



June 4, 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
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Jenifer Mendel, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2
Michael Matthews, 2nd Vice Chair – District 2
Mike Grattan – District 3
Ed Weiner – 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

Joel San Juan – District 1
Thomas Hathorn – District 2
Shannon Jaccard – District 3

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health
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.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – MAY 7, 2020

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, BHAB approved the minutes of May 7, 2020, as written.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

V. PRESENTATION: FISCAL DISCUSSION AND CARES ACT

HHSA Executive Finance Team

Andy Pease, HHSA Acting Chief Operations Officer, came before the board with information on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the County's planned utilization of the funds. The CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) is a \$150 billion stimulus fund distributed to select states, counties and cities based on population to assist efforts towards COVID-19. The County of San Diego received \$334 million of CARES Act CRF funding, with the City of San Diego receiving \$248 million. Within the funding's stated parameters, the County will be using the dollars towards local response and recovery efforts related to COVID-19, with the following allocation framework: public health emergency response (\$175 million), T3 (\$100 million), child care vouchers (\$5 million), funding for 17 smaller cities (\$25 million), economic stimulus/investment (\$15 million), child welfare outreach efforts (\$2 million), and behavioral health teleworking infrastructure for providers (\$15 million).

DISCUSSION:

Q: How much of the funding is one-time money, and how much is ongoing? What will be done to offset the \$150 million reduction in MHSA and realignment funds?

A: A sizable portion of the \$100 million is one-time funding, which is expected to go towards the purchase of PPE, as well as meal delivery/food distribution and epidemiology staffing. The County is exploring a variety of ways to absorb the loss of MHCA and realignment funds. Some CARES Act funding will be directed towards realignment, with some additional state and federal funding expected for eligibility programs.

Q: How much funding was invested in hotel rooms?

A: By the end of this fiscal year, the estimated cost of the hotel rooms will be \$12-15 million, including the wraparound services provided for those staying at the hotel.

Q: Was the County subsidizing any of the \$7 million spent by the city on housing the homeless at the convention center?

A: Yes, the County entered an agreement with the city and the Regional Task Force for the Homeless (RTFH), with a commitment of \$1.6 million of the County's SB-89 funds. Additionally, the County has been providing nurses and public health services at the convention center.

Q: Do people still need to be referred to be tested?

A: A referral is no longer needed. People can contact 2-1-1 or their primary care provider for testing.

Q: Can the CARES Act funding be used for rent relief?

A: Yes, the CARES Act can be used for tenant or landlord relief. It is currently being discussed as a policy decision.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- **5/19 Board Letter – Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis:** The board letter specified that \$15 million of the CARES Act should be devoted to behavioral health needs, providing funding for (but not limited to) supplies, telehealth capacity, electronic health record upgrades, care coordination, and outreach engagement.

Q: Can the board receive an update on T3 and how much money has been devoted to testing, treating, and tracing?

A: BHS will reach out to the Exec office to request a T3 presentation for the July meeting, if possible.

Q: Are patients currently being tested for COVID-19 before they are admitted to services? What happens to patients who test positive prior to admission?

A: All hospital settings are testing before admission as well as before discharge. No patient is turned away based on their COVID-19 test result. Patients who test positive before discharge are kept in services until they are no longer positive. Additionally, patients who require further medical monitoring will be eligible to remain until they are stabilized.

Q: Are those seeking alcohol and drug services in inpatient services also being tested before being admitted to services? What happens to patients who test positive prior to admission?

A: Yes, programs are encouraged to test prior to admission using FQHCs, however, there is still some variability due to the barriers of obtaining tests. Onsite testing for programs is currently being explored with the EOC.

- **BHIF Procurement Update:** The Behavioral Health Impact Fund (BHIF) is moving forward. The RFP has been posted with the established expectation that services will be operational for 18 months from the award date.
- **Continuum of Care Update Board Letter:**
There will be a presentation to the board at the July meeting on updates to the Continuum of Care board letter.
- **COVID-19 Dashboard:** A copy of behavioral health services data during COVID-19 was provided to the board, showing the change in volume of in-person services at the start of the pandemic and shift to telehealth across the system, with a significant reduction in services provided due to systemwide adjustments during COVID-19.

Q: Has there been an uptick in suicides and drug overdose-related deaths during the pandemic?

A: There has been no indication of an increase in suicides, however, data has shown an approximately 20-30% increase in drug-related emergency admissions relative to last year.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chairperson

- **Patient's Rights Committee (PRC) Survey:** The California Behavioral Health Planning Council has requested representatives from BHAB to complete a survey from one of their subcommittees, the Patient's Rights Committee (PRC). The purpose of the PRC is to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements for the protection and upholding of patient rights to receive effective, timely and humane treatment in a public mental health system. Mike Matthews and Richard McGaffigan have volunteered to complete the survey as BHAB representatives.
- **SB-855 Call to Action:** Regarding calls to action, members are welcome to research and engage in personal advocacy for local legislation, even if BHAB, as a board, is not allowed to take a position.
- **July BHAB Meeting:** Due to the quorum received in favor of a July meeting, BHAB will be convening on July 2nd at 2:30 p.m. for a virtual meeting.

X. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS

- **Housing and Homelessness:** The workgroup's current goal is to narrow each member's focus on a specific issue within housing and homelessness. Each member is to then bring forward a recommendation for their chosen topic.
- **Continuum of Care:** The group met and discussed possible sites that the community can go to access telehealth services, e.g. FQHCs or schools. The group also explored ideas around new outputs for stigma reduction, with a suggestion of utilizing TikTok videos to reach the younger demographic.
- **Building a Better BHAB:** The group has drafted proposed bylaw changes and provided to the board for review. The recommended change includes removal of the four categories for the member roles to allow the Board of Supervisors more latitude in choosing their members. Members with feedback are welcome to join the workgroup's virtual meetings or send an email.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Rebecca Hernandez seconded by Richard McGaffigan, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0