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SUCCESSFUL START FOR CHILDREN'S CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Last year Stanislaus County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services began a one year pilot Crisis Intervention Program to focus on the needs of local children. The first year results of the program have far exceeded department expectations.

There were 192 children and youth averted from psychiatric hospitalization during the first year. On average, 16 children were seen monthly at the Children's Crisis Intervention Program, and only 13 of the 192 total seen in the year required hospitalization within six months after receiving services. 179 children were successfully averted from subsequent hospitalization, a 93.2% success rate in the first year of the Crisis Intervention Program.

The success of this program has had a positive economic impact on the county budget. Had the 179 children and youth who successfully utilized services prevention/intervention services been hospitalized instead, it is estimated to have cost the county \$1.2 million dollars (based on the average 5-6 day length of stay for children's psychiatric hospitalization).

"We are very pleased to see such positive results from the initial launch of this program," said Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Director, Rick DeGette. "It's encouraging to know that we are helping children stay healthy with preventative services and realizing enormous cost savings as well."

Stanislaus County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provides integrated mental health services to adults and older adults with a serious mental illness and to children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance. The department also provides outpatient and residential alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services and serves as Stanislaus County's Public Guardian.

More information at stancounty.com/bhrs

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