

July 6, 2023
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

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
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
Jim Taylor – District 2
Michael Grattan – District 3
Shea Benton – District 4
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Maya Shahar, Administrative Analyst II, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Bill Stewart at 2:30PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 1, 2023

ON MOTION of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the minutes from June 1, 2023 minutes.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karen Loftis: Karen is a mother of a 22-year-old man with a mental health illness. Her son has been missing for 20 weeks. She would like to be part of the solution for individuals with mental illness to receive proper care and services.
- Carol Clemens: Carol advocated for permanent skilled part-time workers to help with the case management of individuals with mental health conditions, as well as consideration for the use of part-time workers as an option to address workforce challenges.
- Darron Devillez: Darron advocated for support for Vet Art and deep art engagement for individuals that suffer from mental illness.

- Angela Rowe: Angela raised concerns with rates changes expected with the CalAIM implementation and hopes programs can be sustained with the new rates.
- Anthony Avalos: Anthony stated that the County of San Diego put out possibly the best social equity assessment in the nation, which identified specific harms over time to communities resulting from the war on drugs. BHAB has an important role in identifying proper programs to help the community heal from these harms.
- Maria Ysela Galvan: Maria is an Army Veteran advocating for continued support and funding of the arts for veterans.
- Mark Punzalan: Mark advocated for raising awareness around mental health issues among teens.
- Sean Ebor: Sean proposed an extracurricular program for teens affected by gang violence.

IV. CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS

Chairwoman Nora Vargas noted that the Supervisorial appointment to BHAB will be filled as expected, in due time. Chairwoman Vargas reiterated her support for BHS including 55 new positions that will be added to help with the implementation of CARE Court, \$10.9 million to help sustain crisis diversion services, support for the Opioid Settlement Framework, and investing in prevention programs and community engagement. The Board of Supervisors and Chairwoman Vargas are committed to this work and continued support for BHAB's work.

V. ACTION ITEM: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIDGE HOUSING GRANT

Nadia Privara, Assistant Director and Chief Strategy and Finance Officer, presented the *Authorization to Accept Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Grant Funds* Board Letter [07/18/23 (15)] to authorize the acceptance of one-time BHBH project funding totaling \$44.3 million. This Board Letter also includes authorization of competitive solicitations for licensed residential adult and senior care facility slots (board and care patches) through enhanced rates.

ON MOTION of Stuart Gaiber, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant Funds Board Letter.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. ACTION ITEM: BHS PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS BOARD LETTER

Aurora Kiviat, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer, along with Charity Voth-White and Yael Koning, Deputy Directors, presented the Board Letter to authorize competitive solicitations, single source contracts, amendments to extend existing BHS contracts, and cooperative and revenue agreements, to sustain critical behavioral health services. These are the following recommendations:

- Issue Competitive Solicitations for 46 contracts:
 - \$1.1 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023-24
 - \$150.1 million in FY 2024-25
- Enter into 19 Single Source Contracts:
 - \$53.4 million in FY 2024-25
- Amend and Extend four (4) contracts:
 - \$2.5 million in FY 2023-24
 - \$35.6 million in FY 2024-25
- Execute two (2) Cooperative & Revenue Agreements:
 - \$0.1 million in FY 2023-24

- \$0.5 million in FY 2024-25

ON MOTION of Robin Sales, seconded by Carol Clemens, BHAB approved the *Authorize Competitive Solicitations, Single Source Contracts, Amendment to Extend Existing BHS Contracts, and Cooperative and Revenue Agreements* Behavioral Health Services Board Letter.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB SUBCOMMITTEE MID-YEAR UPDATES

Robin Sales from the **Criminal Justice (CJ) Subcommittee** expressed appreciation to BHS staff, Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, Dr. Michael Krelstein, and Assistant Sheriff, Theresa Adams-Hydar, for their support and information brought to the subcommittee. The subcommittee has made progress on their objectives over the past six months and will continue bring forward recommendations for BHAB approval at the end of the year.

Janice Luna-Reynoso from the **Community Engagement (CE) Subcommittee** shared the mission statement and objectives of the subcommittee and invited the public to attend future CE subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee continuously engages with Katherine Briggs, Chief, Communication & Engagement (C&E) Team, UC San Diego partners, and Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP) on BHS's community engagement efforts. The subcommittee would like to explore increasing accessibility to materials in multiple languages and offering interpreter services at meetings, as well as additional funding opportunities to support organizations in their community engagement.

Serita Polinaire from the **Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention (AOD) Subcommittee** encouraged board members and the public to attend future subcommittee meetings, pointing out that no life experience is needed to participate. She thanked Katherine Briggs for all the work being done by the C&E team and in gathering feedback from the AOD subcommittee to inform the youth campaign. Serita also reminded attendees to celebrate National Recovery Month at the kickoff event on Saturday, August 26, 2023.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Luke Bergmann shared the following:

- District 2 Supervisor Joel Anderson recognized two Community Research Foundation programs for their dedication to the health and well-being of community members in District 2. The recognized programs are the CalWORKS Behavioral Health Centers, that provide outpatient behavioral health services to participants in the CalWORKS Welfare to Work Program, and the Crossroads Family Center program, that provides a full range of culturally and linguistically competent, strength-base, comprehensive mental health services to children, youth, and their families.
- CA Senate Bill (SB) 1227 to taking it to the boards as an action item to reauthorization. This bill will provide for more time for clinicians to provide intensive treatment for individuals who are on mental health holds.
- Nadia Privara presented the Behavioral Health Workforce Innovation Program proposal to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) on June 15, 2023. MHSOAC approved up to \$75 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation funding for training, tuition-reimbursement program, and upskilling components to meet professional needs; however, the housing incentive program was not approved. BHS will continue to work on the housing incentive proposal and will go back to MHSOAC at a future time. Gratitude was

expressed to BHAB members Serita, Robin, and Carol for providing public comment at the MHSOAC meeting in support of the proposal.

- CARE Court is going to be shaped by other state policy, specifically SB 43 and MHSA modernization, and will impact its implementation. A significant emphasis from the aggregation of these policies will be housing for individuals with substance use disorders. This will be of significant importance to the AOD subcommittee in years to come.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Bill Stewart, Chair reminded BHAB members to respond to the BHAB retreat survey to identify a retreat meeting date. Bill also shared his concern of low BHAB member attendance at meetings and would like to see attendance increase at future BHAB meetings.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Stewart, Chair announced the resignation of BHAB member Jim Taylor, Seat 6, representing District 2, effective August 3, 2023.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On Motion of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Joel San Juan the meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.