



October 28, 2021
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Fall Retreat Summary

P.O. BOX 85524
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Stewart, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Che Hernandez, 1st Vice Chair - District 1
Joel San Juan, District 1
Todd Boyer, District 2
James Merino, District 2
Jim Taylor, District 2
Michael Grattan, District 3
Robin Sales, District 3
John Sturm, Member at Large - District 4
Judith Yates, Chair – District 4
Phil Deming, Member at Large – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Amina Sheik Mohamed, District 4
K.C. Strang - District 5
Nathan Fletcher, Chair, Board of Supervisors

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) STAFF

Luke Bergmann, Director
Aurora Kiviat Nudd, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer
Nadia Privara, Acting - Assistant Director, Chief Strategy & Finance Officer
Dania Barroso-Conde, BHAB Coordinator
Betty Milton, Administrative Secretary III

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Fall Retreat was called to order by Judith Yates, Chair, at 1:00pm.

II. BHAB MEMBER INTRODUCTION

New Member, **Todd Boyer (D2)**, in recovery for 21 years and is the current board chair of the Alano Club in El Cajon. His interest is in the spiritual aspect of recovery and looks forward to how he can contribute to the BHAB.

New Member, **Robin Sales (D3)**, is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked in a variety of mental health settings including crisis intervention, employee assistance, and direct service. As a member of the Racial Justice Coalition, as well as the Law Enforcement Accountability Group, Robin is interested in the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) and the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health. She looks forward to contributing her knowledge and how we can improve the system.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Hall encouraged the BHAB to perform their roles and responsibilities autonomously from BHS and focus on next year's priorities in particular the Community Program Planning process to successfully maintain consistent stakeholder engagement.

Carol Clemens provided comments related to workforce shortages and encouraged the BHAB to prioritize this by allocating available behavioral health funds to incentivize qualified applicants.

IV. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE – CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Continuum of Care activities continue to move forward with an emphasis on implementation, with an eye toward shifting from a system of crisis to continuous care and prevention. Among these activities are Crisis and Diversionary Services, Inpatient and Long-Term Care, and Behavioral Health Hubs and Care Coordination.

Behavioral Health Workforce Challenges

Members spoke candidly about the general workforce shortages within behavioral health across the County, State, and nationally. Highlighted was the need for relational care as the foundation to develop a robust workforce infrastructure in addition to expanding peer support services, training, technical support, incentivizing retention, and mental health support for healthcare workers and their families. To address the larger workforce crisis, Chair Fletcher is developing a convening with different stakeholders to identify and prioritize solutions, interventions, and investments. Updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

V. **DIRECTOR'S VISION FOR BHAB**

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Primary goal for the BHAB is the optimization of BHAB's utility. Shifting the focus from near-term to long-term visioning to help shape strategic planning over the next five years.

Recommendations from today's discussion include:

- BHAB agenda structure, less projected issues, and more proactive vision of what the BHAB would like to see
- Shift from BHAB as an audience to an active voice.
- Actively find ways for better communication from the Board of Supervisors to BHS; BHS to the BHAB; and direct communication from members to their elected officials
- Attach priorities to issues that are a focus of the Board of Supervisors for implementation
- Provider engagement, create a space for honest feedback.

VI. **2021 WORKGROUP REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Workgroup reports and recommendations were sent to the BHAB in advance for review; the following is a summary of today's discussion. Of special note, all workgroups thanked BHS staff for their knowledge, support, and assistance to the workgroups and broader group

Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup, Co-chair Bill Stewart and Co-chair Janice Luna-Reynoso

The primary objective of the workgroup is equitable representation by all stakeholders to address issues related to how the County and community engage in relation to behavioral health challenges. Workgroup recommends BHS and BHAB work together to realign responsibilities related to the budget planning process outlined in the MHSA Three-Year Plan and Annual Update, as well as the Community Planning Process. In

addition, collaboration with the County to improve engagement by developing a public facing website and utilizing social media outlets to disseminate information.

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Workgroup, Chair Phil Deming

Workgroup identified the overarching struggle with the shortage of qualified clinicians and other support staff. Continued work related to alcohol and drugs via the continuation of this workgroup or related AOD work was reiterated.

Criminal Justice Workgroup, Chair Richard McGaffigan

The workgroup focus was on gathering information related to the intersection of the criminal justice and behavioral health system. Workgroup had a total of nine presentations from BHS staff and criminal justice partners. Continued challenge is to develop a strategy to bring together those to the table with decision making authority to effect change.

VII. IDENTIFYING 2022 PRIORITIES

Due to the minimal feedback received, topic will be discussed at the November BHAB Executive Committee and will be on the December BHAB Committee Meeting agenda for a broader discussion.

VIII. SUPERVISOR NATHAN FLETCHER

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Chair Fletcher was unable to attend today's meeting.

IX. IDENTIFYING 2022 WORKGROUPS OR SUBCOMMITTEES

Due to the minimal feedback received, topic will be discussed at the November BHAB Executive Committee and will be on the December BHAB Committee Meeting agenda for a broader discussion.

X. IMPROVING BHAB

Open dialogue among members on how to be a more productive and focused board including substantive dialogue around issues pertinent to the Board of Supervisors and the community. Each member was given an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions. Highlights from today's discussion include:

- BHAB Executive Committee to be more strategic with agendas
- Lack of BHAB member participation related to requests, attendance, etc.
- Orientation for new BHAB members
- Engagement with Board of Supervisors, individually or as a group
- Involve community coalitions to the BHAB related to behavioral health needs
- Diversity of the BHAB to be representative of the those in our community
- Appointments to the BHAB
- Brown Act rules refresher
- Faith-based resources for the community

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janice Luna-Reynoso shared the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Culture of Health Prize awarded to National City, CA for its cultural responsiveness.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Phil Deming, seconded by Bill Stewart, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1-Yates