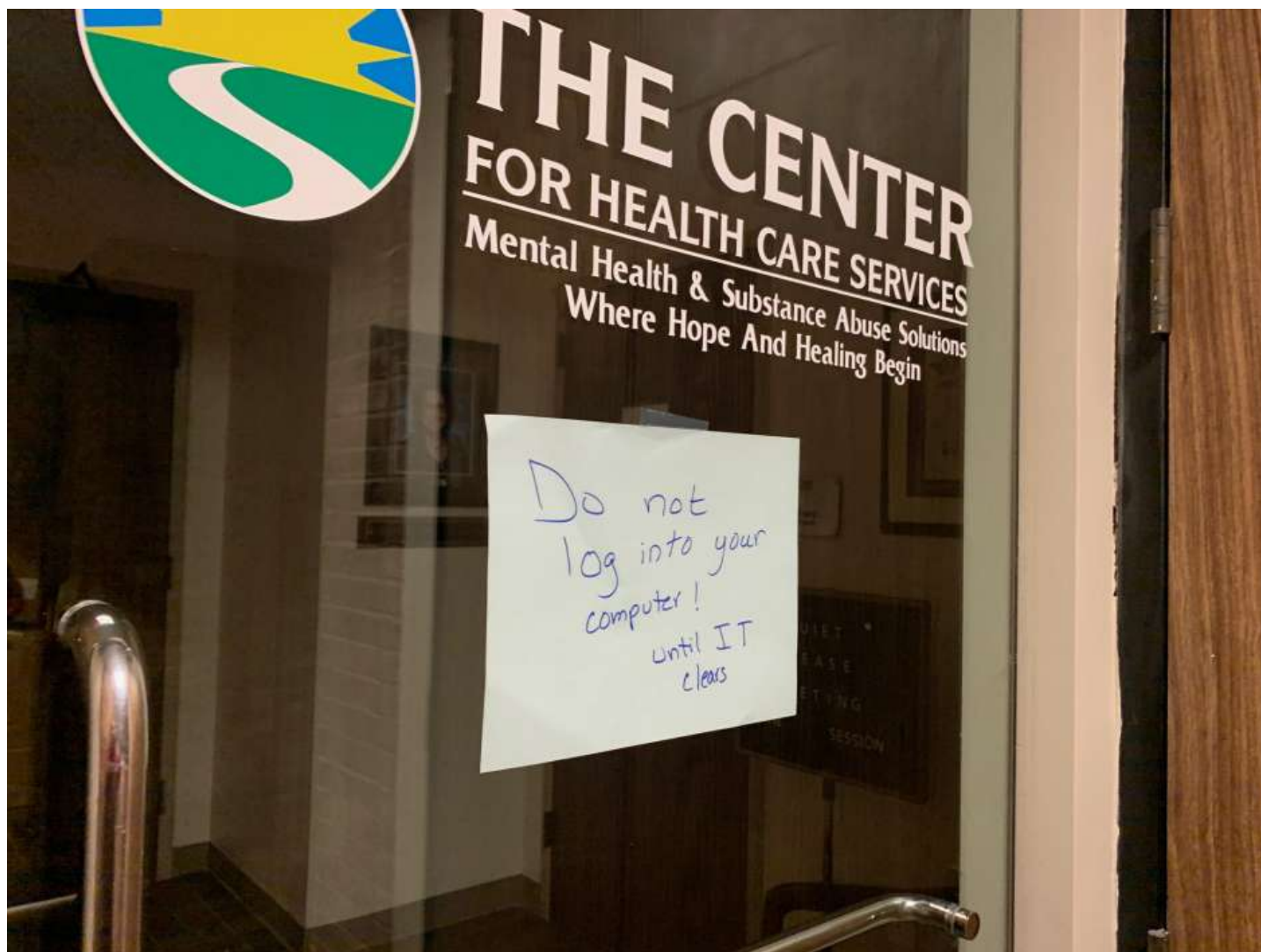


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mental health provider

Laura Garcia

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The Center for Health Care Services experienced a cyber attack that shut down computer systems at clinics over the holiday week. Several notices were posted around the center's main office at 6800 Park Ten Boulevard warning employees to take laptop computers to the IT department.

Photo: Laura Garcia /Staff

A cyber attack has shut down the computer network at the Center for Health Care Services, Bexar County's largest provider of mental health and substance abuse services.

CEO Jelynn LeBlanc Burley confirmed Tuesday that the company's system was included in a larger-scale cyber attack last week that's under investigation by federal law enforcement agencies.

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Hospitals, school districts, government agencies and businesses are increasingly falling victim to ransomware, which the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) describes as an insidious type of malware that encrypts or locks up valuable digital files. The perpetrators demand a ransom to release the files.

Burley said she doesn't know whether the attacker demanded a ransom from the center. Because it's part of a larger attack, she added, the FBI and the Secret Service are investigating.

She said federal officials called the center last week about the attack, and that the center's techs isolated the threat to a single computer server. Burley decided to shut down the center's entire computer system as a precaution. Administrators expect it will be back up by Thursday.

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"Now we're in the process of bringing back our system," she said. "We started at our larger clinics, and we're bringing it up slowly and carefully to ensure that our security is still intact."

CHCS operates several locations in San Antonio, including a walk-in mental health clinic and mobile crisis outreach team, substance abuse recovery facilities and programs at the homeless services campus Haven for Hope.

There were several notices posted around the center's main office at 6800 Park Ten Boulevard warning employees to take laptop computers to the IT department.

Federal law enforcement officials could not be reached Tuesday.

Laura Garcia covers the health care industry in the San Antonio and Bexar County area. Read her stories and more local coverage on our [free site](#), [mySA.com](#), and on our [subscriber site](#), [ExpressNews.com](#). / laura.garcia@express-news.net / Twitter: [@Reporter_Laura](#)