SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.

Lives

Notes from the President

Moving

Tim Ryder President/CEO

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc. For more than a half a century, so many people helped shape the Center and hundreds of thousands of lives have been positively impacted through the services provided. It took a lot of hard work, commitment and dedication from our board of directors and outstanding staff. Today, we can be proud that the Center continues to pursue its mission of improving the mental health of individuals and families in the Greater San Fernando Valley community. Together, we have built a legacy for our community and each day we do our part to make that community a safer and healthier place for all.

When the Center was founded, it served as an umbrella organization for Federal Community Mental Health Center grant funds for five existing independent community agencies. Those five agencies comprised a consortium, which ultimately created the Center. In March 1976, however, a change in the Center's charter permitted it to develop its own programs and seek funding for additional mental

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A Look Back on 2020 and the Center's 50 Years

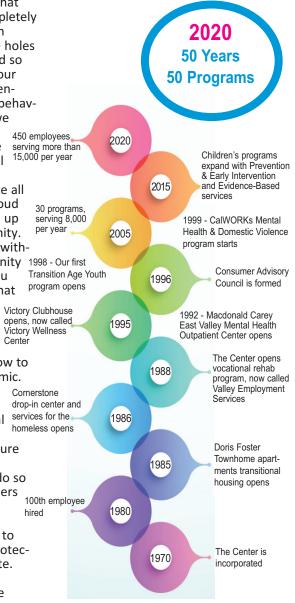
Forward

We all know 2020 was a year that we will not soon forget. It completely disrupted our way of life and in doing so, not only exposed the holes in our system that leave behind so many vulnerable members of our community, but also put tremendous strain on everyone. As a behavioral health service provider, we know only too well that we have just begun to address the needs of our community. It will take time to heal and put our lives back together. Yet, despite all of these challenges, we are proud to say that our Center stepped up and was there for our community. We could not have succeeded without the support of our community 1998 - Our first partners and donors. Thank you for your support and help so that we could continue to deliver truly essential services.

Early in the year, the Center guickly developed a plan on how to deliver services during a pandemic. We reprioritized our strategic goals based on the new reality of working in a primarily virtual services for the environment. Of the utmost importance, we wanted to ensure that behavioral health services remained accessible to all, to do so safely and to address any barriers that existed to access services. Safety remained a priority and the Center worked continually to secure the needed personal protective equipment (PPE) to operate.

Adapting to a virtual workplace Continued on Page 3





The Center didn't just go virtual with its services, it went virtual with special events in 2020 - A Drink and A Laugh Wine and Comedy Night and a Self-Care Webinar...

Crushing COVID-19 A Self-Care Webinar



In September, the Center tapped into its own expertise to provide an informative and interactive webinar on self-care during the pandemic.

There's no doubt that the pandemic is causing increased stress among people of all ages. Bereavement, isolation. loss of income and fear are triggering mental health conditions and exacerbating existing ones. According to the US Census Bureau, more than 45 percent of people reported symptoms of anxiety and depression in December.

Dr. Colin Dias, Medical Director for the Center, provided a presentation of the science behind COVID and discussed its



psychological impact.



L-R: Kim Morrow-Bell, Christina Giles

Center staff Kim Morrow-Bell, LMFT, Program Coordinator for the Bullying Advocacy and Caring For Kids Programs, along with Chrisina Giles, LMFT, Program Manager, CalWORKs program, led the presentation on self-care. Both are certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and provide ongoing training to our clinical staff throughout the Center on traumainformed services and self-care. They offered strategies to help mitigate the stress and even find ways to enjoy life during the pandemic.

A Drink and A Laugh A Virtual Night of Comedy, Food and Wine









L-R: Fritz Coleman, Master Sommelier Michael Jordan, Karen Rontowski, Don McMillar

To mark the Center's 50th anniversary, a fundraiser for the ages offered attendees on November 12 a night off and a safe and fun event where they could relax and enjoy themselves, all while celebrating our momentous 50th anniversary of moving lives forward in our community.

Community partner Pavilions provided an outstanding selection of wine for a wine tasting and a gourmet charcuterie board. Long time Advisory Board Member Fritz Coleman shared his talent for comedy and brought other comedians on board – Karen Rontowski and Don McMillan. The result was a fun night to help raise money for the Center and in doing so offered a very special night of respite, all from the comfort of one's living room.

During the wine tasting portion of our show, veteran restauranteur and Master Sommelier Michael Jordan entertained and guided our attendees through the tasting of three 90+ rated wines and charcuterie. Then, attendees got to sit

Thank you to our sponsors who helped make this program possible:

Signature Sponsors: Congressman Tony Cardenas, Stone Tapert Insurance Services

"Ask the Doctor" Sponsors: Sofia Ianovskaia, Sutton Associates



back, relax and laugh for an hour of comedy. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters for making "A Drink and A Laugh" a great success! Thank you to our sponsors:

VIP Presenting Signature

Sponsor: StoneTapert Insurance Services

Patron Sponsors: All Action Security & Consulting Group, Inc., LDI Color Toolbox and HUB International Ltd.

Friend Sponsor: Sutton Associates

Supporter Circle Sponsors:

AutoAid Auto Repair, Nancy Gussin, Pauline & Drew Pomerance, and Ian & June Hunter

Thank you to the following: Paula Nymann with Pavilions Burbank for making this event possible; Pavilions Sherman Oaks and West Hills for helping with the distribution of the wine and charcuterie kits; Ron DeGuzman with Jackson Family Wines and Regal Wine Co.; and, Nowhere Comedy Club for producing our event.

Raffle Prize Sponsors:

Brent's Deli, Maggiano's

Please visit our web site and watch our complete self-care video at:

https://www.MovingLivesForward. org/crushing-covid-19.

Continued from Page 1

required a considerable investment to furnish staff with the equipment they needed to operate remotely. This meant purchasing hundreds of laptop computers for those staff who did not already have one in addition to other equipment needed that would allow staff to work remotely.

Not all clients were able to access services remotely. Telephone appointments were offered as well as field visits utilizing tablets on loan during the appointments.

Understanding that many of our clients' needs increased significantly during the pandemic, therapy and case management services were adjusted accordingly. Zoom groups to help our clients feel less isolated grew in popularity. The Center's food bank addressed the food insecurity that so many of our clients are experiencing. Thanks to generous donations, more than 800 individuals and families each month received fresh food and meat, canned and packaged goods.

The Center offers nearly 100 transitional beds in various housing arrangements. Housing was converted early on to allow for greater social distancing and one site was converted to house those who needed to guarantine due to COVID-19. All Center housing went on a strict lock down at the beginning of the pandemic. If clients wanted to leave, they would not be able to return to the housing until which time they tested negative and guarantined for a two week period. Within the Center's housing, ongoing COVID-19 testing was conducted and guarantines were instituted as needed. While many housing facilities across the country were struggling with COVID spread, the Center was able to successfully contain any cases that emerged and prevent a situation that could increase the spread of the virus.

The Center's Homeless Access Center, a day-time drop-in site for the homeless, remained open with limited services for safety. Despite all of the challenges, homeless services placed 50 individuals into permanent housing during the year.



Center Names Jorge Vega Center for Hope Honoring 40 year member of our team

The Jorge Vega Center for Hope houses six of the Center's programs and serves individuals who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness and who struggle with substance use issues. Some also have had a history of involvement in the justice system. Collectively, these programs serve approximately 750 individuals at any time. The Center relocated to an expanded site in late 2019 so that these

clients could receive all of their services under one roof.

The building has been named for a member of our staff who sadly passed away in 2020 - Jorge Vega. He was a dear and cherished friend of the Center for nearly 40 years. His caring and compassion for those our Center served was extraordinary.

Jorge was an essential link between management and staff— the one who would always speak truth to power. More important was his unwavering affection and devotion for his clients, most of whom had no other avenues for support. He celebrated clients' successes large and small. He was also a strong advocate for staff. He was a role model and mentor to many, helping them to grow, succeed and help others as well. He had an extraordinary ability to bring calm to a escalated situation in a matter of seconds. He was honest, fearless, extremely loyal to the Center and its clients, and he will be greatly missed.

Jorge worked at the Cornerstone homeless program site for more than 15 years. Prior to that, he was an integral part of our Erickson Residential facility for youth.

He began working at the Center in 1983 as a mental health worker at the Erikson Center, a non-public LAUSD school and residential program. He was promoted many times over the years at Erikson Center, culminating in the position of Manager of Program Support Services in 2000.



When the Erikson Center closed, Jorge became the Client Services Coordinator at Cornerstone. His ability to care for and help others provided joy and fulfillment in his new role.

The memory of Jorge will live on at the Jorge Vega Center for Hope and will inspire all of us to carry on his legacy of care for our clients, their families, and for each other.

With more than a dozen program sites, one size does not fit all, so plans were developed for each program and how it can continue to operate in a safe and practical way. Redesigning work spaces allowed for client engagement, but not at the expense of safety or client privacy. Outside tents in parking lots enabled staff to triage new clients and safely distance staff and client sessions.

Adult outpatient clinics were open for limited face-to-face appointments for those in crises and for those who were unable to access services through telehealth.

Annual Report

New Grants and Program Renewals in 2020

Cultural Trauma and Mental Health Resiliency Project (CTMHR)

The Center received a grant for its second year from Dignity Health to offer Mental Health First Aid training to community organizations, school personnel and other members of our community in the San Fernando Valley. The evidencebased training supports adults who regularly interact with youth and other adults to identify mental distress, address the impacts of trauma, reduce stigma around mental health, and increase resiliency. Six staff at the Center are trained to provide the trainings, now virtually. There is also a bilingual training.

If you would like to sign up for the free training, please send an email to mhfa@sfvcmhc.org or call our administrative office at 818-901-4830 for more information.

Additional Grants:

Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Panorama City Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association NextGen Policy One by One, 4Imprint City Councilmember David Ryu Supervisor Sheila Kuehl United Way COVID-19 Relief Fund Valley Presbyterian Hospital

Financial Statement fiscal year ending 6/30/20

Revenue:	<u>2020</u>	<u>Assets:</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenues		Cash and Equivalents	5,702,104
Government Contracts	43,517,012	Receivables:	
Program Service	47,225	Contracts and Grants	5,724,704
Fee for Service Collections	38,049	Accounts Receivable - Others	129,510
Other Support Revenues		Prepaid Expenses	44,497
Contributions, Gifts and Grants	51,243	Restricted Cash	1,398,550
Dept. of Housing and Urban Grants	362,770	Property and Equipment	3,169,760
Other Revenues	2,600	Other Assets - Deposit	453,903
		Other Assets - Investments	2,011,423
Total Revenues	44,018,8 99	Total Assets	18,634,451
Expenses		Liabilities and Net Assets	
Salaries and Benefits	30,068,594	Accounts Payable/Accrued	10,811,461
Operating Expenses	8,381,87 9	Long-Term Liabilities	1,585,462
Facilities	5,471,381	Total Liabilities	12,396,923
		Net Assets	6,238,528
Total Expenses	43,921,854	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	18,635,451

Total Expenses

Excess of Revenue over Expenses

97,045

10 Year Revenue Comparison 2011 - \$33,671,637 2020 - \$44.018.899

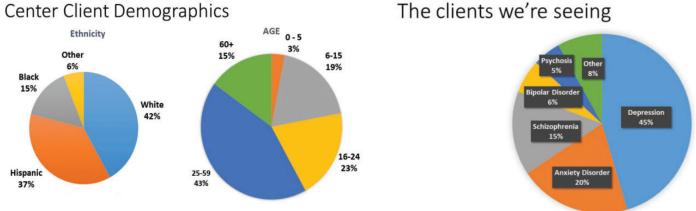
Program Renewals:

Public Health

Access Center, homeless drop-in center with housing and other services offered **Domestic Violence Program** through the Department of Public Health **Client Engagement and Navigation** Services (CENS), assessment and referral for substance use treatment through the Department of

SFVCMHC Primary Funders:

LA County Department of Mental Health LA County Department of Children & **Family Services** California Governor's Office of **Emergency Services** LA County Department of Public Health LA County Department of Health Services State of California Health & Human Services Agency Dept. of Rehabilitation Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority



Thank you to our donors.

You helped to change lives in a year when it's never mattered more!

4imprint, Geoff Abadee, Leslie Abrahams, Vivian Akomah, All Action Security & Consulting Group Inc., Amazon Smile, Art's Delicatessen, Athleta Sherman Oaks, Aurora World, Inc., AutoAid Auto Repair & Collision Care, Otilia Baker, Heather Bartz, David Bateshansky, Baby2Baby, Jason Beck, Benevity Fund, Pamela Berg, Nancy Berry, Julie Berzon, Julian Berzon-Castrillon, Joseph Boxerman, Brent's Deli Corporate Office, Leslie Brown, Business Equipment Systems, C.P. Associates, Ltd., Jennifer Calderon, California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, California Highway Patrol – West Valley, Lauren Camhi, Brian Canedo, Stevens Carey, Deborah Cherry, Annie Cho, Janet Clarke, Robert Clarke, Jeannine Coatsworth, Katharine Coburn, Congressmember Tony Cardenas, Jerome Connolly, Kat Connolly, Council President Nury Martinez, Councilmember David Ryu, Claudia Cunningham, Ann Davis, Rosa Delvalle, Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center, Leslie DiMascio, Doris Dosser, Earthly Body, Giselle Edwards, Phillip Eide, Element Fitness (1800SHIELDS), Entertainment Earth, Inc., Anthony Estrada, Jeffery Fey, James Fitzgerald, Flair Cleaners, Jason Fourier, Gary Futterman, Gale Gable, Reginald Gallardo, Galpin Motors, Nereida Garcia, Get Together Foundation, Lakesha Gilbert, Wendy Gladney Williams, Nancy Gohata, Golf N' Stuff, Maribel Gonzalez, Aysegul Goren, Paula Grace-Watkins, Lucy Gram, Nancy Gussin, Melissa Gutierrez, Blaine Handell, Susan & Christopher Harris, Lynn Hilberg, Andra Hoffman, Jeffrey Horowitz, HUB International Insurance,

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Thank you!

Albertson's, Pavilions and Vons for donating 465 Thanksgiving Meals to our clients in need. Thank you for more than 15 years of support to the Center and our clients.

> Albertsons Northridge Albertsons Reseda Albertsons Tujunga Pavilions Burbank VONS Chatsworth VONS Glendale VONS Granada Hills VONS Mission Hills VONS Reseda

improving the quality and effectiveness of our programs and services through quality improvement activities and the measurement of outcomes. We will continue to examine clients' needs for a broader scope of services; innovative and early intervention techniques; more cost-effective approaches to the management of programs; and, improved cultural competency, diversity, equity and inclusion. We also pledge to stay on the cutting edge of new service technologies and partner with a broader array of community agencies to help ensure the highest quality of services possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Center and allowing us to celebrate with you this very significant 50 year anniversary milestone. We look forward to the next 50 years of service to our community and hope you will continue to support us on this journey!

Continued from Page 1 as partners in identifying and im

health services for the San Fernando Valley.

The Center has since developed into one of the largest behavioral health (mental health and substance use) centers of its kind in Los Angeles, providing approximately \$50 million annually in services to individuals and families in our community. Our 50 programs serve clients of all ages from the 0-5 population to older adults, with a full continuum of services for each age group. The Center also provides services for the homeless including housing assistance, victims of domestic violence, a wellness and client run center as well as vocational services.

Over the years, the philosophy and practice of serving clients has evolved. The Center is proud that individual clients and families are empowered and actively participate as partners in identifying and implementing service goals. Programs focus on prevention and early intervnention, utilize evidence-based practices and work with our clients' strengths.

Further, the Center's Consumer Advisory Council, created in 1996, is comprised of clients from each of the Center's adult programs. This Committee meets monthly to advocate for the needs and wishes of the consumers and it serves as an active and respected component of the overall management of the Center. All of our services facilitate progress towards such important client goals as having a nice place to live, meaningful activity and a trusted social network.

In the future, the board of directors and management staff at the Center pledge to our clients and funders that we will continue to focus on



Each year, the Center's Board of Directors awards scholarships to staff, students and clients. In 2020, the board gave out scholarships totaling \$18,000 to support and promote continuing education.

Client Scholarships:

Seven clients from the Transition Age Youth Outpatient Program received scholarships for their continued education. Scholarship money can be used to help with tuition fees for university or trade schools and other expenses such as textbooks.

Two adult clients were awarded scholarships for their continued education.

Interns/Trainees:

The Center for decades has had a well-known and highly respected student training program for mental health professionals. Students have a unique opportunity to build their skills for a variety of client populations - children, families, adults, homeless, and more. This applies to MFT Trainees, MSW Interns, LPCC Trainees and Ph.D. and Psy.D. practicum and interns.

In 2020, 15 interns, trainees and staff pursuing higher education were awarded scholarships. Congratulations to:

Jennifer Adams Daisy Andrade Channell Rocio Carrillo Larry Clairissa Fawn Hart Sandra Marquez Mike Guerra Juan Mendoza Raquel Pho Yasuri Rivas Elizabeth Rodriguez Roxanne Sarlak Kevin White Kimberly Yzaguirre Sam Woolf

Center Staff in the News



Councilmember Paul Krekorian held a webinar in October on Mental Health Resources During COVID-19. The webinar, which addressed the mental health challenges people are now experiencing, featured a panel of the Center's staff – Katie Phillips, Director of Homeless, Re-entry and Substance Use Services; Reggie Gallardo, Director of Administrative Services; and, Christina Giles, Program Manager, CalWORKs.

Staff offered their expertise and perspective on a variety of issues that have emerged: the anxieties caused by restricted movement, the sadness caused by limited access to friends and family, the fear engendered by the virus itself, and the general unease about how long this will last. They offered solutions and suggestions for coping with these challenges including steps people can take on their own as well as seeking professional guidance and help.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Charlie Rubin, Director of Volunteers, and Reggie Gallardo, Director of Administrative Services, joined a panel discussion with the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies in a October 2020 summit on Mental Health First Aid. Both Charlie and Reggie are certified MHFA Trainers and shared information about our Center's efforts to train those in our community.

In 2019, the Center received a grant through Dignity Health to train additional staff and provide trainings throughout the community. We're pleased to announce that Dignity has provided the Center with a second year grant to continue offering MHFA training.

For information or to sign up for this free training, please email mhfa@sfvcmhc.org.

Retirements

2020 saw the retirement of two long-term staff. We thank them for their many years of service to the Center and wish them a wonderful next chapter in their lives.

Maryam Hodgkinson, Data Entry Operator, 19 years

Angel Sosa, Senior Custodian, 41 years



movinglivesforward.org/newsletter

Letting our staff shine ... The Center celebrated anniversaries, promotions and retirements in 2020. We would like to acknowledge our incredible staff for their years of service, outstanding work and commitment to the mission of the Center.

Promotions:

Assistant Director: Erin Jackman, Adult & Homeless FSP

Quality Assurance Manager: Roman Shain

Program Manager:

Anat Solouki, DHS Juan Carlos Quinteros, Children's RRR

Program Coordinator: Farrah Hussain, Adult FSP Jackelline Saini, Homeless FSP

Mental Health Clinician I, Lead: Sheila Alfaro Santiago, NVYFC

Mental Health Clinician I:

Brian Aspell, Children's RRR Serani Baghdasarian, Older Adult FSP Jeannette Buenrostro, CVYFC MST STOP Deseary Burciaga, NVYFC Outpatient Kimberlie Carrington, MacDonald Carey Katelyn Fike, Older Adult FSP Vanessa Giron, Children's RRR Lesley Gomez Andrade, East Valley YFC Melissa Serrano, TAY Outpatient Celida Vasquez, Calworks DMH

Mental Health Counselor I:

Brenda Vargas, Homeless FSP

Mental Health Counselor II:

Nicole Guese, Homebound OA RRR Maria Sibrian Serrano, Cornerstone

Mental Health Clinican II Team Lead:

Maribel Gonzalez, Homebound OA RRR Emily Miles, Diversion 50 Grace Pendleton, ACCESS Center Jung-Hsien Pi, Cornerstone Jessica Reyes, Central Valley YFC Denise Torres, East Valley YFC Tricia Villagran, Intensive FCCS

Mental Health Clinican II:

Siomara Calixtro, Youth Contact Jonathan Dang, Diversion 50 Felicita Penas, Central Valley YFC Miriam Ruiz Lopez, Central Valley YFC

Additional Positions:

Berenice Huaracha, Staff Assistant I, MacDonald Carey Jessie Medrano, Screening Specialist, Cornerstone Kevin Morgan, Mental Health Worker II, Access Center

Anniversaries:

30 Years:

Rosalyn Young, Program Coordinator, Therapeutic Behavioral Services

20 Years:

Christina Giles, Program Manager, CalWORKs Alan Goco, Office Manager, Wraparound Leticia Gonzalez, Director of Information Systems Jemal Ross, Therapeutic Behavioral Aide Liz Salapong, Director of Human Resources Joe Visokey, Information Technology Manager Suzanne York, Staff Assistant, Hamlin RRR

15 Years:

Michael Enriquez, Program Manager, Central Valley Youth and Family Center Marie Jackson, Staff Asst. I, Cornerstone Howard Mathis, Mental Health Clinician I, Macdonald Carey Jose Meza, Mental Health Counselor II, TAY CAPPS Adriana Mendez, Administration/Safety Coordinator Claudia Ochoa, Mental Health Clinician I, Central Valley Youth and Family Center Erica Sanchez, Mental Health Counselor II, North Valley Youth and Family Center Lester Scott, Staff Asst. I, Hamlin RRR Berta Soto, Staff Asst. I, Central Valley Youth and Family Center Joseph Szabo, Program Coordinator, Turning Point Frank Vargas, Computer Specialist Nicholas Vetter, Mental Health Clinician II, CalWORKs Michelle Wells, Director, Child, Adolescent and TAY Services Ronald Wilson, Mental Health Counselor II, Adult FSP

10 Years:

Teresa Aguilar-Lopez, HR Generalist Joanna Barrientos, Mental Health Counselor II, Intensive FCCS Manar Dahabreh, Program Manager, Victory Wellness Center Mary Maldonado, Purchasing Clerk Ronald Quarterman, Mental Health Counselor II, Turning Point Denise Richman, Mental Health Clinician II, North Valley Youth and Family Center Hilda Rossell, HR Assistant

5 Years:

Felicia Auerbach, Program Manager, AB109 Mercedes Cortez, Quality Assurance Specialist, MIS Richard Fleming, Peer Advocate, Client Run Center Mike Guerra, Mental Health Counselor II, Project 50 Diversion Jessica Hazas, Health Navigator, Client Run Center David Helleskov, Receptionist, Victory Wellness Center Juan Mendoza, Lead Mental Health Clinician II - Central Valley Youth and Family Center Francisca Mercado-Tovar, Office Manager, Victory Wellness Center Raquel Phao, Mental Health Counselor II, Family Preservation Benny Rubio, Certified Chemical Dependency Specialist, AB109 Kelsey Sillerud, Mental Health Clinician II, North Valley Youth and Family Center Denise Torres, Lead Mental Health Clinician II, East Valley Youth and Family Center Patricia Torres, Program Manager, Homebound Older Adult FCCS PEI Danielle Ward, Mental Health Counselor II, Cornerstone

Kevin White, Peer Advocate, Client Run Center

Tim Ryder, President/CEO

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PROGRAMS Access Center/Housing Navigation ACES TRAUMA INFORMED NETWORK OF CARE ADULT FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program **B.J. NIDORF JUVENILE HALL** CALWORKS CES FOR FAMILIES CALWORKS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALWORKS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CAPPS CARING FOR KIDS (CHAT AND BULLYING & SCHOOL VIOLENCE ADVOCACY) CENS CENTER FOR FAMILY LIVING OUTPATIENT & MHSA OUTPATIENT CHILDREN'S IFCCS CHILDREN'S MHSA OUTPATIENT CHILDREN'S FULL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP CLIENT RUN CENTER CORNERSTONE MHSA OUTPATIENT **DHS INTERIM HOUSING DIVERSION 50** EARLY INTERVENTION & DIVERSION PROGRAM (EIDP) FAMILY PRESERVATION HAMLIN MHSA OUTPATIENT HOMEBOUND OLDER ADULT MHSA OUTPATIENT HOMELESS FSP INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES **JUVENILE PROBATION CAMPS** MACDONALD CAREY EAST VALLEY OUTPATIENT & MHSA OUTPATIENT MILESTONES (AB109) MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT TEAM MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM OLDER ADULT FSP & HOUSING FSP PIER PITCHESS/START (IN CUSTODY TREATMENT PROGRAM) SEIPS STEPPING STONES DMC THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES TRANSITION AGE YOUTH FSP TRANSITION AGE YOUTH OUTPATIENT TRANSITION AGE YOUTH MHSA OUTPATIENT TURNING POINT (WRAPAROUND) VALLEY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

VICTORY WELLNESS CENTER YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTERS - CENTRAL, EAST & FAMILY LINKS/NORTH VALLEY YOUTH CONTACT SCHOOL BASED SERVICES MHSA OUTPATIENT

Marci Kass, Editor and Layout Design

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

A Look Back on 2020 Continued from Page 3

Plans were also developed for a slow and safe re-integration to the workplace, which includes piloting some sites.

As a community behavioral health center, it is our belief that we should be addressing any and all issues that our community faces. As a result, a number of committees were established within the Center to address inequities and ensure that our Center becomes a model for the community.

The Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee added another layer to the already formed Cultural Competency (Humility) Committee. We know the pandemic disproportionately impacted communities of color and those in poverty, so plans were developed to address these disparities. The committee was charged with developing goals and actionable steps to identify and address any biases in the Center; becoming better advocates for clients and families (particularly those who have experienced the traumas of racism in their lives); increasing diversity and inclusion in management and our Board of Directors; and, becoming stronger community advocates for racial and social equity.

Client and family needs were also identified as they relate to job loss, increased poverty, food insecurity and social isolation. Trainings for all staff on Racism, Structural Racism, and Intergenerational Racism have become part of ongoing staff training.

We conducted multiple all-staff trainings on trauma-informed care and developed a committee to address those ongoing needs. Staff wellness, issues of secondary and vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout were emphasized.

All told, 2020 was a busy year for the Center, but there's no doubt this pandemic has made us better equiped to address the community's needs going forward.