



August 6, 2020  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Che Hernandez – District 1  
Bill Stewart, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 1  
Jenifer Mendel, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2  
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2  
Thomas Hathorn – District 2  
Michael Matthews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Mike Grattan – District 3  
Ed Weiner – 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  
K.C. Strang – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Joel San Juan – District 1  
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1  
Debbie Barnum – District 5

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services  
Natalya Serrano, 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 – JULY 2, 2020**

ON MOTION of Jenifer Mendel, seconded by Richard McGaffigan, BHAB approved the minutes of July 2, 2020, as written.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Angela Rowe of the Alcohol and Drug Service Provider Association (ADSPA) submitted a public comment encouraging the board to advocate for the prioritization of regular COVID-19 testing at all residential programs.

Jerry Hall, member of BHAB, spoke before the board to discuss the barriers facing BHAB and to encourage fellow board members to attend the Building a Better BHAB workgroup to brainstorm solutions to maximize the board's productivity.

**V. PRESENTATION: SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE  
**Piedad Garcia, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Services**  
**Alex Heyer, San Diego Workforce Partnership**  
**Tom Stubberud, Corporation for Supportive Housing****

Alex Heyer and Tom Stubberud came before the board to provide an update on the San Diego Behavioral Health Work Well Strategic Plan for 2020-2024. The strategic plan is based on the initiative of building a healthy, safe, and thriving community through the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model. Since its inception, Work Well has seen a 1% annual increase in the employment rate. Work Well has five goals for the next five years: expand access to IPS supported employment by continuing to provide and enhance training opportunities; engage employers as key partners by identifying Work Well employer champions and promoting engagement through social marketing; enhance data collection and analysis to drive data-informed decision-making; champion peer employment, advocacy and involvement through assistance and peers career pathways; and identify and pursue funding opportunities for the enhanced implementation of IPS supported employment.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Does Work Well connect with different clubhouses to refer clients to the program?

**A:** Supported employment is connected to the clinics, ACT programs, and clubhouses.

**Q:** Is data on job quality tracked in terms of salary and payrate?

**A:** Yes, Workforce Partnership keeps track of job quality.

**Q:** Is there a component for out-of-state employment partnership?

**A:** With Clubhouse International's international directory, there is a possibility that an employment specialist can coordinate with an out-of-state employment specialist for a warm handoff of the client.

**Q:** Where would a person with a limited work background due to mental health issues engage with an employment specialist?

**A:** The clubhouses have staff members who are also employment specialists. They are all trained in the supported employment model and will work with the client on an individualized plan for employment.

**Q:** In the event of an economic downturn wherein a client cannot find a job, can an employment specialist help the client reclaim benefits or restart an application for benefits?

**A:** Yes, benefits counseling is included in the IPS model. The specialist will work with the client on their personal preference.

**Q:** Many employers do not provide quality or affordable medical insurance. If a client is working, can they still receive their Medi-Cal or Medicare benefits?

**A:** Yes, there are several programs that can allow the client to continue their benefits even while employed. It is recommended they reach out to a benefits counselor to help guide them through the process.

**Q:** Is it accurate to say that to gain employment, a client will need a high school diploma (or equivalent), computer skills, high speed internet, and a cell phone, 99% of the time?

**A:** In short, yes - depending on the employer's needs. However, the employment specialist can work with the client regardless of their ability to access the internet or different devices.

**Q:** Can the specialists offer support in supplying uniforms and tools needed for a job?

**A:** Some specialists have been able to provide job essential items upon hiring, but it is up to the respective programs to provide.

**Q:** Aside from Alameda and San Diego County, what other counties are involved in the IPS program within California?

**A:** Currently, Alameda and San Diego are the only counties, but they are assisting other counties to implement the IPS program.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

**Board Letter: South Region Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at Paradise Valley Hospital**

Behavioral Health Services is looking at opportunities to make investments in effective diversionary services as well as long-term care services. BHS has been working with Paradise Valley Hospital to move 12 recliners for crisis stabilization into the unutilized space at their Bayview location. It will be carried out through a sole source due to the urgency of need and will include performance threshold measures.

**Q:** Are the CSU services intended for both mental health emergencies and substance use emergencies?

**A:** They are regulated to address mental health emergencies, but there are opportunities to address substance use disorders in those settings.

**Q:** What if someone enters the CSU but needs inpatient hospitalization?

**A:** That would be determined over the course of assessment at the CSU. If a patient is too acute for the CSU, they would be transferred.

**Q:** Does the County have other contracts with Prime Health?

**A:** The County maintains an inpatient psychiatric service contract with Prime Health.

**Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Plan: 30-Day Public Comment Period**

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-23 (Plan) has been delayed. It will be posted for public review and comment on August 31<sup>st</sup> to the Behavioral Health Services and the Clerk of the Board websites. Final comments and the public hearing will take place at the October 1<sup>st</sup> BHAB meeting, and will be placed on the October 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting docket.

**Update on Local Oversight of Opioid Treatment Programs Report to the Board of Supervisors**

BHS provided a memo to update the Board of Supervisors on its progress in its efforts to harmonize the relationship between opioid treatment programs and neighborhoods, particularly

in District 4 and District 5. The strategy includes hinging SAMHSA guidelines to opioid treatment program contracts and working collaboratively with clinic leadership and neighborhood stakeholders to develop sets of metrics to measure identified problems and solutions.

### **Sheriff's Department Request to Issue A Competitive Solicitation for Medical and Mental Health Care Services**

At the August 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, the County Sheriff's Department sought Board approval to issue a request for information (RFI) to outsource medical and mental healthcare services within the San Diego County jail system ([agenda item #1](#)). The agenda item was paired with an item brought forth by Supervisor Fletcher, which was to establish a workgroup to consider whether correctional health should be offered by the Health and Human Services Agency or an outside entity. The Board [passed a motion](#) directing the Chief Administrative Officer to evaluate the feasibility of the Health and Human Services Agency to administer jail healthcare services and provide to the Sheriff before the completion of competitive solicitation for their consideration with the results of the request for proposal (RFP) and RFI.

**Q:** Is there a recent report that illustrates the current mental health system in the San Diego County jails in the past five years? Can it be sent to BHAB members?

**A:** The County recently procured an outside resource to review opportunities for best practices within the County jails.

### **Proposal to Sunset Marijuana Cultivation and Dispensing Ban in Unincorporated Region**

At the August 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, a District 4 [proposal](#) was brought before the board to sunset the marijuana cultivation and dispensing ban in the unincorporated region. The motion was not passed.

**Q:** In the context of deaths, what is your comment regarding cannabis in the context of deaths from alcohol, diazepam, and amphetamines in the County?

**A:** A recent study looking at relative changes in opioid analgesic overdose death and permissibility of recreational and medical marijuana dispensing showed a causal relationship between the availability of marijuana through legal means and the diminishment of opioid analgesic death.

## **VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** **Judith Yates, Chairperson**

### **Call for Nominating Committee**

BHAB members who wish to volunteer for the BHAB Executive Slate Nomination Committee may reserve their spot by emailing Natalya. Confirmed volunteers are Bill Stewart, Jenifer Mendel and Shannon Jaccard.

### **Priorities Survey**

A priorities survey will be sent out to BHAB members to collect ideas on concerns and priorities for the next year. The responses will be used to build the agenda for the October BHAB retreat. The October BHAB retreat is confirmed for Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm.

## **VIII. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS**

**Housing and Homelessness:** Joel San Juan has stepped down as workgroup chair but will continue to attend Housing Council and Regional Task Force for the Homeless meetings and report back to the group. A summary of the work completed by the workgroup will be presented at the September BHAB meeting.

**Continuum of Care:** The COC workgroup has been meeting as scheduled. The last workgroup meeting included a discussion on the interface with Public Safety as an important component of the Continuum of Care.

**Building a Better BHAB:** The workgroup is working on building a consensus and drafting a common statement. The next meeting is on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 p.m. where the group hopes to finalize a statement and recommendations to bring forward to the board at the October BHAB retreat.

**IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, the meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.  
AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0