



October 5, 2023
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Bill Stewart, Chair – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan - District 1
Serita Polinaire – District 2
Todd Boyer – District 2
Robin Sales, Member-at-Large – District 3
Judith Yates, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Carol Clemens, Member-at-Large – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

James Merino – District 2
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4
Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Shea Benton – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Maya Shahar, Administrative Analyst II

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Bill Stewart at 2:36 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Robin Sales shared her concerns regarding select San Diego County school districts that are not renewing contracts with San Diego Youth Services for mental health support. She is concerned about the continuity of care for youth.
- Jerry Hall shared his concern that BHAB is going dark in 2024 for the months of January and July due to national holidays. He additionally encouraged BHAB to attend recommended trainings and to focus on their duties and responsibilities as an advisory board.
- Karen Marie stated that her son has anosognosia and is concerned with how to ensure he receives the care needed to help his condition. Her son has been in a continuous cycle of hospitalizations, homelessness, and jail and she advocates that the family should have the right to be involved in his care.
- Mary Jo shared that she is satisfied with the mental health services that are available, however, she is at risk of becoming unhoused and advocates for more funding towards senior subsidy programs.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM September 7, 2023

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the minutes from September 7, 2023, with the following amendment to the public comment provided by Karen Lotus whereby Karen described her son’s multiple encounters with law enforcement and medical providers, yet, regardless of his grave condition, he was released or left on the streets.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

IV. ACTION ITEM: BHS PROCUREMENTS AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Luke Bergmann, Director, presented the BHS Procurements and Contract Extensions Board Letter authorizing competitive solicitations, single source contracts, amendments to extend existing behavioral health service contracts, an amendment to reflect a change to services and an increase in funding, and execute the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) intergovernmental agreement with the state and accept funding. The following recommendations were made:

- Issue Competitive Solicitation
 - Four (4) contracts - \$12 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25
- Single Source Contract
 - One (1) contract - \$.8 million in FY 2024-25
- Contract Amendments
 - Four (4) contracts - \$12.2 million in FY 2024-25
- Single Source Contract Amendments
 - Six (6) contracts - \$5.8 million in FY 2024-25
- Contract Amendment
 - One (1) contract - \$1.3 million in FY 2024-25
- Execute DMC-ODS Intergovernmental Agreement & Accept Funding
 - \$684.8 million in FY 2023-24 through 2026-27

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

V. BHAB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Robin Sales from the Criminal Justice (CJ) Subcommittee shared that at the September meeting the group received a presentation that provided an overview of jail-based competency treatment programs, they also discussed the SANDAG report on criminal justice, as well as District 3 Board staff, Aaron Burgess Jr, shared information on the Gun Violence Reduction Summit, and members discussed the CJ Subcommittee recommendations for the year-end report to BHAB.

Serita Polinaire from the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention (AOD) Subcommittee shared that the Subcommittee has been successful in meeting their goals this year and the group will reevaluate their goals to ensure they are meeting the community needs.

Community Engagement Subcommittee: No update

VI. ACTION ITEM: BHS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Kat Briggs, Chief, BHS Communication and Engagement Team, presented the BHS community engagement strategies seeking BHAB approval of planned community input approaches and activities for Quarter #2 of FY 2023-24. Some efforts include holding input sessions at community centers, libraries, YMCAs, places of worship, and connecting with community partners at planned input sites as well as providing advanced notice to the community.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PRESENTING THE 2024 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The BHAB slate of officers for 2024 was presented and any additional members interested in being added to the slate were asked to email Dania Barroso-Conde, BHAB coordinator.

The 2024 Slate of Officers is as follows:

- Chairperson – Robin Sales;

- 1st Vice Chair – Serita Polinaire;
- 2nd Vice Chair – Judith Yates;
- Member at Large (Alcohol and Other Drugs) – Bill Stewart; and
- Member at Large (Mental Health) – Janice Luna Reynoso.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann shared the following:

- The CARE Act program officially started on October 1, 2023, in San Diego County and has the potential of positively impacting people's lives. He could not provide an update on how many referrals had been received to date by BHS. Luke and Charity White-Voth responded to BHAB member questions and provided details on the CARE Act program including the court process.
- The Board of Supervisors will likely be approving on consent facilitating the establishment of a new substance use disorder treatment clinic focused on medication assisted treatment for people with opioid use disorder. This facility will be established as a Tribal Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC, Tribal 638) in East Region, owned though not operated by a Tribe.
- The City of San Diego is moving towards declaring a state of emergency in response to the insufficiency of mental health beds.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT – BHAB RETREAT AGENDA

Bill Stewart, Chair, reminded BHAB members of the importance of responding to surveys and requests for input sent to them by BHS staff, in particular providing input on the Data Notebook. He encouraged members to respond in a timely manner to requests.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Robin Sales attended the Behavioral Health Symposium in San Marcos where Luke Bergmann presented on the strategies to retain a behavioral health workforce.
- National Depression Screening Day and Check Your Mood Day is on October 5, 2023.
- Suicide Prevention Training will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 8:30am to 10:00am at the Ronald Reagan Community Center, El Cajon.
- The Live Well San Diego East Region Leadership Team meeting will be hosting a community input session with UCSD gathering input on behavioral health services on Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:30am to 12:00pm.
- The Live Well Advance Conference & School Summit will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at the San Diego Convention Center.
- The Southeastern Live Well Center Open House will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 11:00am to 3:00pm.
- Judith Yates made tribute to the passing of Greg Knoll, Legal Aid Society of San Diego.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Robin Sales the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.