

Staff Briefing #63

December 22, 2004

ADMHS Takes Next Step to Creating 24/7 Crisis Resources in Santa Maria

ADMHS has taken another significant step toward creating a 24/7 crisis resource in North County. As mentioned in Staff Briefing #60, we are working to develop services to aid community members in crisis after hours and on weekends. Our goal is to create two collocated facilities in the vicinity of Marian Medical Center: a **Crisis Intervention Center**, and a **Crisis Residential Facility**. These steps are consistent with our Department Goals of improved crisis services, integrated care of alcohol/drug and mental health disorders, and comprehensive services for children/youth, adults, and older adults.

ADMHS Crisis Intervention Center:

ADMHS plans to open a 24/7/365 Crisis Intervention Center in Santa Maria as a hub for crisis services. This Center will be operated by ADMHS, and will serve as an entryway to our system around the clock. All ages will be served at the Center. People will refer themselves, be brought there by friends or family members, by service providers, or by law enforcement. The assessment and brief treatment provided there will be fully integrated care for people in crisis due to alcohol/drug problems, serious mental illness/emotional disturbance, or co-occurring disorders. The services to be provided include: assessment & triage; drug testing; stabilization of acute alcohol & drug intoxication; brief treatment (crisis intervention, medication, brief counseling, brief psychotherapy); and referral, linkage, and planned disposition. The target date for opening the center is August 2005. We will learn from this project, and hope to be able to create similar programs in all regions of the County over time.

CBO-operated Crisis Residential Facility:

ADMHS also plans to establish a Crisis Residential Facility for adults who have been seen at the above-described Crisis Intervention Center and need additional crisis care for another 5 to 10 days. We recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for community-based organizations to provide this program on contract to be operating as soon as September 2005. We have long been hearing from our staff, clients, family members, community-based organizations, and our county partners that there is a pressing need for better services for people in crisis, especially during the hours that our clinics are closed. It is our intention to create safe and caring environments where people can be treated, stabilized, and connected with community services. We hope that these new programs will decrease some of the pressure on the Lompoc and Santa Maria Outpatient Clinics in handling crisis situations along with their ongoing client needs. We also seek to offer a truly integrated setting for assisting people with addiction for mental illness. Finally, we expect that these services will help many people to avoid being hospitalized or incarcerated, so that they can recover from the immediate crisis, resume regular treatment, and get on with their lives. We will keep staff updated on the progress of these exciting and challenging new Crisis Services programs.

- James L. Broderick, Ph.D., Director