



February 3, 2022  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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Temporary Zoom Meeting due to Public Health orders

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Che Hernandez, Member-at-Large - District 1  
Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1  
Joel San Juan, District 1  
Bill Stewart, Chair - District 1  
Todd Boyer – District 2  
Jim Taylor – District 2  
Robin Sales – District 3  
Mike Grattan – District 3  
Mali Woods Drake – District 3  
John Sturm, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair - District 4  
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large - District 4  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5  
Carol Clemens – District 5  
K.C. Strang – District 5  
Phil Deming, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 5  
Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors Chair

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

James Merino – District 2  
Shannon Jaccard – District 3  
Amina Sheik Mohamed – 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 Bill Stewart at 2:30PM via Zoom.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND ROLL CALL**

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Robin Sales, BHAB approved the minutes from January 6, 2022.  
AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: Taylor

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Terra Jennings** provided comments on behalf of her peers at crisis houses. She presented a report with feedback from peers discussing the challenges presented to those individuals who suffer from mental health challenges, without alcohol or substance use disorders. She discussed the challenges in finding

long-term support such as 90-day residential programs with wrap around services. A copy of Ms. Jennings' full public comment will be emailed to all members for their review.

**Mary Best**, requested follow-up to the draft MCRT rollout presentation provided at the January BHAB meeting, specifically the imaging, language, and messaging presented in phase 1. Additionally, Ms. Best recommended that community members and other stakeholders be included in phase 1 input gathering rather than phase 2.

**Michael Matthews**, provided comment on the importance of consumer input on mental health issues as well as including them on committees, focus groups, and other relevant discussions. Additionally, Mr. Matthews recommended the addition of programs for the older adult community to include services specific to the needs and wants for their unique stage recovery. He also indicated the need for psychiatrists who have training in gerontology, particularly medication interactions and appropriate dosages.

**Dolores Alegria**, thanked Dr. Bergmann for having shared information relevant to clients and expressed appreciation for the services that are being offered. Additionally, inquired on what steps mental health clients must take to receive help and receive treatments from psychiatrists before having a crisis.

**John Sturm**, expressed his concerns regarding prescription Medi-Cal rollout and the issues being faced with prescriptions not being honored, and clients not receiving their medication as previously indicated.

#### **IV. CHAIR FLETCHER UPDATES**

An update was provided on the MCRT program, indicating feedback has been received from the community and will continue to be sought. He shared that positive reports have been received from the field as MCRTs are dispatched. Chair Fletcher also provided information pertaining to a new facility in the Midway area, recently opened in partnership with the City of San Diego, for unsheltered residents with significant substance abuse issues with co-occurring mental illness. Lastly, Chair Fletcher informed his office continues to work on implementing harm reduction strategies, which includes expanding access to naloxone to providers.

#### **V. BROWN ACT REFRESHER**

Kyle Sand, Senior Deputy County Counsel was present to provide members with information regarding the purpose and goals of the Brown Act, as well as address member questions pertaining to the Brown Act.

##### **(Questions/Discussion)**

Q: Must BHAB Workgroups be held to the Brown Act?

A: It is a matter of how they are formed. If the plan is to have an Ad-hoc workgroup, there are ways for those workgroups to not fall under Brown Act requirements, however it would ultimately depend on how each group is formed. Mr. Sand has offered to assist in further discussions to determine the individual circumstances of each workgroup.

Q: Can members communicate via email among each other? For example, could they email to provide a suggestion for items to be added to the agenda?

A: Mr. Sand indicated his recommendation would be to avoid this type of communication taking place via email, and strongly suggested going through staff for issues such as adding topics to the agenda.

Q: Can BHAB members, request to be provided with equipment to assist with access to virtual meeting?

A: Mr. Sand and staff to connect offline to discuss the particular issue and determine what support could be offered.

Q: Can a group, which is not composed of a majority of the BHAB members converse freely without restrictions?

A: Correct, little to zero limitations.

Q: To confirm, BHAB would be considered to have subcommittees rather than workgroups?

A: Correct, in their current state workgroups operate as subcommittees and are a legislative body held to Brown Act requirements.

#### **VI. IDENTIFYING 2022 BHAB PRIORITIES**

BHAB viewed and discussed the proposed priorities framework listing the four main focus areas identified through feedback provided by members, which include: Harm Reduction Strategy; Long Term Care/Residential Care; Alternatives to Incarceration; and Workforce Challenges. There was additional discussion followed by agreement that the areas of focus identified, will not necessarily indicate Workgroups to be formed. No changes were requested to the document.

#### **VII. DISCUSSION: TOPICS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING (DPC) TO ADDRESS:**

Cecily Thornton-Stearns provided information indicating staff must always present to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and obtain their approval prior to moving forward with any procurements, and/or proposals. Noting this requirement, she recommended BHAB closely review procurement Board Letters and provide questions, request additional data or details regarding said procurements well in advance of the item going before the BOS. The following questions and comments were offered by BHAB members in anticipation of the upcoming DPC presentation:

- When should BHAB be given the opportunity to begin a dialog with BHS and the community, which proceeds the development of a contract, which is an important issue to the community?
- Members requested that DPC be given background and information regarding prior discussions held by BHAB regarding contracting timelines.
- In response to Cecily's recommendation, BHAB requested that in the future they would like to be informed of upcoming changes to key contracts and should be included as a BHAB agenda item.
- Jerry Hall provided public comment discussing the hope to have BHAB provided with a list of contracts, to include expiration date and dollar value. This list would be provided to BHAB with the intent of making them aware of all BHS contracts, including when they would be reprocedured in order to provide input well in advance.
- Carol Clemens provided a public comment regarding Cecily's recommendation and requested additional details as to where the information presented to the BOS could be accessed. Additionally, she asked for guidance to assist members on how they can begin researching procurements being presented to the BOS as far as a year in advance.

#### **VIII. WORKGROUP UPDATES**

**Stakeholder Engagement Group** – Carol Clemens requested public comments be reverted back to 3 minutes. The group also discussed the Community Program Planning (CPP) process and reached out to Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela with questions and extended an invitation for her to attend the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group also discussed their mission and focus, and currently are exploring the option of having a co-facilitator to alternate hosting meetings.

#### **IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- **Tri-City Psychiatric Health Facility**

There are ongoing efforts to gather community feedback on the plan to build a Psychiatric Health Facility in Oceanside, which will be operated by Tri-City Medical Center. A public meeting was held to provide information and answer questions from the public and included the participation of Supervisor Jim Desmond. A second public meeting will be held February 16, 2022, for those who were not able to attend the first session. Details for this meeting will be sent to members by staff.

**X. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Bill Stewart encouraged members to participate in councils and other committees to provide ongoing feedback, as well as to continue growing BHAB's representation and influence as a stakeholder group.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice Chair, John Sturm, and Member-at-Large, Judith Yates provided a summary of a meeting recently attended regarding CalAIM Prescription Medi-Cal program and the current situation regarding prescriptions not being honored.
- Chair Bill Stewart shared information regarding a meeting recently held by HHS with the Chairs of different Boards and Commissions where strategy initiatives were discussed including the Live Well Plus Program.
- Member Robin Sales shared her recent experience visiting the EXODUS MCRT Program and Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in Vista. She extended her gratitude and appreciation to staff for taking the time to give her a tour of the facility and provide additional insight to the program and services offered.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Phil Deming the meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.  
AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0