

MENTAL HEALTH

AND THE COURTS



MENTAL HEALTH – A LOCAL STORY

- Union Tribune August 16, 2021 – Article about Paige Hilken, a young minister's 28-year-old wife, mother of 5, who suddenly succumbs to anxiety and depression resulting in her suicide. (North Coast Church – Vista)
- The stigma of mental illness
- The complexity of mental illness and particularly suicide in the faith community context
- How anyone can be affected

THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN AMERICA

- **19.1%** of American adults experienced mental illness in 2018 (47.6 million). This represents **1 in 5 adults**.
- **4.6%** of American adults experienced **serious** mental illness in 2018 (11.4 million). This represents **1 in 25 adults**.
- 9.2 million American adults had **both** a substance use disorder and a comorbid mental illness.
- Nearly 40% of those with **serious** mental illness received no treatment in 2018

MENTAL HEALTH IN SAN DIEGO

- 37,866 calls to law enforcement involving a psychiatric crisis (2019)
- 38,497 calls (2020)

- Source – Sandag / totals for San Diego region

OUR MISSING HOSPITAL BEDS

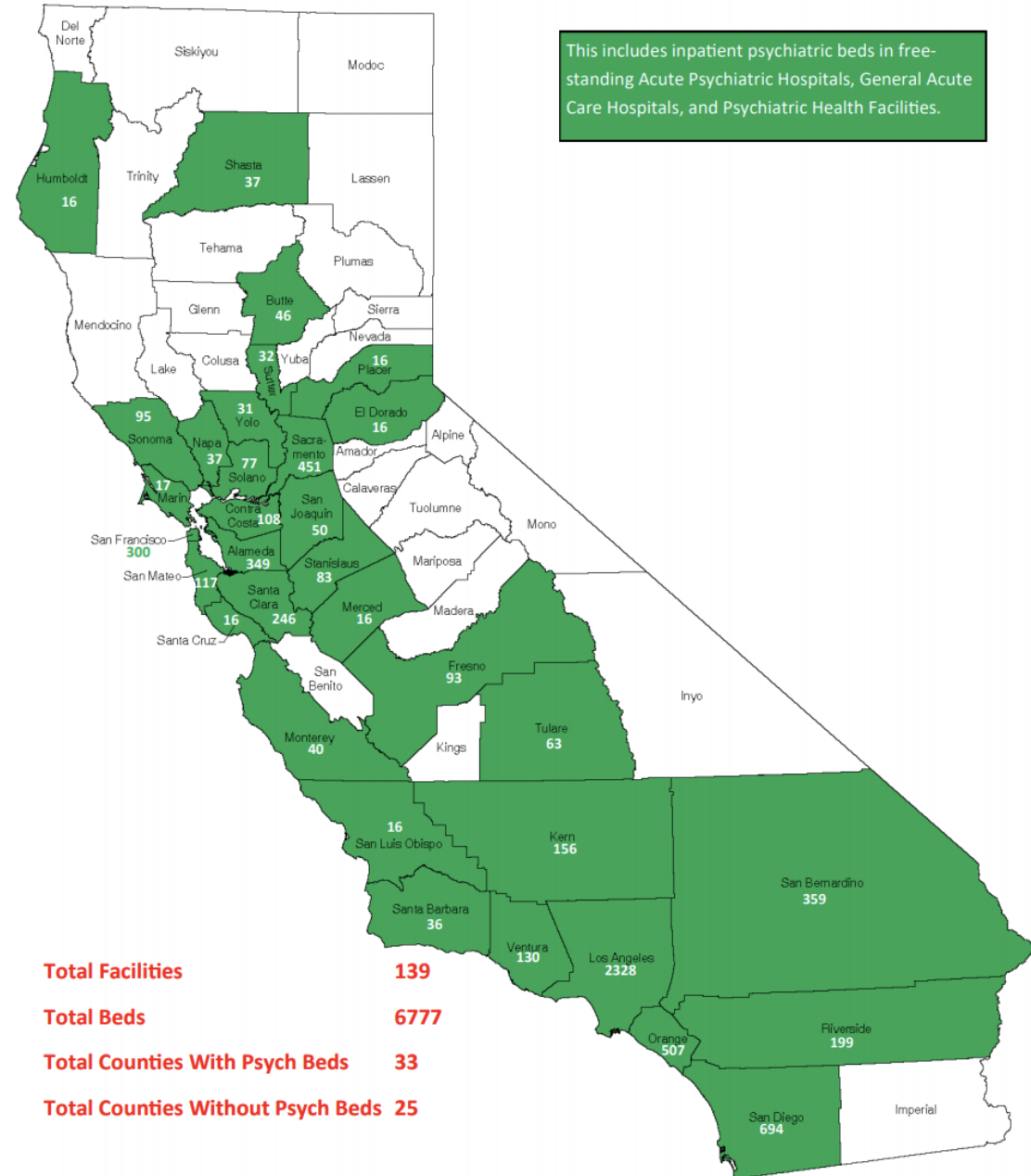
- To reduce state spending, beginning in the 1960s, policymakers in California and elsewhere began reducing the use of state hospitals to treat people with mental illness – a policy known as “**deinstitutionalization**”
- In 1955, California had over **37,000** total psychiatric hospital beds
- By 2017, we had **only 6,777** total beds
- California has only **1 psych bed for every 5834 people**
- San Diego County has only 480 adult psych beds for a population of 3,337,685
- Experts estimate a need for a *minimum* of 1 public psychiatric bed for every 2000 people
- Currently, many people who really need a hospital bed are being put in a prison bed instead.

MANY
COUNTIES
HAVE ZERO
PSYCHIATRIC
BEDS &
NONE HAVE
ENOUGH.

THIS IS THE
CASE
NATIONWIDE.

Acute Care Inpatient Psychiatric Bed Distribution

Counties with Psychiatric Inpatient Beds



PRISONS: AMERICA'S NEW MENTAL HOSPITALS

- There are now more than three times more seriously mentally ill persons in jails and prisons than in hospitals.
- Almost one third (29%) of people incarcerated at the state level in California receive mental health treatment
- 30% of people in LA county jails receive mental health treatment
- These findings are consistent with studies reporting that 40% of individuals with serious mental illnesses have been in jail or prison at some time in their lives

HOW PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES COME TO THE COURTS

- Criminal Justice System
 - Contact with law enforcement
 - PERT team
 - Mobile Crisis Response Team – only if unsuccessful in hospitalization or other resources
- Civil Courts
 - No criminal case – but a PC 5150 hold
 - Voluntary hospitalizations

CRIMINAL COURTS

- Criminal cases where individuals are defendants
- PC 1368 proceedings when defendant is not competent
- Behavioral Health Court Program
- Diversion Programs

CIVIL COURTS

- Conservatorships
- Writs
- Medication Hearings
- Firearms hearings

OUT IN THE FIELD

- PERT Team
- Mobile Crisis Response Team

FIRST CONTACT – MCRT – BRE LANE

- Mobile Crises Response Unit
- Why was this started?
- How to access
- What to expect

BACK IN THE COURTROOM – DTU – CHRISTINA LACROIX

- What is the DTU – Defense Transition Unit
- What services are available to Defendants?
- How does it work?

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT – JUDGE DAVIS

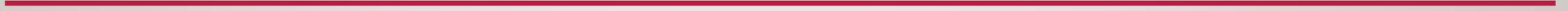
- What is it?
- How does it work?

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING





EXTRA CONTENT BELOW – DO NOT USE



LPS CONSERVATORSHIPS

- How do you start a conservatorship? Referral from hospital based upon “grave disability” or court referral at conclusion of competency process.
- After referral – investigation by Office of the Public Conservator
- What does a conservator do?
 - Help sign up for Medicare, SSI, other resources
 - Help with placement, treatment, payees
 - Case worker assigned and a checks in at least one time per month

LAURA'S LAW

- How to get people help that do not qualify for a conservatorship or are not “gravely disabled”
- Referrals from ANYONE (family, clergy, courts, hospitals, IHOT)
- What is IHOT?
- What does Laura's Law do? Through County Behavioral Health – Assisted Outpatient Treatment