



May 7, 2020
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

P.O. BOX 85524
San Diego, CA 92186-5524
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Che Hernandez – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Bill Stewart, 1st Vice Chair – District 1
Jenifer Mendel, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2
Michael Matthews, 2nd Vice Chair – District 2
Ed Weiner – District 3
Mike Grattan – District 3
Deanne George – District 3
Shannon Jaccard – District 3
Jerry Hall – District 4
John Sturm, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4
Judith Yates, Chairperson – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
Phil Deming – District 5
Debbie Barnum – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
K.C. Strang – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health
Ben Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III, Behavioral Health Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Judith Yates, Chair, at 2:30 p.m. via WebEx.

II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of BHAB introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2020

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Richard McGaffigan, BHAB approved the minutes of March 5, 2020, with a correction.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- **Contract Extension Board Letter**

The Contract Extension Board Letter was approved on consent by the Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2020. The Board Letter will extend 34 behavioral health contracts coming to term in June 2020, which include outpatient services, ACT services, justice-intersecting services, prevention and early intervention services, as well as locum tenens contracts for the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital.

- **Behavioral Health Impact Fund**

Brought forward by District 4 and District 1 and approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Behavioral Health Impact Fund establishes a \$25 million allocation to pay for one-time capital projects for behavioral health service providers. The \$25 million is from former redevelopment funds locked up in litigation between San Diego County and other regional cities. Distribution of funds will be decided via a partnership between Behavioral Health Services and a City of San Diego counterpart. The Request For Proposal (RFP) resulting from the establishment of the Behavioral Health Impact Fund ([RFP 10295](#)) has been posted on BuyNet: <https://buynet.sdcountry.ca.gov>.

Q: Regarding the decision-making partnership between the County and the City for funds distribution, who will be the City counterpart?

A: It will most likely be Adrian Granda, Public Policy Manager for Mayor Faulconer.

Q: For the capital improvements funded by the impact fund, would these facilities be owned by the City or the County?

A: Neither the City or the County plan to own any of the facilities or infrastructure that would be built by the funds. The County would provide funding to respondents who would then make arrangements for award.

Q: Where does this fund fall with housing and consideration of cultural compliance?

A: As this is a behavioral health impact fund, no awards will be made for housing-only proposals and will need to include a behavioral health component. As for cultural responsiveness, award decisions will be data-driven and with consideration of need and appropriateness of service in response to the specified need.

- **COVID-19**

With BHS and its contractors transitioning to telephonic and telehealth methods of service delivery, BHS is also looking at COVID-19's impact in terms of loss to care and what methods can be deployed to increase service contact within the established public health parameters. One such method is exercising unprecedented regulatory latitude within billing to unburden service providers as much as possible. BHS is also currently working on creating a comprehensive playbook on how the County can offer program-specific guidance during the pandemic.

Q: Due to isolation and social distancing policies, caretakers and families are now tasked with dealing with behavioral health issues. Is there any public health messaging aimed towards that population?

A: Yes, the County is continuously working to amplify messaging on the importance of establishing/maintaining routine and physical self-care, along with the availability and accessibility of the Access and Crisis Line. BHS is working on releasing COVID-19 specific messaging for mental health and substance use through advertisement campaigns.

Q: Since civilian agencies are no longer with It's Up2Us, who is the new contractor?

A: The County does have a long-term campaign. The new contractor is Rescue Agency, who is continuing and building upon previous messaging.

Q: For 5150s, have any individuals been held over their time or released based on a lack of access to the normal judicial process due to COVID-19?

A: The County is not currently aware of any such cases.

Q: Is there more information available on the homeless currently housed at the Convention Center and their connection to services onsite, as well as their connection to services after they leave?

A: Behavioral health leads from Mental Health Systems (MHS) Inc. have been assigned to oversee approximately 1,200 tenants. All are being case managed by Alpha Project, Father Joe's, VVSD and Path. Additionally, Public Health Services and Medical Care Services are working closely with MHS Inc. on referrals. At the Crowne Plaza, Telecare has been providing screenings, behavioral health assessments, mental health support services, and case management for tenants. A recent expansion added SUD counselors from the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) and Courage to Call to work with military and veterans.

BHS is almost ready to enhance the ACT program for Telecare to include clients out of the Crowne Plaza and the Convention Center who meet the ACT level of service. BHS will be working with the San Diego Housing Commission to pair permanent supportive housing with clients from the Convention Center who are enrolled in outpatient clinics and ACT services.

- **Fiscal Outlook**

Due to COVID-19 and its economic effect, BHS will be severely impacted, with the likelihood of a slow system recovery. The County and the City have been given CARES Act funding. Information on how the funding will be utilized will be announced once decided.

VI. ACTION ITEM: AGREEMENT WITH PALOMAR HEALTH BOARD LETTER

Dr. Luke Bergmann, BHS Director

The Agreement with Palomar Health Board Letter seeks to address the need to enhance crisis stabilization services in North County by authorizing the negotiation of an amendment to an existing contract with Palomar Health to expand hospital-based crisis stabilization services. The expansion will include the addition of 8 patient recliners (to a total of 16 patient recliners) and a one-time payment of \$1 million to Palomar Health to be applied toward ongoing equipment and facility costs of the new hospital-based crisis stabilization unit.

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Richard McGaffigan, BHAB approved the Agreement with Palomar Health Board Letter.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VII. ACTION ITEM: VOTE TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH 2019 BHAB ANNUAL REPORT

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB voted to approve and publish the 2019 BHAB Annual Report, with an amendment.
AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chairperson

- **July BHAB meeting:** Due to the July BHAB meeting's proximity to the July 4th holiday, there is some concern about whether the board will be able to reach a quorum. There was a suggestion from the group to making July a virtual meeting. BHS staff will follow up with board members in late June on whether they expect to participate in the July meeting to see if a quorum can be expected.
- **Community Engagement Group:** The Community Engagement Group was created for BHAB members to be able to participate in the community engagement development process. The group met via teleconference in April, with the next meeting scheduled for July.
- **Monthly Presentations from BHAB Workgroups:** Judith put forth a suggestion for each workgroup to put together a presentation for BHAB for the next three meetings (one workgroup per meeting). The presentations can serve as a dialogue between board members, where workgroup members can discuss one or two key issues they are facing. The three workgroups agreed to the presentations.

X. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS

- **Housing and Homelessness:** A workgroup report will be sent out to the board members. The workgroup is in discussion on how to narrow the focus within housing and homelessness.
- **Continuum of Care:** The workgroup met last month and discussed numerous topics, including the Behavioral Health Impact Fund, telemedicine in light of COVID-19, residential services in the SUD population/dual diagnosis, and resources for individuals in recovery during COVID-19.
- **Building a Better BHAB:** The group discussed the bylaws amendment at their last meeting and would like to recommend to the group that the bylaws come from the bylaws written in AB-1352, with 10 listed responsibilities. The group is working on the draft bylaws and will provide to the board before the June meeting for a decision.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Michael Matthews, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.
AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0