



December 5, 2019
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

P.O. BOX 85524
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Che Hernandez – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson – District 2
Michael Matthews Member-at-Large (MH) – 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 (ADS) – District 4
Judith Yates – District 4
Richard McGaffigan, 2nd Vice Chair – District 5
Phil Deming – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Bill Stewart 1st Vice Chair – District 1
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2
Bill Wells – District 2
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 Jenifer Mendel, Chair, at 2:30 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302.

II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of BHAB introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 7, 2019

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Richard McGaffigan, BHAB approved the minutes of November 7, 2019, as written.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Hall, member of BHAB, came before the board to discuss the results of a recent report (www.policescorecard.org/sandiego). The report disclosed local statistics on the disparities in the searches, arrests, and force used on those with mental disabilities and people of color.

V. ACTION ITEM: FORMATION OF BHAB WORKGROUPS

ON MOTION OF Jerry Hall, seconded by John Sturm, BHAB voted to approve the continuation of the three BHAB workgroups: Care Coordination across the Continuum of Care; Building a Better BHAB; and Housing And Homelessness.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. UPDATE: CONSUMER CENTER FOR HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY (CCHEA)

Gregory Knoll, CEO/ED CCHEA/Legal Aid Society of San Diego

Gregory Knoll came before the Board to provide updates from the Legal Aid Society, including on the Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy (CCHEA), and the SSI team's expansion. The CCHEA SSI team currently has 2,000 open cases, with 75% of the open cases including clients with mental health disability. CCHEA's outreach includes quarterly clubhouse retreats to provide training and best practices in conducting difficult client interviews with a trauma-informed approach. CCHEA's work this fiscal year has resulted in 632 new clients receiving SSI by the end of June 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Q: What's next for CCHEA?

A: CCHEA will soon be starting a five-year project at their current building on Euclid to build an underground parking structure for the community.

Q: Does CCHEA do any work with immigrants regarding their immigration status?

A: Yes, CCHEA has an immigration team, as well as partnerships with organizations such as Jewish Family Service, which has a great immigration program.

Q: Has CCHEA found a way to identify those who are at risk for homelessness before they become homeless?

A: No. This is not usually shared until they have become a client. CCHEA has had discussions with the County and City Council regarding the possibility of having a Right to Counsel ordinance for people to be able to have a representative if they are about to lose their home. This has not expanded beyond pilot programs from state legislature.

Q: Does CCHEA do any work with the Regional Task Force on the Homeless or other similar groups?

A: Yes, they are a partner in Whole Person Wellness as well as an ongoing partner to People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) and Exodus Recovery.

Q: What is CCHEA's obligation to issue reports?

A: CCHEA releases an annual report, and the Legal Aid Society more broadly may be doing so in the future as well.

VII. PRESENTATION: HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION

Dr. Christian Ramers, Medical Director, Family Health Centers of San Diego

Dr. Christian Ramers came before the board on behalf of Scott Suckow, Executive Director of the American Liver Foundation, and Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Services Director, to give a presentation on the County plan to eliminate Hepatitis C, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 14th. These efforts were facilitated by the American Liver Foundation and include the engagement of key

stakeholders from 65 organizations representing all impacted populations in San Diego County. Five committees were established: advisory; steering; research & surveillance; access, testing, treatment and prevention; and consumer. These five committees have drafted nine recommendations to help San Diego toward two outcomes: to decrease incidence of chronic Hepatitis C by 80% and reduce Hepatitis C mortality by 65% by 2030.

ACTION ITEM

ON MOTION OF Michael Matthews, seconded by Jerry Hall, BHAB voted to draft a letter in support of the Hepatitis C Elimination efforts.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

DISCUSSION:

Q: Do Hepatitis C home testing kits exist?

A: The technology currently does exist but has not been licensed for home use at this time.

Q: The presentation included an estimated statistic of 40,000-50,000 people living in San Diego with Hepatitis C. How was that statistic calculated?

A: This estimate was calculated by breaking down the population of San Diego by risk populations where statistics are more accurate (ex. homeless, incarcerated, etc) in conjunction with extensive academic research. A recently released CDC report noted that Hep C mortalities have been reduced, but that incidences have increased by 400% due to the opioid crisis and injection drug use.

Q: Regarding the high-risk population within the incarcerated, is there a way to work through the jails?

A: It has been difficult, notably in for-profit prisons, to allocate funding toward Hep C treatment. Through advocacy, 90 million dollars have now been allocated for Hep C treatment in California state prisons. However, it is more complicated with local jails, as the Hep C treatment takes three months to complete and a patient may not be in jail long enough to complete the treatment.

Q: What can Behavioral Health Services do to assist this effort?

A: The most important thing is testing. Hepatitis C treatment is a cascade of care. No matter how well we can link patients to resources, we cannot get to those patients unless they are tested.

Q: Are there any reports published that can be given to advocates to assist in these efforts? What is the budget for marketing and outreach?

A: There is a 40-page report that will be published after the January 14th presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Through the Hepatitis C Alliance, \$5 million per year from the governor's budget has been devoted to the Hep C elimination efforts. Through a California Department of Public Health pilot program in 2016, San Diego was one of three Counties to be awarded \$250,000 a year to continue to fund Hep C elimination efforts, part of which will be used for marketing and public outreach.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Dr. Bergmann introduced Dr. Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela to announce the upcoming 2020 community engagement forums. There will be one in each region, in the evenings and weekends to engage community participation. Topics for input and discussion will include mental health and substance use prevention programs and innovations, as well as several new proposals to be presented to the community.

CalAIM is currently being led by DHCS to make substantial changes to Medi-Cal, with the goal of making Medi-Cal more consistent between all Counties and regions, as well as taking advantage of opportunities for expansion. Workgroups have been established and are accessible to the public via call-in number.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Will the community engagement forum flyers be translated into all of the threshold languages, and where will it be distributed?

A: Yes, and it will be distributed to all BHS providers. It will be posted on the *Live Well San Diego* website as well as local newspapers.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson

- The annual report draft is in progress. Input, quotes, photos and feedback is welcome, and can be sent to Ben Parmentier for inclusion to the report.
- BHAB members are encouraged to attend the Southern California California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) meeting on January 17, 2020 at the Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside. There will be an overview of the new legislative edits to the WIC regarding BHAB.

X. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS

- **Continuum of Care:** Workgroup update is tabled for January or February.
- **Building a Better BHAB:** The Quality Review Council agenda was included in the packet. Workgroup update is tabled for January or February.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF Richard McGaffigan, seconded by Deanne George, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.
AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0