



March 03, 2022
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Temporary Zoom Meeting due to Public Health orders

MEMBERS PRESENT

Che Hernandez, Member-at-Large, District 1
Joel San Juan, District 1
Bill Stewart, Chair – District 1
Todd Boyer – District 2
Jim Taylor – District 2
James Merino – District 2
Robin Sales – District 3
Michael Grattan – District 3
Mali Woods-Drake – District 3
Amina Sheik Mohamed – District 4
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large– District 4
Phil Deming, 2nd Vice Chair – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
Carol Clemens – District 5
Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors Chair

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
James Merino – District 2
John Sturm, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
K.C. Strang – 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 Bill Stewart at 2:30PM via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND ROLL CALL

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Robin Sales, BHAB approved the minutes from February 3rd, 2022.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: Sheik Mohamed

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Angela Rowe, with Vista Hill provided comments on the need for therapeutic childcare and perinatal substance use disorder (SUD) programs. Ms. Rowe wanted to remind BHAB members of the need for these programs, and advocate for additional assistance to be available to the community.

Terra Jennings provided a comment on behalf of the Peer Advocacy Groups. Ms. Jennings addressed feedback received pertaining to homelessness as the continued main barrier for behavioral health recovery. Additionally, she indicated the peer feedback forms also identified affordable housing, employment, access to mental health, and transportation as concerns and issues preventing recovery.

Shelley Linde provided comments pertaining to the need of integrating hospitals to the many programs available so that they can better assist clients when being discharged. She provided background on past occurrences with her son, where he was not properly guided to continuation of services when discharged from the hospital. She suggested support be provided to clients, so they are aware of options other than hospital when seeking care.

Mary Jo O'Brien provided comments and expressed her concerns regarding older adults and Social Security Income (SSI). She voiced that the SSI older adults receive is not enough to afford housing and puts them at-risk for becoming homeless. Additionally, she spoke about older adults who are alone at home without family, and do not have the means to access computers or internet to communicate with others. She requested for the County of San Diego to consider a contract which would provide the equipment needed for older adults to be able to virtually communicate with friends and family. Lastly, she recommended a call center be established to provide wellness checks on older adults who live alone and may need support.

IV. CHAIR FLETCHER UPDATES

An update was provided on the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) services and the public education awareness campaign which rolled out the week of February 28th. Supervisor Fletcher indicated National City and Chula Vista are already active in diverting 911 calls to MCRT dispatch. He also shared that the Point in Time Count had been completed and will help address issues pertaining to homelessness. Lastly, Supervisor Fletcher addressed the announcement made by the Governor pertaining to CARE Court. He advised there is still much to learn about this effort and his office will be engaging the Governor's office to further discuss and inquire on additional details pertaining to this matter.

V. ACTION ITEM: BHAB 2022 PRIORITIES

Based off the annual fall retreat that was held in October 2021 and subsequent meetings with BHAB members, 2022 priority areas were identified. After several discussions at BHAB meetings, the 2022 priorities were presented and included: Criminal Justice, Building Community & Stakeholder Engagement, Behavioral Health Workforce Challenges, and Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention.

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Robin Sales, BHAB approved the BHAB 2022 Priorities.
AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. ACTION ITEM: MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING TO CARE INITIATIVE

Staff presented BHAB with the Screening to Care Initiative, which was created to address the mental health needs of middle school students in school districts across the county. Upon discussion of this initiative, staff sought BHAB's support in requesting from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) authorization to solicit for the procurement of Screening to Care services.

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the Mental Health Screening to Care Initiative.
AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VII. BHAB WORKGROUPS SUNSETTING AND REPORT OUTS:

- **Criminal Justice (CJ) Workgroup** – Workgroup Chair, Richard McGaffigan, provided an update on behalf of the Workgroup. He informed BHAB members that the CJ workgroup established a partnership with Supervisor Lawson Remer’s staff in support of the Alternatives to Incarceration proposal and were recently invited to participate in the rollout for the strategy of this initiative, including joining the Alternative to Incarceration board. Additionally, the members have submitted a request to meet with Dr. Bergmann for additional guidance around this initiative.
- **Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Workgroup** – Workgroup Chair, Philip Deming, provided an update on behalf of the Workgroup. In the report provided he discussed the current population of substance users in the county, the treatment community, current prevention efforts taking place in the county, as well as a breakdown of the Workgroup’s recommendations to reduce substance use and its effects.
- **Stakeholder Engagement (SE) Workgroup** – Workgroup member, Carol Clemens, provided an update on behalf of the Workgroup. In her report, she shared the Workgroup’s Strategic Goals which include: 1.) Being fully engaged in the Community Program Planning (CPP) Process; 2.) Workforce to include scholarships and/or grants for advanced degree students in behavioral health, diversifying workforce, and creating innovative incentives to recruit and maintain professionals in the County; and 3.) Continuum of Care (COC) such as reducing barriers to care, streamlining prescription processed at pharmacies, monitoring contractor outcomes, and building new programs.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION BOARD MEMO

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- **Peer Support Specialist**

Dr. Luke Bergmann provided a breakdown and explanation of the Peer Support Specialist Certification Program – Senate Bill 803. Dr. Bergmann explained this plan is lead by California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). Additionally, he indicated this law would allow billing for peer services as a new option for counties who choose to opt-in. Dr. Bergmann further explained that a county which has chosen to opt-in, may bill and seek reimbursement for services as they would meet the Medi-Cal requirements. BHAB members were provided with a link where they may seek further details. A request was made by Carol Clemens to have Karin Lettau, San Diego’s CalMHSA representative for Peer Support Specialist Certification to be invited to present at the next BHAB meeting. This request will be further discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

IX. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Bill Stewart provided Member-at-Large Judith Yates with time to provide members with a Medi-Cal Prescription Drug update.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Che Hernandez informed members of the upcoming NAMI Annual Walk which will be held April 30, 2022 at 7:00am.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Judith Yates the meeting adjourned at 5:02PM.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0