

Agency Director's Report for the Commission on Behavioral Health (Adult)

Agency: Sierra Regional Center

Representative: Julian Montoya

Date: 9/5/23

Reporting Period: 05/31/2023

Agency Caseloads/Waiting Lists

1. Program: TCM	Case Load: 1,578	Wait List: 0
2. Program: SLA	Case Load: 720	Wait List: 82
3. Program: JDT	Case Load: 199	Wait List: 48
4. Program: Family Support	Case Load: 153	Wait List: 0
5. Program: Respite	Case Load: 151	Wait List: 0
6. Program: FPP	Case Load: 63	Wait List: 0
7. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:
8. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:
9. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:
10. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:
11. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:
12. Program:	Case Load:	Wait List:

Staffing

Percentage of Positions Vacant: 12%

Staffing Difficulties (Give a brief description):

SRC Total Positions- 83, Positions Filled-73

Program Highlight/Difficulties and Summary

Program Difficulties:

SRC has identified the need to work with JDT providers to increase capacity for supported employment in our community. The CMS final ruling (starting in March, 2023) will require DS to work with our JDT providers in re-vamping their programs to be more community based (as opposed to facility based). Our current JDT structure (facility based) does limit the number of people they can serve – our goal is to move toward a more community-based service system. We are also experiencing a shortage of JDT providers who can serve some of our more challenging behavior individuals and we have since started a waitlist. (2) DS providers express concern about the current provider rate (there was a rate increase during this last legislative session, however they still feel that it is not enough to remain competitive) and report that it is impacting their ability to recruit qualified employees. The 24-hour SLA providers report a high turnover rate which impacts consistency of supports offered to individuals served. (3) DS is experiencing a major shift in rental increase for homes and apartments in the Washoe County area. As major companies such as Tesla and Switch come into the area with an increased need for a labor force, prices have increased making it difficult to find homes that are aligned with what DS can support.

Program Changes and/or Successes:

SRC continues to operate a pilot program with our sister agency – Lake's Crossing. We have opened an ISLA home that will have specialized training for staff to work with 2 individuals that are co-served by SRC and Lake's Crossing as part of the conditional release program. The team still meets frequently to monitor the progress of the home with the goal of integration into the community when conditional release has been fulfilled.

SRC has also started to open ISLA homes for the kids we serve. We currently have two homes opened and our division is in the process of a major overhaul in how we can accommodate our children's services for kids with highly behavioral needs that can no longer reside in specialized foster care nor their natural home. Most of these children in the past were being sent out of state but ADSD is trying to change services to keep our children in state with a collaboration of many entities to include state and county partners.

Summary Statement to the Commission:

Developmental Services within ADSD has offered and provided much need additional funds for our providers during these last two years. Unfortunately, DS is not seeing an increase in providers accepting more individuals for service. DS is concerned about this development and is working with providers to determine what is still happening in regards to be able to hire more staff as the money provided was to increase wages for direct support staff.