April 3, 2025
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden, Member-At-Large – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Minola Clark Manson – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Amanda Berry, Member-At-Large – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
Bill Stewart – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Donald Romo – District 5
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 2:34PM in person and via Zoom. Chair Robin Sales introduced one (1) new BHAB member: Dr. Devesh Vashishta.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

BHAB approved the meeting minutes from March 6, 2025.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of two (2) In-person comments and five (5) E-Comments

In-Person Comments:

- Joshua Heredia, an intern for The Veterans Art Project (VETART) that helps veterans through art therapy, expressed that he would like to see more opportunities for projects like VETART in the community.
- Jerry Hall, urged boards like BHAB to be more effective through community engagement and ensuring the integrity of the Community Program Planning (CPP) process.

DRAFT

E- Comments:

- Paloma Serna, a member of the North County Equity & Justice Coalition, and Saving Lives in Custody California, expressed her hopes that the Sheriff's Department will attend behavioral health meetings to help people in the community.
- Sandra Robinson, NAMI member, advocated for solutions in addressing mental health conditions among the unhoused. She suggested strengthening CARE Court and establish additional board and care programs.
- Kristin Garrett Montgomery, commented on the Update on Creating a Children, Youth, and Transitional Age Youth Behavioral Health Continuum Framework. She expressed the need for the County to gather input from organizations that are contributing to the success of this framework and is looking forward to the collaboration of Child and Family Well-Being and BHS to ensure that the children's continuum framework includes input from infant and early childhood mental health community of providers.
- Erin Hogeboom acknowledged the effort put into the initial draft of the Update on Creating a Children, Youth, and Transitional Age Youth Behavioral Health Continuum Framework Board Letter and emphasized the need for further community input, particularly regarding the inclusion of infant and early childhood behavioral health support, and the importance of out-of-school care systems in addressing behavioral and mental health challenges. She encouraged integration of additional stakeholders in the final framework to enhance its effectiveness.
- Mary Jo O'Brien, Co-Chair of the San Diego Peer Council, suggested that the County consider peer respite through BH-CONNECT. She commented on recent community engagement efforts through UCSD Health Partnership but questioned how the public would be informed and engaged in the process, as well as how the County will use the collected data.

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IV. UPDATE ITEM: COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair of BHAB, discussed opportunities for BHAB members to volunteer and create a plan to hold an ad-hoc convening on the Community Based Organizations (CBO) technical assistance process.

V. SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS OUTS

- Julie Hayden, BHAB Member-at-Large, updated on BHAB Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Alcohol and Drugs subcommittee.
    - The Pathways to Continuum will provide an integrative perspective of substance use treatment, improve public awareness and focus on withdrawal management, detox, gaps of services, links between mental health and addiction, navigating intake process, and involving family and community.
- Robin Sales, BHAB Chair, gave an update on BHAB Re-entry Support for Justice-Involved Youth and Adults Subcommittee.
    - The subcommittee has had presentation on the Next Move program that will help youth transition from juvenile detention and probation, and help with intensive therapy, case management, and family services. Program will focus on evidence-based data to ensure program is effective.

VI. PRESENTATION ITEM: CONSULTING SUPPORT FOR BHS ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Ana Mancia, Principal and Katherine Donato, Partner, both from Boston Consulting Group presented on the following:

- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is working with BHS on a study to understand the County perspective on Behavioral Health Transformation adaptation challenges and opportunities.

- BCG will support development of a shared county and state-level understanding of what counties need to succeed in adapting to the changes introduced by Proposition 1, in the context of other behavioral health initiatives and county-level priorities and understand how San Diego County context and opportunities compare with other counties.
- Areas of focus will be revenue management and maximization, housing, reporting requirements, and integrated plan collaboration.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, provided updates on the following:

- 30-day public review period for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual update started April 1, 2025 through May 1, 2025.
- Update on Youth Behavioral Health Continuum Framework
  - Child Youth Optimal Care Pathways Model
  - The use of local evidence-based data will help to describe how things should work ideally. The continuum will be designed to best serve individuals with needs.
- District 4 Update on Enhancing Behavioral Health Accessibility – Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe
  - Create an arrangement between the County and the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Health system that will create accessibility to more innovative care including inpatient site beds.
  - This update will show the progress that the County is making and leverage resources for engagement with Behavioral Health Workforce training and academic partnership.
  - Update on what will result the first IOP PHP Medi-Cal reimbursement service for adults.
  - Effort to establish an additional long-term care setting accessible to people with SMI.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Robin Sales shared that she and Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair, met with Kim Giardina, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to discuss the involvement BHAB will have in the selection process for a new BHS Director.
- Robin expressed gratitude towards Luke Bergmann, Ph.D., for his time and guidance with the County and BHS.
- Robin encourages BHAB members to volunteer for their subcommittees to boost community engagement.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BHS Director Announcement
  - Luke Bergmann, Ph.D., has resigned from his position as BHS Director and will be stepping down from his position after April 11, 2025.
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 30-Day Public Review Period
  - The review period is expected to begin on April 1, 2025, and end on May 1, 2025.
- 2025 NAMIWalks Community Wellness Expo Kicks Off May is Mental Health Matters (MIMHMM) Month
  - NAMIWalks 5K event is on April 26, 2025 at NTC Park in Liberty Station (2455 Cushing Road), San Diego from 7:00am – 11:00am.
- 11th Annual Child and Youth Mental Health Well-Being Celebration on May 10, 2025
  - The event will be held in-person at Grossmont Center Mall in the main courtyard.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Gaurav Mishra, the BHAB meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.