



April 1, 2021
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

P.O. BOX 85524
San Diego, CA 92186-5524
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2775/2705

MEMBERS PRESENT

Che Hernandez – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Bill Stewart, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2
Jenifer Mendel, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Ed Weiner – District 3
Jerry Hall – District 4
John Sturm – District 4
Judith Yates, Chair – District 4
Phil Deming, Member-at-Large – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Joel San Juan – District 1
Thomas Hathorn – District 2
Mike Grattan – District 3
Shannon Jaccard – District 3
Debbie Barnum – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5
Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors Chair – District 4

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services
Dania Barroso-Conde, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND ROLL CALL

ON MOTION of Jenifer Mendel, seconded by Jerry Hall, BHAB approved the minutes of March 4, 2021.
AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Clemens, member of the public expressed the importance of parents and families engaging with groups such as the BHAB to participate as active stakeholders. Ms. Clemens expressed her thanks to Chair Fletcher, Supervisor Desmond, Dr. Piedad Garcia, and Jerry Hall for listening and following up with the parents and engaging them to make positive change that support loved ones living with mental illness.

BHAB member, Jerry Hall addressed the BHAB citing a recent draft report by Mr. Hall on the Community Program Planning (CPP) process that was sent to the BHAB Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup. His hope is to work with BHS and other stakeholders by putting the interests of clients first, systematically advising the Board of Supervisors (BOS) of any findings, and to continue to work together to ensure BHAB meets their responsibilities.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: UPDATE ON ADVANCING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINNUM OF CARE
Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

This item will be discussed at the April 6th BOS meeting to help inform new BOS members of the conceptual strategies and investments on projects with an emphasis on population health, metrics to better measure program impacts, and a focus on the Triple Aim. In addition, the increase of crisis stabilization services through the expansion of regional crisis stabilization units will be addressed.

Recommendations include:

- Sunset the quarterly cadence of the Continuum of Care (COC) update to the BOS and to provide updates as milestones are reached.
- Adopt the updated the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Designation Guidelines, revised to expand eligibility to all programs that meet applicable State and local requirements, including crisis stabilization units.
- It was noted the COC Board Letter package will be emailed to BHAB within the next day or two.

V. PRESENTATION: OFFICE OF EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE
Andrew Strong, Director, Office of Equity and Racial Justice

Andrew Strong, Director of the County's new Office of Equity and Racial Justice provided an overview of his background, experience in local government leadership and the establishment of his office. Mr. Strong shared his vision of bridging the community between engagement, advocacy, and changing County operations, policy, and legislation through the lens of equity and racial justice.

VI. ACTION ITEM: REPORT BACK ON COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE HARM REDUCTION
Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Dr. Bergmann presented a high-level overview of the primary domains of a broad harm reduction strategy, noting the overriding principles of a harm reduction services strategy should be rooted in policy advocacy and with the goal of achieving parity in resource allocation and social valuation across care for physical illness, mental illness, and harmful substance use.

BHAB membership voiced general support for additional harm reduction services in the County, emphasizing that these are often the most useful means to engage people with substance use disorder (SUD) into long-term clinical SUD treatment. Concerns were raised by BHAB membership about not receiving more information earlier regarding a voting item.

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, motion did not pass due to absence of a quorum.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 1

VII. CHAIR FLETHCHER'S UPDATE
Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Director of Public Policy, District 4

On behalf of Chair Fletcher and in collaboration with Supervisor Lawson-Remer, a brief report was given on the Mobile Crisis Response board letter.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Members were encouraged to tune into conversations with County leadership as it relates to the American Rescue Plan and how these funds are allocated. Decisions on the use of these funds should be community driven as mental health and behavioral health have been highlighted significantly.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chair

- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be held on Sunday, April 24th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Information will be sent to the BHAB via email.
- Simonne Ruff, Director with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, informed members of the efforts to obtain community and stakeholder input for the upcoming Behavioral Health Services Five-Year Strategic Housing Plan. Members were encouraged to participate in upcoming listening sessions, focus groups, and online survey. Information on these opportunities, in addition to a listening session specific to the BHAB will be sent via email.

X. WORKGROUP UPDATES

Overdose Prevention Workgroup, Jenifer Mendel and Rebecca Hernandez, District 2

Meetings take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month; two meetings convened with all members present. Workgroup is focused on diverse communities and children, inclusion of diverse members into the committee, and use of community resources related to prevention and treatment.

Criminal Justice Workgroup, Ed Weiner, District 3

Group is working with BHS staff to identify subject matter experts to provide a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the criminal justice system. Areas of interest for the group include cash bail and the elimination of pepper spray in juvenile institutions. Group to meet formally on April 13.

Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup, Jerry Hall, District 4

Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. A report on the CPP was submitted to the workgroup for review and discussion.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Richard McGaffigan the meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0