



December 7, 2023
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Bill Stewart, Chair – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
Joel San Juan - District 1
Serita Polinaire, 2nd Vice Chair – District 2
Todd Boyer – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Holly Herring – District 3
Robin Sales, Member-at-Large – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Judith Yates, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Carol Clemens, Member-at-Large – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

James Merino – District 2
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4
Shea Benton – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Dania Barroso-Conde, BHAB Coordinator (BHS)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Bill Stewart at 2:31 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM November 2, 2023

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Serita Polinaire, BHAB approved the minutes from November 2, 2023.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karen stated that her son has anosognosia and is concerned with how to ensure he receives the care needed to help his condition. Her son has been in a continuous cycle of hospitalizations, homelessness, and jail. After 15 months, the LPS conservatorship has been approved but her son continues to wait for his facility placement. Karen advocates that the family should have the right to be involved in his care.
- Janice Luna Reynoso shared concerns for the impacts to the mental health of community members distressed over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Janice asked for this trauma to be acknowledged and for dialogue about the conflict.
- Fadwa Falestine shared her concerns for the safety and mental health of Arabs, Palestinians, and older Arab immigrants who reside in San Diego County. She would like BHAB to take these concerns to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and would like to see support for a call to a cease fire in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

IV. PRESENTATION: BHS BUDGET CYCLE UPDATE TO BHAB

BHS Assistant Directors, Nadia Privara and Cecily Thornton-Stearns presented the BHS Budget Update that gave an in-depth review on the BHS budget process. Topics included:

- Budget Cycle & Development
- Funding Sources
- Clinical Design
- Policy Changes
- Economic Outlook
- Mitigation Strategies
- BHS Budget Priorities

V. PRESENTATION HOUSING INITIATIVES

Brenda Sarabia, BHS Acting Deputy Director and Simonne Ruff, Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing presented on BHS Housing Initiatives. Topics covered include:

- BHS Strategic Housing Planning
- Lived Experience
- Housing and Service Options
- BHS Five (5) Year Strategic Housing Plan
- Housing Creation

VI. DISCUSSION: BHAB PRIORITITES FOR 2024

Robin Sales raised concerns regarding finalizing the BHAB 2024 priorities by the next meeting on February 1, 2024. The BHAB general meeting will go dark in January. It was decided that a BHAB Executive Committee meeting would be held in January to continue discussion and work on the priorities.

VII. BHAB SUBCOMITEE REPORT OUT

ON MOTION of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Stuart Gaiber, BHAB tabled agenda item number VII.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann shared the following:

- Vista Hill's North Central Regional Recovery Center will be closing on December 31, 2023 and their clients will be transitioned to other programs.
- The planning of the East County Crisis Stabilization Unit has been ongoing. To cover infrastructure costs BHS applied for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program funding but was not awarded the state funding. However, BHS continues with the project and has an opportunity to leverage Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to help subsidize the build on County owned property and will require an amendment which will be presented to BHAB.
- Senate Bill (SB) 43, signed in October 2023, will expand involuntary detainment and treatment for behavioral health conditions. It allows for involuntary care for severe substance use disorder (SUD), including as a standalone condition and redefines the definition of gravely disabled. The Board voted to defer implementation of SB 43 until January 2025.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Bill Stewart, Chair, acknowledged the end of his two-year term as the BHAB Chair and expressed gratitude to BHAB members and BHS staff for their support over his tenure. Starting 2024, BHAB member Robin Sales, will serve as the new Chair for BHAB.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The California Association of Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) meeting will be held in San Diego on January 19, 2024, with a training session on January 20, 2024.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Gaurav Mishra the meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM