Linkage to Treatment Program will follow up with the referral to support engagement in treatment in the adopted FY 2020-23 Plan or FY 2021-22 Annual Update (Update). (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3755(h)(5)).

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Recommendation #2: The County must explain how individuals, and, as applicable, their parents, caregivers, or other family members, will be linked to County mental health services, a primary care provider, or other mental health treatment; and how the Program will follow up with the referral to support engagement in treatment each subsequent adopted Plan and Update, thereafter.

Finding #3: Monterey County did not enter into a Full Service Partnership agreement with each client, and when appropriate the client's family. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3620(e)). The state defines an agreement as a signed agreement between the parties, and Monterey County's Full Service Partnership agreements did not include signatures.

Recommendation #3: The county shall enter into a Full Service Partnership agreement between their client, and when appropriate the client's family, including a signature; and for each subsequent client and client's family.

**SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS**

Suggested Improvement #1: Monterey County provided data labeled as FY 2021-23 instead of FY 2020-23 in the adopted FY 2020-23 Plan and FY 2021-22 Update. DHCS recommends that the county provide data consistent with the three-year cycle being reviewed in each subsequent adopted Plan and Update thereafter.