

Better Health for All*County of Santa Clara Health System*

2325 Enborg Lane, Suite 320

San Jose, California 95128

Phone: (408) 885-6868

Fax: (408) 885-4051

DATE: 10/27/2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: René G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive/Director, SCVHHS
Sherri Terao, Director of Behavioral Health Services

SUBJECT: Suicide Prevention Data and Public Campaign During COVID-19 Pandemic

DocuSigned by:

René G. Santiago

DocuSigned by:

Sherri Terao

A968A3B7E216400...

DAB699BA2A1544D...

During the Health and Hospital Committee meeting on October 14, 2020, Supervisor Ellenberg requested the Behavioral Health Services Department (BHSD) to provide an off-agenda report related to the expansion of staff or contracts to support suicide data analysis since the beginning of the pandemic and a suicide prevention outreach campaign for the duration of the public health emergency.

During the Health and Hospital Committee meeting on October 14, 2020, BHSD reported that data provided in the Annual Suicide Prevention Report (LF ID 103117) contained data from the prior fiscal year, and this was due in part to delays in data acquisition needed to complete the report. BHSD works with the Public Health Department (PHD) to gather and analyze suicide attempt and ideation data, as well as program evaluation data from the state. Due to COVID-19, PHD has been unable to support BHSD with these data efforts. In the interest of continuing this work, BHSD has identified internal resources within the newly developed Analytics and Reporting Division in BHSD to assist with the analysis of this data. Upon further inquiry with the Medical Examiner Coroner's Office, Dr. Michelle Jordan also shared that their office has been working with the Board of Supervisors on the development of a data dashboard. This dashboard will be refreshed daily and will include data elements, including but not limited to: age, gender, race/ethnicity, and death location. Dr. Jordan noted that some Medical Examiner cases could take weeks or months to close, so an additional resource would not necessarily assist with expediting this aspect of data collection.

Regarding a suicide prevention outreach campaign, the Suicide Prevention Oversight Committee (SPOC) Communications Workgroup has been working on a public campaign. To date, the (SPOC) Communications Workgroup has completed focus group research for this campaign and a tentative timeframe is set to launch the campaign by the end of the calendar year.

cc: Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board
Chief Board Aides
Debbie Dills-Thompson, OBA
Agenda Review Administrator