



February 7, 2024
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1
Janice Luna Reynoso, Member-at-Large – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan - District 1
Todd Boyer – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Holly Herring – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Shea Benton – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Carol Clemens, Member-at-Large – District 5
Adriana Rodriguez on behalf of Nora Vargas, Board of Supervisors Chair

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

James Merino – District 2
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator, BHS
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Robin Sales at 1:10 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2023

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Shea Benton, BHAB approved the minutes from December 7, 2023.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karen Marie expressed gratitude to those have helped her son in receiving the care he needs. On Nov. 1, 2023, he was granted conservatorship and is receiving care. She supports Senate Bill (SB) 43 so others like her son can get the help that they need.

- Janice Luna-Reynoso stated that there is an urgent need for disaster relief for flood victims in Southeast San Diego and National City. They need crisis counselors, and therapist to address the mental health needs of the community.
- Charlottle Macera stated the Southeast San Diego community needs culturally competent, sensitive, and trauma-inform counselors. San Diego needs to do more to address the mental health needs of the community with respect and dignity.
- Anonymous comment expressed concerns regarding people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) living with their families and the support that is available to individuals with SMI and their families.
- Anonymous comment submitted by an affordable housing advocate expressed support for Proposition 1 and asked BHAB to consider endorsing this proposition.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB 2024 PRIORITIES & SUBCOMMITTEES

Robin Sales, BHAB Chair, discussed the importance of the CARE Act program and SB 43 as priorities for BHAB. A CARE Act convening facilitated by Robin will be held in March with representation from BHS, BHAB, and key partners. Additionally, Robin proposed scaling back the proposed BHAB priorities to focus on SB 43 and the CARE Act.

V. ACTION ITEM: REPORT BACK ON REGIONAL BOARD & CARE SUBACUTE BED CAPACITY

Nadia Privara, BHS, Assistant Director, Chief Strategy and Finance Office, stated BHS will present to the Board of Supervisors (Board) a report back on the Regional Board & Care Subacute Bed Capacity at their meeting on 3/12/2024.

ON MOTION of Todd Boyer, seconded by Jessica Kramer, BHAB approved the Report Back on Regional Board & Care Subacute Bed Capacity.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: 90-DAY REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON SB 43

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, stated BHS will report back to the Board in 90 days regarding SB 43 implementation planning. On December 5, 2023, the Board made the resolution to postpone the implementation of SB 43 until January 2025.

VII. ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISHING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR SB 43 PUBLIC COMMENT

Robin Sales, BHAB Chair, proposed an ad-hoc committee to consist of three BHAB members to draft a public comment on SB 43 and presented at the Board meeting on March 12, 2024. The committee would be responsible in drafting the public comment and presenting it to BHAB at the March general meeting as an action item prior to providing it at the Board meeting.

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved establishing an Ad-hoc Committee for SB 43 Public Comment.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT & SUNSETTING

- Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Prevention Subcommittee: Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair, stated the primary focus of the subcommittee was on the fentanyl crisis. The subcommittee will continue to expand and enhance community engagement and education regarding opioids. The subcommittee report provides specific and actionable recommendations to the community engagement team concerning county-led initiatives. The AOD subcommittee will sunset after their February meeting.
- Community Engagement (CE) Subcommittee: Janice Luna-Reynoso, Member-at-Large, stated the subcommittee will continue to address pressing issues related to mental health. An ongoing focus is increasing diversity within BHAB with cultural representation from each county district. Their plans are to increase community participation in meetings, enhance outreach efforts, and strengthen relationships with stakeholders.
- Criminal Justice (CJ) Subcommittee: Robin Sales, BHAB Chair, stated the subcommittee focused on addressing issues that impact the various components related to mental health, substance use, and the impact on the San Diego County systems and programs. An ongoing identified need by the subcommittee is obtaining data from the San Diego Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies to influence and identify priority issues.

Robin noted that all existing subcommittees will sunset February 2024 and there will be ongoing planning for 2024 Subcommittees based on the 2024 BHAB Priorities. In March, all subcommittee participants will be invited to attend a planning meeting for 2024 subcommittees.

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, provided updates on the following:

- CARE Act: In San Diego County the number of petitions continue to increase at an exponential rate. The County has been receiving a number for fair court agreements, which is currently at 17. The goal continues to be to encourage voluntary engagement in services by individuals.
- Proposition (Prop) 1: Prop 1 is the culmination of SB 326, which is the modernization of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and Assembly Bill (AB) 531. Prop 1 authorizes the state to borrow up to \$6.4 billion to build (1) more places where people could get mental health care and drug or alcohol treatment and (2) more housing for people with mental health, drug, or alcohol challenges. Prop 1 will be on the March 5th ballot.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

Robin Sales, BHAB Chair, stated that beginning in March the BHAB Executive Committee Meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 1:00pm-2:00pm, at BHS headquarters. The February meeting will be held on February 22, 2024, 1:00pm-2:00pm at BHS headquarters.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Stuart Gaiber, seconded by Joel San Juan the meeting adjourned at 3:31 PM.