



Contact Robb Layne
Telephone 916-556-3477
Email rlayne@cbhda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2019

COUNTY INNOVATION PLANS UNLOCK OVER \$22 MILLION FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Sacramento, CA– At the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) meeting on February 28th, Nevada, Imperial, and San Bernardino Counties presented their plans to develop three Innovation Projects that work to build collaborations within their counties. Over \$22 million was granted to these counties to establish new programs in their communities.

Nevada County will implement the “**Homeless Outreach and Medical Engagement (HOME) Team**”, a strategic team consisting of a nurse, a peer specialist and a personal services coordinator designed to reduce the population of individuals considered to be chronically unsheltered. The HOME team will connect those in need to medical care and behavioral health care, while offering low-barrier housing units.

Imperial County can now begin work on the “**Positive Engagement Teams (PET)**” project. The PET project will utilize service animals as part of its outreach and engagement to establish an increased level of trust and access to services, and to reduce stigma.

San Bernardino County will introduce “**Innovative Remote Onsite Assistance Delivery (InnROADS)**” to its community. This program will utilize engagement and mobile treatment teams to reach the unsheltered homeless population, and offer counseling, medication and basic health screenings.

“We applaud these counties for the hard work and dedication they show for their local planning process,” said Tom Renfree, Interim Executive Director at CBHDA. “CBHDA stands with these innovation programs and supports these steps forward to reach our underserved communities.”

The County Behavioral Health Directors Association is a statewide non-profit association that represents all 58 county behavioral health directors and 2 city mental health programs (Berkeley and Tri-City) which is dedicated to advocating for public policy and services on behalf of people who are living with substance use disorders and mental illness.

###