



June 3, 2021
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

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

Che Hernandez – 1st Vice Chair- District 1
Joel San Juan, District 1
Bill Stewart, 2nd Vice Chair- District 1
Jim Taylor – District 2
Mike Grattan – District 3
Shannon Jaccard – District 3
Amina Sheik Mohamed – District 4
John Sturm, Member-at-Large – District 4
Judith Yates, Chair – District 4
Phil Deming, Member-at-Large – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5
Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors Chair – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
Thomas Hathorn – District 2
James Merino – District 2
Ed Weiner – District 3
Saurabh Gupta – District 4
Debbie Barnum – District 5

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 Judith Yates at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND ROLL CALL

ON MOTION of Phil Deming, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the minutes from May 6, 2021.
AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1-Yates

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Edi Thomas, member of the public, addressed the BHAB with concerns regarding the continued arrests of individual with mental illness highlighting recent events in her neighborhood as well as in other areas within San Diego which have escalated to fatalities in some instances. She expressed her sympathies with all participants involved, notably those who “are not being helped at all by the system”. She stressed the need for mental health emergencies to be addressed in a more effective ways other than just a call to law enforcement.

Margaret Agnee, member of the public and mother to a 62-year-old man receiving treatment for a brain disorder and opioid addiction addressed the BHAB with the need for more social workers. She expressed her gratitude and the positive impact social workers have had on her family, attributing their efforts to improved patient outcomes. Noting how demanding and complex their jobs are, she urged the BHAB to support funding scholarships for social workers.

Angela Rowe, licensed Clinical Social Worker, thanked the BHAB for the opportunity to address the need for more perinatal substance use disorder (SUD) programs. Ms. Rowe addressed the BHAB in March on this issue and again stressed how these services can help children and older children thrive as their mothers heal. She encouraged the County and the Board of Supervisors to look at augmenting perinatal SUD programs for therapeutic childcare so that children can obtain services at the same time as their mothers.

Jerry Hall, former BHAB member, reminded the BHAB of their core responsibility, to ensure meaningful and stakeholder engagement throughout the budget planning process as it relates to the MHSA Three Year Plan and annual Community Program Planning (CPP) Plan.

IV. CHAIR FLETCHER UPDATES

Nathan Fletcher, Chair, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (BOS)

May Highlights

- May is Mental Health Month proclamation was presented with the following individuals recognized for the role they play in our County's mental health efforts:
 - Judith Yates, BHAB Chair, representing consumers and family members.
 - Mona Mitton, Vice Chair of the Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA), representing our community provider network.
 - Dr. Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, representing our behavioral health services County workers.
- Behavioral Health Impact Fund (\$25 million) awarded its first \$5 million in grants for mental health services to the following organizations as follows:
 - La Maestra, \$4.7 million to add 21 units of transitional housing with wrap-around services for individuals undergoing mental health or substance use disorder treatment.
 - Community Research Foundation, \$74,000 for three vehicles to transport individuals from three crisis residential treatment locations to medical appointments, housing, and other needs.
 - Stepping Stone of San Diego, \$37,000 to create custom shade for additional outdoor treatment space and an 8-passenger minivan to expand transportation to and from medical appointments for clients receiving treatment.
 - Sharp Healthcare Foundation, \$31,000 to purchase 65 licenses to implement behavioral health services via telehealth.
 - Jewish Family Service, \$24,000 to install technology and add Wi-Fi access at two sites in San Diego.
- Naloxone Standing Order signed to increase lifesaving efforts and allow community organizations to distribute widely, at no cost and without prescription to any person at risk of an overdose.

June 8th BOS Meeting

- Framework for the Comprehensive Harm Reduction Plan to be presented by Dr. Luke Bergmann. Folks encouraged to tune-in and comment if able.
- BOS considering the allocation \$85 million for homeless related efforts primarily focused on harm reduction, outreach programs, and housing opportunities. In addition, \$30 million slated for youth mental health initiatives.
- BOS to consider the creation of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Services (OIRA).

- Fiscal Subcommittee to assess levels of reserve and fiscal policies. In addition, community engagement process to be outlined for community input and stakeholder engagement as it relates to our contracting and procurement policies and processes.

V. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB INPUT ON ONE-TIME FUNDING STREAMS

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

Nadia Privara Brahms, Chief, Agency Operations, Behavioral Health Services

An overview of the Governor's Budget and Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was reviewed and highlighted as follows:

Governor's Budget – May Revision (*allocations to counties have not yet been determined*)

Behavioral Health

- Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, \$1 billion for child behavioral health system serving individuals under 26 years old.
- Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure, \$1.4 billion for behavioral health continuum infrastructure over three years.
 - Minimum of \$265 million is for individuals under 25 years old
 - \$250 million for new local Incompetent to Stand Trial infrastructure
- Mental Health Services Act Grant Program - \$30 million (one-time) funding for Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Partnership Grant.
- Treating and Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - \$12.4 million (one-time)

Housing/Homelessness

- Project Homekey - \$2.75 billion over two years for additional acquisitions and rehabilitation of sites.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

San Diego County

- \$648.4 million allocated to San Diego County; deadline for expenditures is December 2026.
- Community input received during five community workshops to inform development of framework.
- Proposal includes \$30 million of ARPA funds for behavioral health services for youth; and \$85 million for homeless services.
- Board meeting on June 8th to approve ARPA proposal.

Questions/Discussion

1. Concerns raised on the disproportionate amount allocated to senior and youth populations (\$20 million of the \$1 billion). Members assured there is no lack of funding for the given populations.
2. BHAB members asked the following related to the Rental Assistance allocation of \$107 million:
 - Is it for a specific population? Allocation is consistent with the emergency rental assistance. In terms of CARES Act funding, there are challenges around eligibility for folks who are receiving services within the specialty behavioral health care systems. BHS will continue to look at how rental assistance is relevant for populations receiving or who are eligible for behavioral health services.
 - Per San Diego Ordinance, can landlords be exempt if they wish not to accept payment? If yes, can the exemption be removed? BHS Staff will look into and provide clarity on this.
 - With potential rental opportunities with small business owners, how will the County establish a level of trust to provide housing for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders? BHS will look into the expectations on rental assistance and provide feedback on how the County will cite these potential resources.
 - Due to residential status, will HHS play a role in assisting homeless obtain their direct stimulus payments? Chair Fletcher to follow-up on this item.
3. What is the County doing to provide mental health support for law enforcement, as well as, to veterans who make up to 20% of law enforcement? County is continuing its efforts in providing

support to law enforcement in answering mental health and drug treatment calls with funding to provide PERT clinicians in addition to regional Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT). In addition, the County Office of Veterans Services provides outreach and more stakeholder engagement for veterans. As it relates to direct support to law enforcement, Chair Fletcher championed a specific First Responders Initiative to support their mental health for additional peer-driven resources.

4. As it relates to the \$1 billion for child behavioral health system, can we look at allocating funds to the physical infrastructure designed around counseling spaces in schools? Suggestion is noted and will be considered.
5. With LGBTQ youth more likely to commit suicide will funding be enhanced for this population? BHS acknowledged assistance for statistically vulnerable populations.

VI. UPDATE: BHAB BYLAW REVISIONS

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services
Kyle Sand, County Counsel

County Counsel provided members with a brief update and recommendation to return to the BHAB with a presentation and proposed bylaws to align with AB1352 and County Code 881.8, noting:

- Changes to the bylaws must align with State Legislation AB1352 and County Code 881.8 (last updated in 2015; due to be updated October 2021). Note: AB1352 supersedes the county ordinance.
- Per Board Policy A-74, a regular sunset review is required in the event of any changes to State law or any other revisions in the County Code and must coincide with the sunset review schedule.

Members agreed on a presentation in the coming months with track changes of the proposed bylaws for review.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

NACo Awards, Behavioral Health Services nominated three programs for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards Program. NACo recognizes programs for innovative approaches to providing new or needed services, improving administration of existing programs, or promoting intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. Congratulations to:

- Pathways to Well-Being Virtual Workforce Development Training Series in the category of Information Technology.
- Roaming Outpatient Access Mobile (ROAM) Health Clinic in the category of Health.
- Schoolink in the category of Children and Youth.

Linkages to the criminal justice system, the regional behavioral health hub slated for 3rd Ave in Hillcrest, to provide longitudinal care coordination services. BHS is vigorously working with UCSD Health and Blue Shield Promise toward this longitudinal health care service. Prior to the building of infrastructure at the 3rd Avenue hub, this care coordination service will be provided at the San Diego County Psychiatric, with the goal to be data driven, provide relational care for those with behavioral health conditions, and divert individuals from criminal justice involvement into community care. Additionally, forensic psychiatry and crisis stabilization is and will continue to be a critical piece of this psychiatric service. Finally, we hope to create a data registry with direct threads to clinical and care coordination activity. This would include elements of health data, social service engagement and criminal justice involvement, laying the foundation for something more robust.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chair

July BHAB Meeting, still to be determined. Several attempts have been made by BHS staff to confirm member attendance and determine whether there will be a quorum. Members asked to respond with their availability for the July meeting to help shape the agenda and move forward.

Current July agenda includes:

- Action Item: BHS Procurements Contract Extensions
- Presentation: CalAIM
- Informational Item: Diversity Planning for the BHAB

Note: CalAIM presentation will give the BHAB an opportunity to discuss the recent State draft procurement Request for Proposal (RFP) as it is not a given that the State will reprocur all seven of the geographic managed care plans. BHS Staff will forward a copy of the RFP to the BHAB.

BHAB Executive Committee, due to changes in the BHAB membership, appointments to the BHAB Executive Committee were necessary. Per the bylaws, BHAB Chair has appointed Executive Committee members for the length of term of the vacancy. Many thanks to Che Hernandez and John Sturm for accepting this assignment for the remainder of the year.

Quality Review Council (QRC) Member Appointment, again due to changes in the BHAB membership, BHAB participation is needed on the QRC on a quarterly basis. Those interested may contact Dania Barroso-Conde with their interest for potential appointment.

XI. WORKGROUP UPDATES

Criminal Justice Workgroup, Richard McGaffigan, District 5

Workgroup continues to bring in key stakeholders for informational sessions with continued interest in the areas of cash bail and diversion from jail. Group looks forward to presentations from Dr. Michael Krelstein and the District Attorney's office. Goal is to provide workgroup recommendations by the fall.

Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup, Phil Deming, District 5

One issue brought forward was concerns that the delivery of treatment appears to be decreasing with funding going into the next budget year. Per BHS Staff, due to an administrative movement for cost reporting purposes, there is no reduction in effort or resources.

Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup, Bill Stewart, District 1

Due to the overwhelming interest and feedback received, the workgroup invited Dr. Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela with the BHS Prevention & Community Engagement Unit to the July meeting to increase stakeholder engagement and explore ideas for community engagement.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Terra Jennings, Peer Liaison with RI International announced continued trainings for people with lived experience of behavioral health challenges and recovery to work in the service system as peers. There will be ten (10) trainings to take place in 2021-2022 contract year to accommodate the Peer Support Specialists infused into the DMC-ODS services. As stay at home restrictions begin to lift, trainings will shift from online platform to in-person.

XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by John Sturm the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.
AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1-Yates