

PREPARED BY: Carruthers

AGENDA ITEM: Building an Integrated Health Safety Net Within A Community Roundtable

ENCLOSURES: None

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: None

Issue:

How do system changes in the Affordable Care Act create opportunities for coordination among mental and physical health care services providers to create or expand safety net services within a community for vulnerable populations?

Roundtable Participants:

- Patricia Costales, LCSW, Executive Director, The Guidance Center
- Brian D'Andrea, President, Century Villages at Cabrillo
- Mariko Kahn, LMFT, Executive Director, Pacific Asian Counseling Services
- Elisa A. Nicholas, M.D., CEO, The Children's Clinic, Serving Children and Their Families
- David A. Pilon, Ph.D., President and CEO, Mental Health America Los Angeles
- Alan Terwey, Executive Director, Westside Neighborhood Clinic
- Michele Winterstein, Ph.D., Executive Director, For The Child

Background:

There is a strategic alliance being investigated among seven Long Beach nonprofit mental/behavioral health, primary care and supportive housing providers to create a health/mental health safety net system across age groups. This grew out of discussions among the seven CEOs/executive directors around major service and system wide changes. Four organizations provide mental health services to children, youth or adults with serious emotional disturbances or mental illness; two are primary care providers (a Federally Qualified Health Center and FQHC look-alike); and one manages a supportive housing collaborative.

Because the providers focus on low-income and underserved individuals, they have come together to investigate a mental health-physical health safety net for low-income people that spans across all age groups in Long Beach. They are seeking ways to streamline and structure partnerships around a number of possible goals and are addressing challenges, including: the multiple enrollment problem as individuals and families are served by more than one organization; the integration of primary and behavioral/mental health services and inclusion of permanent supportive housing; care coordination and navigation; and the expansion of community health workers or para-professional level workers to serve as navigators/care coordinators.