

March 19, 2020

***Sent on behalf of: Ryan Quist, PhD Behavioral Health Director, please distribute to your organization accordingly.***

Good Afternoon, Behavioral Health Providers,

There's been a lot going on the last few days and there's likely to be a lot more changes coming up. I wanted to take a few minutes and appreciate how resilient you all are!

This is what Community Behavioral Health is all about! Endless hours trying to figure out the best ways to support our communities and the consumers that need our support. I'm impressed by everyone's commitment to continue to be a resource for the vulnerable and in-need.

I want to share my perspective that what you all do is **Essential** to Sacramento County. We will continue to ensure that Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services are available. If anything, there will be more need over the coming weeks, absolutely not less. We will continue to adapt to this situation.

It is my firm position that you all are essential to making these things happen for our communities. Service providers and support staff are all needed in order to keep things going.

Here is a link to a Sac Bee article with the update on [Sacramento County's Stay at Home order](#).

I'd like to reiterate that in the context of this Stay at Home order, Behavioral Health services are essential services and should continue. The Sac County BHS team has been reaching out to providers to discuss plans for continuing service delivery while maintaining safety for your employees. County operated programs are following the same guidelines.

Where possible, we are recommending services should be telephonic or by video. Where this isn't possible, please screen individuals for symptoms prior to program entry. Attached are the materials we sent out previously. Quality Management also issued a telehealth information notice.

The arrival of COVID-19 will not stop the need for services in the community and this includes service providers, as well as the administrative support necessary to ensure keep your organizations running.

Again, thank you! And, thank you for your continued resilience as we work through the various challenges of this dynamic and changing situation.

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