



# Health and Human Services Agency Advisory Board Update



Karen Oslund, Advisory Board Chairperson

November 12, 2019  
1:30 P.M.



# Overview

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Advisory Board Mission
- ▶ Strengths and Progress
- ▶ Weaknesses and Challenges
- ▶ Opportunities

# Introductions

- ▶ History and Purpose
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Our Experience
- ▶ Professional Affiliations

# Advisory Board Mission



Formed in September 2009 as part of the integration of departments creating the Health & Human Services Agency, Mendocino County's HHSa Advisory Board supports and advises the HHSa Director and Board of Supervisors in order to:

- ▶ Promote health and wellness
- ▶ Promote individual and community responsibility for health
- ▶ Reduce environmental health hazards
- ▶ Facilitate coordination and integration of community services
- ▶ Empower individuals and families to live healthy, safe and sustainable lives
- ▶ Educate the community on current and emerging health & social service issues

# Strengths and Progress

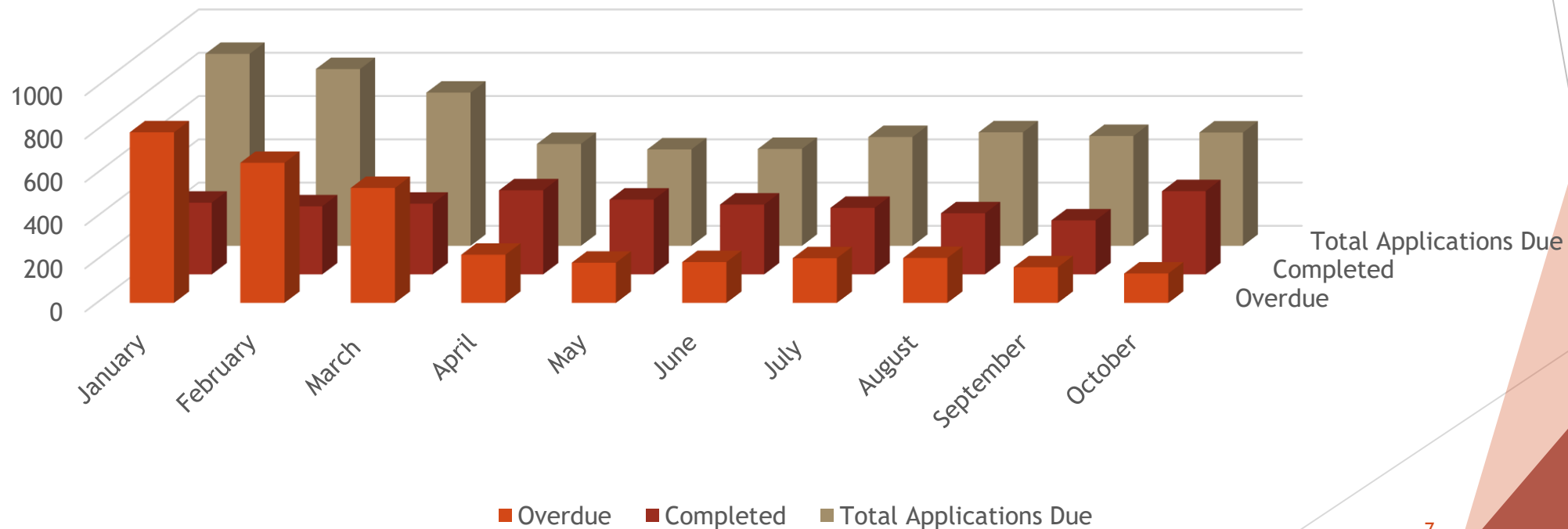
- ▶ Recruitment and Retention
- ▶ Medi-Cal Eligibility Application Backlog
- ▶ Census 2020
- ▶ Fire Recovery Plan
- ▶ Homelessness and Housing
- ▶ Whole Person Care
- ▶ Safe Rx & Syringe Disposal
- ▶ Tobacco Prevention and Marijuana Awareness
- ▶ Public Health Accreditation
- ▶ Healthy Mendocino
- ▶ Community Health Needs Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan

# Employment and Family Assistance Service (EFAS)

- ▶ EFAS includes eligibility for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, & CalWORKS
- ▶ There are > 41,500 Medi-Cal enrollees in Mendocino County
- ▶ Tracking challenges
- ▶ Improvement Updates
- ▶ Support to Community
- ▶ Increased Awareness of Navigating the System

# 2019 Medi-Cal Applications

## Overdue Applications



# Recruitment and Retention

- ▶ Letter of Support to Reclassify Positions
- ▶ Support of Wage Increases
- ▶ Regular Reports
  - ▶ Retention
  - ▶ Vacancies
  - ▶ Recruitment

“HIRING THE BEST  
IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT  
TASK.” - STEVE JOBS



# Census 2020

- ▶ Support community-wide participation
- ▶ Increase awareness and focus supports
- ▶ Link community engagement and recruitment strategies

# Fire Recovery

- ▶ Kept up-to-date on recovery efforts so members can share with their constituents
- ▶ Provided Input to County Recovery Project Plan
- ▶ Provided support and open communication to collaborate on recovery efforts

# Homelessness and Housing

- ▶ Support for Approval of Willow Terrace and Other Permanent Supportive Housing Models
- ▶ Provided Input to No Place Like Home Plan
- ▶ Support for Building Bridges
- ▶ Ongoing Housing Updates to Address Barriers and Challenges
- ▶ Improving Coordination Strategies Through the Whole Person Care Pilot Program

# Safe Rx and Syringe Disposal Strategies

- ▶ Formed HHSA Advisory Board Ad Hoc Committee to address needle disposal and exchange needs
  - ▶ Changes in FQHC rules and lack of available resources
  - ▶ Committed to gathering information and finding solutions
- ▶ Endorsed Draft Plan that was used to secure services in 2019

# Tobacco Prevention & Marijuana Awareness

- ▶ Input into the County's Tobacco Retail License Ordinance to modernize and improve goals
- ▶ Need a consistent regional approach and incorporation of youth cannabis prevention
- ▶ Regional approach must include Tribal participation and partnership



# Healthy Mendocino

- ▶ Started as an initiative of the Advisory Board
- ▶ Provides the collaborative platform for the County's Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan
- ▶ The Advisory Board is serving as the Governing Board for Public Health Accreditation

# Weaknesses and Challenges

- ▶ Geographic and Economic Concerns
  - Significant Poverty Rate
  - Ruralness
- ▶ Vacancy Rate for HHSA
  - Encourage Competitive Wage Structure
  - Other Recruitment & Retention Strategies
- ▶ Professional Services Shortages
  - Physicians and other Health Care Providers
  - Workforce Housing Shortage



3900 Square Miles  
but only  
88,000 people

# Concerns on the Horizon

- ▶ Natural Disasters, Epidemics & Pandemics
  - Persistent issue consistently diverting resources
- ▶ Natural “boom and bust” cycle of the economy
  - Impact to non-profits that rely on donations
  - Prepare to be able to be sustainable to ensure progress is not wiped out by economic setback

# Opportunities

- ▶ Building on Successful Innovative Projects
  - Whole Person Care
  - Caring Kitchen Project
  - Ukiah Valley Trails and focus on the build environment
- ▶ Substance Use Disorder Treatment Expansion of Services
- ▶ Housing & Homelessness
  - Build on successful projects such as Willow Terrace
  - Track progress and Build on Successes
  - Year round in-land shelter
  - Get more involved in Policy development and Legislative strategies



# Conclusion

- ▶ The HHSA Advisory Board Exists to Support the County Board of Supervisors
- ▶ Use the Advisory Board and its Members as a Resource

*A strong Health and Human Services Agency, in partnership with the strong network of nonprofit social service providers, makes the health and wellness of our people a priority*





Thank you!