



July 2, 2020
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

P.O. BOX 85524
San Diego, CA 92186-5524
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Che Hernandez – District 1
Bill Stewart, 1st Vice Chair – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Jenifer Mendel, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2
Thomas Hathorn – District 2
Michael Matthews, 2nd Vice Chair – District 2
Mike Grattan – District 3
Deanne George – District 3
Jerry Hall – District 4
John Sturm, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4
Judith Yates, Chairperson – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
Phil Deming – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5
Debbie Barnum – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Rebecca Hernandez – District 2
Ed Weiner – District 3
Shannon Jaccard – District 3

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services
Natalya Serrano, Administrative Analyst III, Behavioral Health Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Judith Yates, Chair, at 2:30 p.m. via WebEx.

II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of BHAB introduced themselves. The group welcomed newly appointed BHAB member Thomas Hathorn of District 2.

III. PRESENTATION: T3 COUNTYWIDE

Nick Macchione, Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and T3 Director, EOC

Nick Macchione presented the County's current initiative to combat further transmission of COVID-19 called T3: Test, Trace and Treat. The plan includes three main components: testing

made easily accessible through drive-up, mobile, and walk-in testing sites; tracing through culturally competent methods; and treating by assisting with access to safe self-isolation and easily accessible individualized services. Countywide T3 efforts have increased steadily since its inception, with the following cumulative data as of June 30, 2020: 350,457 total administered tests, 17,104 contact tracing investigations, and 1,017 persons placed in Public Health isolation rooms.

Note: Parts of the presentation and discussion were inaudible for participants due to technological difficulties.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is any peer support being used in the testing portion of T3?

A: We are not currently using peer support; however, we are working with community partners to help promote testing across the regions.

Q: In National City, health disparities and lack of access to healthy eating makes the community predisposed to chronic diseases and more susceptible to COVID-19. Will promotion for and better access to healthy eating be prioritized somewhere down the line as a preventative strategy?

A: Yes, various strategies are being employed in National City to promote healthy eating, including food drives and increasing access and promotion to CalFresh to combat food insecurity.

Q: Is there a recommendation that even people without COVID-19 symptoms be tested to see if they have the antigens?

A: Testing is highly recommended for high risk groups such as persons over 65 years old, those with underlying health conditions, and medical personnel on the frontlines of COVID-19. Testing is also recommended for groups who engage in a lot of contact with the public, such as restaurant and grocery store workers.

IV. UPDATE: SUMMARY OF T3 ACTIVITY IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Dr. Nicole Esposito, Assistant Clinical Director, Behavioral Health Services

County Behavioral Health has employed some key strategies to provide contracted providers with support and technical assistance during the ongoing pandemic. An area of focus was linking residential and congregate facilities to the EOC for testing resources. Currently, out of a total of 27 residential facilities, 25 reported having adjusted their program operational processes to link clients to testing upon admission.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is there a specific database for the behavioral health COVID-19 testing and treating data?

A: There is no universal database for the data collected from behavioral health clients at this time on a system of care level. On a broader scale, this is currently being worked on via a collaboration with Public Health.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - JULY 2, 2020

ON MOTION of Debbie Barnum, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, BHAB approved the minutes of June 4, 2020, as written.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member of the public Dolores Seymour Alegria-Matthews came before the board to reiterate her previous requests for information and to express her concern for vulnerable members of the

public who live independently and cannot easily access information on COVID-19 testing and resources.

VII. ACTION ITEM: GROUP ADVOCACY OPTIONS

Judith Yates, Chairperson

The board was given a list of local advisory boards, councils, and public BHS meetings for group advocacy consideration. The vote is postponed to next month's BHAB meeting to allow time for further discussion.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- **7/7/20 Continuum of Care Board Letter:** On July 7th, BHS will be providing an update to the Board of Supervisors on the current state of the community's behavioral health as shown by the current national and local data, as well as a proposal for a shift in the strategic emphasis from focus on investment in hospital partnerships to an emphasis on diversionary services, long term care, and care coordination services.

Q: Would the mental health non-enforcement intervention program be separate from PERT?

A: Design-wise, the two will need to be related as they will both dependent on a certain type of interaction with the community.

Q: Are the mobile units intended mostly to de-escalate rather than provide services/treatment? Why not use part of PERT and have some teams go out with and without police partners? Why re-invent a whole new organization and staff? Additionally, what will happen when the mobile team encounters someone in need of hospitalization?

A: The focus of the mobile units will be onsite de-escalation, but we do anticipate some transportation will be necessary if they encounter someone in need of acute crisis care.

Q: Is there an opportunity for interested BHAB members to provide input in the structure or development of this new type of team?

A: County BHS will need to confer with other cross-sector partners currently involved with the mobile unit development but welcomes suggestions from board members.

- **Budget Adjustment Process:** *This was not addressed due to time.*

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chairperson

This was not addressed due to time.

X. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS

- **Housing and Homelessness:** *This was not addressed due to time.*
- **Continuum of Care:** *This was not addressed due to time.*
- **Building a Better BHAB:** *This was not addressed due to time.*

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Michael Matthews, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, the meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0