



County of San Diego

KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MAIL STOP P-531
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-3806
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

LUKE BERGMANN, PhD.
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Luke Bergmann, Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) DIRECTOR'S REPORT – November 2024

EDGEMOOR DISTINCT PART SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (EDGEMOOR) UPDATES

Status Updates/Accomplishments/Announcements

Edgemoor has again been recognized as one of the top nursing homes in the state by Newsweek magazine. Edgemoor was ranked as the No. 2 facility in California for Newsweek's America's Best Nursing Homes 2025, continuing the tradition of excellence by being in the top three facilities for six consecutive years.

Edgemoor remains an overall five-star facility as reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Care Compare site for nursing homes. Achieving five out of five stars in all four rating categories (Overall Quality, Health Inspection, Quality Measures, Staffing and Registered Nurse (RN) Staffing).

COVID-19 Update

Weekly requirements to report metrics related to vaccinations, positive cases, and other COVID-19 related metrics to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) remain in place. Facility staff and contractors are asked to mask when providing direct patient care and interactions of less than six feet for greater than 15 minutes. Visitors are not required to mask although it is strongly encouraged. On February 28, 2024, the CDC released a new recommendation that adults 65 years and older receive an additional dose of the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine four months after their previous 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Edgemoor continues to follow all other requirements of various local, state, and federal health organizations.

Facility Improvements

Currently, the Edgemoor Psychiatric Acute Inpatient Unit plans are under review with the Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Demolition is projected to begin in Quarter 2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. Built into the existing Edgemoor floor plan, the inpatient unit will add 12 new psychiatric acute inpatient beds. Licensure of this new acute unit will provide continuity of care and access for patients from the skilled nursing facility for stabilization in addition to service planned admissions from the community. Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) will be licensed as a Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facility (DP SNF) of the new unit and will no longer be licensed under the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital's license.

Other upcoming facility projects include electric vehicle charging stations, upgraded security cameras, redesigned front entrance door, new badge readers, work to the cooling systems, and parking lot resurfacing.

Edgemoor Reimbursement Rates

The current Medi-Cal per diem rate increased from \$724.44 to \$741.93, retroactively to August 1, 2023. This rate will be in effect up until December 31, 2024. Effective July 1, 2024, the private pay rate increased from \$908 to \$1,038 per patient. Although, Edgemoor has a very small amount, if any, private pay residents.

Due to the State's implementation of CalAIM, effective January 1, 2024, available Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans in San Diego County transitioned from six providers to four. Available providers are Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, Community Health Group Foundation (CHG), Molina Healthcare of California, and Kaiser Permanente. Please note that the option for Kaiser Permanente is only available to individuals who meet specific criteria. The majority of residents, with one exception, are enrolled in either Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, Community Health Group Foundation (CHG), of Molina Healthcare of California.”

Resident Occupancy/Census

Edgemoor's fourth quarter resident census totaled 14,038 days with an average daily census of 154.3 residents. Occupancy remains steady with the FY 2024-25 average being 96% of available beds, meaning that nearly all 160 available beds are filled. 32 beds are unavailable due to upcoming Acute Inpatient Unit construction.

Information Technology Updates at Edgemoor

Several IT projects are underway which include the following:

Electronic Health Record (EHR) – Edgemoor is in the planning phase for a new Electronic Health Record (EHR). WellSky, formerly known as Net Solutions, is Edgemoor's current EHR. Prime Rx, a new pharmacy software solution, will launch on December 9, 2024.

- *Replacement Nurse Call System* – Construction and wire installation began on March 13, 2023. The first phase of the project, a fully functional system excluding mobile devices, went live in June 2024. By Quarter 2, FY 2024-25 mobile devices should be integrated into the call system. TRL presented a support plan that is being considered.
- *NetSolutions Enhancements* – Due to WellSky purchasing NetSolutions, the current agreement is being amended to include e-Assignment, Physician Orders entry, and E-prescribe. The goal is to interface with new pharmacy software. However, it was recently discovered that this requirement was not met. The contract template is being revised and this will include eAssignments. The contract for Physician's Order entry and ePrescribing are currently in place.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL (SDCPH) UPDATES

Clinical Care Planning

On December 5, 2023, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution to implement Senate Bill (SB) 43 in January 2025. SDCPH has been diligently working with other BHS leadership and community stakeholders in preparing for the implementation of SB 43 which makes changes to the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) by expanding the definition of “gravely disabled” to include:

- People with a mental health disorder, a severe substance use disorder, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe substance use disorder; and
- People who are unable to provide for their basic needs for food OR clothing OR shelter OR access to necessary medical care OR personal safety.

SDCPH is currently preparing for The Joint Commission (TJC) triennial survey for licensure through hosting a mock survey with survey consultants, hosting survey readiness meetings with Hospital leadership, and receiving support from various Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and BHS leadership such as Angi Mitchell, Chief Nursing Officer, Dr. Emily Do, Pharmacy Director, Summer Leal, Interim Chief, Department Operations, and Darren Kasai, Chief, Department Operations-Edgemoor. SDCPH is grateful for the engagement and leadership support to ensure safe patient care.

Clinical Programming

The Social Work Team joined forces with the Recreation Therapy Team to become the Clinical Programming Department effective March 2024. The Hospital continues to work with the staff and the leadership team on delivering clinical services that are focused on evidenced-based practices and individualized clinical care. This includes adding groups led by the clinical pharmacists, psychiatrists, and nursing staff to ensure robust programming is offered to the patients receiving care at SDCPH.

In November 2024, the SDCPH will onboard a new Behavioral Health Program Coordinator (BHPC) to assist with the ongoing efforts around clinical care for acute and non-acute patients. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of San Diego was awarded a contract to continue substance use and peer related services within SDCPH effective October 1, 2024. With the expansion of SB 43, this service will be vital to the linkage between substance use resources and continuity of care.

Opportunities for Connections

SDCPH continues to collaborate with law enforcement leadership across the county to ensure that safe and orderly transports occur. This collaboration works to ensure that individuals triaged in the field arrive at the appropriate level of care based on the needs of the consumer. Additionally, SDCPH has been collaborating with law enforcement partners to prepare for the implementation of SB 43.

BHS SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

25th Annual Consumer Recognition Luncheon

On October 11, 2024, the City of San Diego's Therapeutic Recreation Services hosted the 25th annual Consumer Recognition Luncheon event to honor individuals on their mental health journeys. Promoting mental health awareness, the luncheon featured an array of community resources, guest speakers, activities, and food. Open to all system of care clients, the luncheon celebrated the achievements of fellow mental health services consumers.

Members of the BHS Communication and Engagement Team Recognized with 2024 Social Impact Government Agency of the Year Award

On October 23, 2024, CAUSE San Diego hosted the 26th Annual Cause Conference to convene the business, nonprofit, education, and government sectors with a shared purpose of activating social change through collective impact. During the conference, CAUSE San Diego recognized BHS' *It's Up to Us* team from the department's Communication & Engagement Unit as the 2024 Social Impact Government Agency of the Year Awardee. The Social Impact Award honors BHS' commitment to addressing mental health and substance use challenges in San Diego County through its public messaging efforts. In partnership with Rescue Agency, BHS designs and executes the *It's Up to Us* campaign to raise awareness about the importance of mental health support seeking and fosters meaningful change within society, as signified by the Social Impact Award.

The *It's Up to Us* campaigns are designed to normalize conversations about mental health and substance use while also promoting community dialogue, prevention, and access to behavioral health resources. BHS and Rescue Agency aim to understand the unique behavioral health needs of diverse communities to execute tailored campaigns that authentically resonate with audiences. The *It's Up to Us* campaign utilizes a multifaceted approach to deliver messages across a variety of media platforms for advertisement placements including, traditional and streaming television and radio, billboards, transit shelters, bus and trolley wraps and other out-of-home materials, written materials, social media sites,

and other digital marketing tools. To date, 12 separate public messaging campaigns have run across media platforms to encourage help-seeking, support adult mental health, raise awareness about the dangers of illicit fentanyl among youth and parents, and promote mobile crisis response services and the availability of naloxone to the general public. Cumulatively, the campaigns received approximately 784 million impressions and achieved nearly 71 million exploratory engagements. Additional public messaging campaigns to raise awareness for youth mental health, youth suicide prevention, crisis response services, and opioid overdoses are under development and scheduled to be released later this fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LUKE BERGMANN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D., Director
Behavioral Health Services

c: Kimberly Giardina, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Aurora Kiviat Nudd, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer
Cecily Thornton-Stearns, Assistant Director and Chief Program Officer
Nadia Privara Brahms, Assistant Director, Chief Strategy and Finance Officer