



May 2, 2024
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1
Janice Luna Reynoso, Member-at-Large – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan - District 1
Todd Boyer – District 2
Kaye Kelley Turpin – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Holly Herring – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Shea Benton – District 4
Amanda Berry – District 4
Jerisha Rutlin – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Carol Clemens – District 5
Andrea Rodriguez on behalf of Chairwoman Nora Vargas

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator, BHS
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2024

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Judith Yates, BHAB approved the minutes from April 4, 2024.

Carol Clemens commented on the public comment provided in April by Mary Jo who recommended part-time case management support. Carol expressed this was an important suggestion that was not noted in the minutes.

Maria Molina-Melendez noted Jessica Kramer's attendance via teleconference and her NO VOTE on all actionable items for today's meeting.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 NO VOTE: 1

III. **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

In-Person Comments:

- Trish Stockton, a U.S. Navy Veteran advocate for the Veteran’s Art Project spoke on the positive impact to her quality of life due to the Veteran’s Art Project. She encouraged support and funding for the Veteran’s Art Project.
- John Brady, from Lived Experience Advisors, expressed concerns over permanent supportive housing evictions and recommended all evictions go through a review process. Additionally, he expressed concerns over the treatment of a CARE Act program client and their advocate.
- Anthony A. LoBue, U.S. Army Veteran and Veteran’s advocate, encouraged BHAB to collaborate with the Veteran’s Art Project and spoke on the positive impacts to mental health wellness through the arts.
- Rob Gordon spoke on his experience following his care at Family Health Centers of San Diego and expressed, from personal experience, his concerns on patient rights and not receiving proper treatment.
- Mary Jo expressed appreciation to BHAB in publicly acknowledging the value of peers and encourages BHAB, the BHS Director, and the Board of Supervisors (Board) to partner with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to promote the work of peer support specialists and partner with peer liaisons in the planning of Proposition 1.
- Rigo Ruiz, Professional Outreach Specialist at Southern Indian Health Council, advocated for an increase in crisis response support, such as PERT and Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), in tribal and rural communities. He urged BHAB to prioritize expanding crisis response support to underserved areas ensuring equitable access to life saving services.

E- Comments:

- Sandra Robinson provided an e-comment recommending that the County fund the establishment of an effective, compassionate board and care program for individuals with mental health conditions.

IV. **PRESENTATION: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024-25 CAO RECOMMENDED OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Public Comments:

- Kristina Halmaj-Gillan, Director of Service Innovation at YMCA, spoke on the importance of investing in prevention and early intervention services.
- Kristin Garrett Montgomery, Advocate on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3, provided a set of recommendations in advocacy for children and youth mental health and encouraged BHAB to support the recommendations, as well as to champion the Board for a comprehensive pediatric behavioral health system.
- Dr. Wendy Pavlovich, General Pediatrician representing the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3, expressed concern for the growing demand and struggle in meeting the behavioral health care needs of children and encouraged the Board to protect funding and support equity investment across the lifespan.
- Dr. Ben Maxwell, Chief Child Psychiatrist at Rady Children’s Hospital, urged the Board to prioritize in the upcoming County budget funding allocation to address youth behavioral health.

PRESENTATION: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024-25 CAO RECOMMENDED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Amy Thompson, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Executive Financial Officer presented the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Recommended Operational Plan Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, which included the state budget and revenue trends, the County financial outlook, and County budget

adjustments as part of the CAO Recommended Operational Plan. The CAO Recommended Operation Plan FY 2024-25 was released for public review on May 2, 2024. There will be community budget meetings on May 23rd and 29th. Public hearings will be on June 4th and 6th, and the revised recommended budget document is released for public review on June 13th.

Nadia Privara, Assistant Director & Chief Strategy and Finance Officer, provided an overview of the recommended FY 2024-25 budget for BHS, noting the following:

- For FY 2024-25, the recommended budget for BHS is over \$1.1 billion, representing an increase of over \$135.0 million over last year.
- Over the last seven (7) fiscal years, the BHS budget has increased by over \$627 million, or 119%, to better support the behavioral needs of the community.
- Drivers for the department include Board priorities, new State mandates, and priorities identified by stakeholders and communities.
- In FY 2024-25, BHS is proposing new investments totaling \$135.6 to ensure people of all ages have better access to the services they need.

V. PUBLIC HEARING: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ANNUAL UPDATE FY 2024-25

Public Comment:

Jerry Hall encouraged BHAB to understand their role and seek training on the Community Program Planning (CPP) process in advance of approving the CPP plan.

Maria Molina-Melendez, BHAB Coordinator, noted the County received seven (7) public comment submissions which will be included in the submission of the final report.

VI. PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEM: MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE FY 2024-25

Nadia Privara, Assistant Director & Chief Strategy and Finance Officer at BHS reported that due to the passage of Proposition 1 there will be an overall 5% reduction in BHS funding, with extensive reporting and outcome requirements, an emphasis on housing, and flexibility to utilize funds for substance use services.

Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator at BHS, presented an overview of the CPP process, noting that counties that receive MHSA funding are required to engage the community to gather input, identify priorities, and make recommendations on the use of MHSA funds for programs and services.

Erendy Fong, Chief, Strategy & Finance Team at BHS, presented on the MHSA budget for FY 24-25, reviewed MHSA funding components, and addressed sustainability planning for the future given the passage of Proposition 1.

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Bill Stewart, BHAB approved the MHSA Annual Update FY 2024-25.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 NO VOTE: 1

VII. PRESENTATION: MEDICAL CARE SERVICES (MCS) BOARD LETTER SUPPORTING PRE-RELEASE MEDI-CAL ENROLLMENT, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LINKS, AND 90-DAY PRE-RELEASE SERVICES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, Justice-Involved Health Officer, presented on the Justice-Involved Medi-Cal Transformation Initiative along with Lynn Carr, Chief, Agency Operations Medical Care Services, who presented on pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment. The following are key highlights of this initiative:

- Ensure all eligible youth and adults incarcerated in a California State prison, County jail or youth correctional facility are enrolled in Medi-Cal prior to release.
- Provide linkages to behavioral health community providers to ensure that individuals who require behavioral services are connected to services upon reentry.
- Provide 90-day pre-release Medi-Cal services.
- Provide connection to Enhanced Care Management (case management and care coordination) and Community Supports (e.g., housing assistance, recuperative care, medically tailored food) upon re-entry.

Nilanie Ramos, Assistant Medical Services Administrator at BHS, presented on Project In-Reach and Project In-Reach Ministries that create behavioral health linkages in local jails and noted that services would need to be extended to meet the requirements of the Medi-Cal Transformation Justice-Involved Initiative.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHS UPDATE ON FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORTS

ON MOTION of Robin Sales to table the BHS Update on Flood Response Efforts for the June BHAB meeting, seconded by Amanda Berry.

AYES: 16 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 NO VOTE: 1

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, provided the following updates:

- The Board approved to enter negotiations to purchase property in Vista, known as Green Oak Ranch. Supervisor Jim Desmond's (District 5) proposal is to develop a "regional campus of healing". The County is exploring the feasibility of building on the property and exploring three service categories - withdrawal management, board and care, and recovery residences.
- The Board also approved the proposal by Supervisor Joel Anderson (District 2) for the County to accept the transfer of Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF) from the City of San Diego which will be grouped with existing County OSF to support public health messaging and naloxone distribution.
- Appreciation was extended to the 1,600 attendees at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk held on April 27, 2024, which was held as a celebratory kick off to May is Mental Health Month.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Robin Sales reminded BHAB members that BHAB will go dark in July due to the 4th of July holiday. Additionally, Bill Stewart offered to be the Chair of the Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee and encourages BHAB members and the public to participate.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Robin Sales reminded BHAB members of the upcoming BHAB subcommittee meetings in the month of May: Justice System Nexus with Current Behavioral Health Issues Through a Racial Equity Lens Subcommittee will meet on May 20, 2024, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm, and Participation & Partnership subcommittee will meet on May 15, 2024, from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Kaye Kelley Turpin, seconded by Bill Stewart the meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.