February 6, 2025
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
Janice Luna Reynoso - District 1
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden, Member-At-Large – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Minola Clark Manson – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Donald Romo - District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
Bill Stewart – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Amanda Berry, Member-At-Large – District 4
Aaron Byzak – District 5

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE
Joel San Juan – District 1

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator, BHS
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Robin Sales at 2:32PM in person and via Zoom. Chair Robin Sales introduced three (3) new BHAB members: Minola Clark Manson, Kathy Watkins, and Robert Alm.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Judith Yates, seconded by Julie Hayden, BHAB approved the meeting minutes from December 5, 2024.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person Comments:

- Steve Dilly, Executive Director of Veteran's Art Project in Vista, CA commented to raise awareness of the Veteran's Art Project which has offered free art classes since 2009 for veterans, active duty, spouses, dependents, and care givers. He advocated that this program interrupts isolation and improves mental health choices.

E- Comments:

- No e-comments were made.

DRAFT

IV. PRESENTATION ITEM: INTRODUCTION TO BH-CONNECT

Tabatha Lang, LMFT, Operations Administrator, BHS presented on the following:

- BH-CONNECT: The California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment.
- A transformative initiative to improve behavioral health services for Medi-Cal members. Eligibility and populations of focus for this program are individuals with significant mental health and substance use disorders which include individuals with justice-involvement, youth in or at-risk of child welfare involvement, and individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

V. ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISHING THE 2025 BHAB SUBCOMMITTEES

On motion of Joel San Juan, seconded by Serita Polinaire, BHAB approved establishing the 2025 BHAB subcommittees.

- Re-entry Support for Justice Involved Youth and Adults
- Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Alcohol and other Drugs

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. PRESENTATION ITEM: WORKFORCE INNOVATION PROGRAM

Andy Hall, President and CEO of Trailhead Strategies presented on the Workforce Innovation Program highlighting the following:

- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Program
    - Two components: Loan Fund Program and Upskilling Program
    - Goal: To attract and retain workers in the public behavioral health field by deploying funding to support individuals seeking a variety of training, tuition, upskilling, and incentive opportunities.
- Program Administrator: Policy & Innovation Center
    - Loan Fund Program: Hydie Hudson, Vice President, Impact Investments, Social Finance
    - Upskilling Program: Andy Hall, President and CEO, Trailhead Strategies

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, provided updates on the following:

- Update on Senate Bill (SB) 43, implemented as of January 1, 2025. Trainings of internal and external stakeholders have been ongoing provided by Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS). A total of 162 introductory trainings have been conducted, among these 32 courses were conducted reaching over 1,000 law enforcement and Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT) clinicians.
- Enhancing Behavioral Health Accessibility: Establishing New Partnerships Across the Continuum of Care and A-72 Waiver Board letter.
- Sharp Healthcare for hospital based crisis stabilization services within Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center: In January 2024, Sharp HealthCare (Sharp) received one-time grant funding to support the design and development of a new Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) within the Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.
- Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project Grant Funds: The IST Diversion and Community-Based Restoration Infrastructure Project grant (IST Infrastructure Grant) will provide funding for capital infrastructure to serve individuals

who have been charged with a felony, deemed IST, and who are identified by DSH as eligible for diversion or community-based services. With letters of support from the San Diego Superior Court, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, and the County of San Diego (County) Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the County applied for the maximum allocation of up to $21,375,000 for Fiscal Years 2024-25 through 2027-28.

- San Diego County Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) Annual Report 2024: The data reveals a promising reduction in suicide mortality compared to five years ago. However, there was an increase in suicide rates over the past two years, particularly among older white men. Suicide attempts and ideation have risen among girls, women, and people of color. By analyzing patterns in the data, we can gain insights on emerging trends, risk factors, and vulnerable populations, allowing us to develop a more comprehensive understanding of suicide in our county.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Robin Sales shared that the Executive Committee has agreed to recommend utilizing a consent calendar effective in March. BHAB members can pull items from the consent calendar and will be added to the meeting agenda as a discussion item by. Members can ask for an item to be added to a future meeting agenda for further discussion and/or presentation.
- If any BHAB member needs an ADA accommodation, BHS staff will work with the individual to implement accommodations as best as possible. For any requests or questions, reach out to Maria Molina-Melendez.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT

- Registration is now open for the 2025 Critical Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference (CICAMH). Happening April 25th at University of San Diego (USD).
- SB 43 Expanding Grave Disability Criteria Training
    - March 4, 2025, 9:00am – 10:30am presented by Mike Phillips, Director, Patient Advocacy Program, JFS.
- Stakeholder Input Sessions:
    - February 10, 2025
        - Child, Youth, and Families Council Meeting, 9:00am- 10:30am
        - Adult Council Meeting, 11:00am – 12:30pm
    - February 26, 2025,
        - Older Adult Council Meeting, 10:00am – 11:30am
        - Transition Age Youth Council Meeting, 11:00am – 12:30pm

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Serita Polinaire seconded by Stuart Gaiber and Minola Clark Manson, the BHAB meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.