

Building a Better BHAB (BBB) Workgroup Final Report

Report completed by BBB Chair Jerry Hall

Effective at the March Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) this Workgroup will conclude.

The Workgroup met on a monthly basis since January 2020 and through the present day.

Suffice to say that a great deal of thought, various proposals, and dialog occurred at each meeting.

Our two primary focus points were:

1. Reviewing and updating the Bylaws to:
 - a. More carefully define various Member roles and criteria to ensure their conformance with the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requirements and,
 - b. Review and revise the duties of the BHAB to closely align them with the updated MHSA legislation finalized in 2020 through AB1352.
2. Identifying and recommending various proposed 2021 Workgroups. This was a multi-step process including:
 - a. Focusing on strategies to help us achieve the primary goals selected by BHAB Members at our Fall 2020 BHAB Retreat including:
 - i. Behavioral Health and the county Criminal Justice system,
 - ii. Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention,
 - iii. improving BHAB Systems and Processes
 - b. Working for months through a process facilitated by William 'Hudson' Harris, and in conjunction with the Continuum of Care Workgroup to identify and refine achievable strategic goals (see attached). This includes the Executive Board taking on the Strategic Goals of improving the BHAB meeting format, content, and presentations.
 - c. The final Strategic Goals were unanimously approved at the February 2021 BHAB (attached does not include some final minor edits made at the February meeting).
 - d. Since the BBB Workgroup original focus was to recommend improving the work of the BHAB we can report mission accomplished. We believe working towards and achieving these goals this year will result in our BHAB becoming significantly more effective.

Thank you to all who participated in the work of the BBB Workgroup throughout the year including Rick McGaffigan, John Sturm, Deanne George, Jenifer Mendel, Rebecca Hernandez, Judith Yates, BHS staff Ben Parmentier, Phil Ainsworth, Dania Barroso-Conde, and Jerry Hall and anyone missed! A special thanks to Hudson Harris, without whom we would likely have been unable to so precisely articulate our next steps.