



May 6, 2021
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
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Joel San Juan, District 1
Bill Stewart, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
James Merino – District 2
Jim Taylor – District 2
Mike Grattan – District 3
Shannon Jaccard – District 3
Ed Weiner – District 3
Saurabh Gupta – District 4
Amina Sheik Mohamed – District 4
John Sturm – District 4
Judith Yates, Chair – District 4
Phil Deming, Member-at-Large – District 5
Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors Chair – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Thomas Hathorn – District 2
Debbie Barnum – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – 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. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BHAB MEMBERS

The following newly appointed BHAB Members were welcomed and introduced to the group:
District 2, Board of Supervisor Joel Anderson: James Merino and Jim Taylor.
District 4, Board of Supervisor Chair Nathan Fletcher: Saurabh Gupta and Amina Sheik Mohamed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND ROLL CALL

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Che Hernandez, BHAB approved the minutes from April 1, 2021.
AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 4 – Hernandez, Taylor, Gupta, Yates

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Justin Fatoohi, graduate student at SDSU's School of Public Health addressed the board in support of the County's comprehensive substance use harm reduction strategy. Noting the "Healthcare Integration and Access" in the strategy framework, as the most important and challenging issue to combat the alarming rise in opioid overdose deaths. Per his research, those who suffer from this chronic condition do not get access to evidence-based treatment of methadone and buprenorphine. In his opinion, priority should be to integrate access to this treatment with general medical care and would like to join the workgroups with future efforts to tackle this issue.

Carol Clemens, mother of a man with mental illness, raised concerns with group living facilities that are not monitored or licensed and dependent on government funding for social security recipients. Can landlords be case managers and payees? Who tracks the money? How is it spent? Noting no long-term therapeutic housing for individuals with mental illness, families maintain their loved ones at home risking the propensity to wonder and/or isolate. She thanked the BHAB for the public forum it provides for families to come forward to share their concerns.

Marshall Anderson with Downtown San Diego Partnership, advocate for the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of Downtown San Diego and homeless outreach service provider, reported on the alarming amount of behavioral health related incidents his teams encounter daily. Mr. Anderson noted the increase of 5150's by 20% in the year 2020 as compared to the previous year, as well as the dramatic increase in overdose deaths. The BHAB was invited to come downtown to see the issue firsthand and encouraged folks to assist the County in developing more immediate solutions, such as Project 25.

Jerry Hall, former BHAB member expressed his concerns that the BHAB is not fulfilling its duties regarding meaningful stakeholder engagement. He urged the board to not be "sidelined" or act as "spectators" but to fulfill their duties.

John Sturm, BHAB member expressed his concerns with the handling and timing of recent appointments to the BHAB. Requests it be acknowledged that the recent changes were handled poorly, and that formal recognition be made to outgoing members for their hard work and dedication to this board.

Edi Thomas, due to technical difficulties, public comment was not shared at the meeting and Ms. Thomas requested it be instead emailed to BHAB.

V. PRESENTATION: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021-22 CAO RECOMMENDED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Amy Thompson, HHSA Executive Finance Director

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Service

Nadia Privara, Chief Agency Operations, Behavioral Health Services

HHSA Executive Finance Team and Behavioral Health Services (BHS) provided the BHAB with a detailed operational plan including the following updates and recommendations:

Economic Updates:

- San Diego County unemployment rate as of February 2021, 7.2%; 6.9% preliminary for March.
- State Income Tax Revenue improving statewide.
- CA Sales Tax/Use Tax, improved projections due to shift in spending from services (non-taxed) to purchase of goods (taxed).
- Locally Assessed Secured Property Values, main source of discretionary spending funds. Projected 3.0% annual growth rate for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.

CAO Recommended Budget:

- Recommended budget for Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is \$2.7 billion. BHS is 30% of the budget.
- Revenue sources: State/Federal = \$1.6 billion, Realignment=\$635 million, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) =\$20 million. General purpose revenue is up 16%.
- FY 2021-22 Priority Areas (increases): Pandemic Response (driving almost half the increase of budget); BHS Delivery and Public Health Infrastructure; Homelessness and Affordable Housing; and Strengthening Children and Families and Supporting Seniors.
- Not included in the budget: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding = \$650m. Federal government has yet to provide clear direction on how funds are to be used. Funds have not been distributed to the County.

BHS Recommended Budget:

- Recommended budget is \$812.7m; a 4% increase over last year.
- Revenue sources: MHSA the largest source of revenue for BHS at \$195.2 million or 20%; Realignment (sales tax/vehicle license fees) at \$144.9 million or 18%; primary federal funding include Short Doyle Medi-Cal at \$179.1 million or 22%; and Drug Medi-Cal at \$74.5 million or 9%.
- Primary service areas: mental health services, substance use disorder services, inpatient services, and administrative services.
- FY 2020-21 Key Accomplishments: COVID-19 Response and advances in the Continuum of Care, including crisis and diversionary services, chronic and continuous care, and care coordination. Focus for FY 2021-22: Population Health, expansion of data sciences capacity, and implementing the Triple Aim.

Upcoming Budget Events:

- May 26-27: County group presentations to the BOS
- June 14: Presentation and Public Hearing on CAO Recommended Op Plan
- June 14-23: Budget Hearings
- June 16: Presentation and Public Hearing on CAO Recommended Op Plan
- June 23: Last day for written testimony on budget to Clerk of the Board
- June 25: Revised Recommended Budget document available to public
- June 29: Budget Deliberations and Budget Adoption

VI. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES 5-YEAR STRATEGIC HOUSING PLAN

Simonne Ruff, Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing

As previously discussed with the BHAB, the following are upcoming input sessions to obtain community and stakeholder feedback:

- Homelessness Sector, May 11th, 3:00-4:30pm
<https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=92470600836>
- Special Meeting of All BHS Councils, May 14th from 1:00-2:30pm
<https://zoom.us/j/93051106291>
- Consumers and Family Members/Lived Expertise Virtual Input Session, May 27th, 3:00-4:00pm
<https://zoom.us/j/92470600836>

For more information or to connect with Simonne directly, please email Simonne.ruff@csh.org or call 619-800-3436.

VII. ACTION ITEM: REPORT BACK ON COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

As a follow-up to April's presentation, members were provided with a June 8th draft letter to the BOS detailing the Comprehensive County Substance Use Harm Reduction Strategy which includes a Syringe Services Program. Noting the increase in overdose deaths, the following tactical focus areas were highlighted: cross-sectoral convening, housing, workforce, and health integration and access.

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Bill Stewart, BHAB approved the recommendations in the June 8th Board Letter.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1- Yates

VIII. CHAIR FLETCHER UPDATES

Nathan Fletcher, Chair, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – pending Federal guidance on use of funds. Focus areas include:
 - Public health response
 - Local businesses
 - Mental Health programs in schools
 - Homelessness outreach for homeless with substance use disorders, increase housing options, and dedicated outreach workers
- BHS Recommended Budget, in support of behavioral health efforts including:
 - 3rd Avenue Hub
 - East County Crisis Stabilization Hub Network
 - Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT)
 - Care for incarcerated individuals
 - Juvenile Justice Campus
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month, highlights include:
 - Behavioral Health Forum
 - Behavioral Health Workforce Conference

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- Medi-Cal Reform - BHS staff to share conduits for BHAB members to engage in committees, boards, etc. with respect to resources and policy work being done in developing "in lieu of services" or common interventions that Medi-Cal traditionally does not pay for.
- Enhanced care management – This will require care coordination not hinged to a clinic but rather to a person. Will also require complex implementation that will benefit from real world experience and stakeholder engagement.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

Judith Yates, Chair

Youth Engagement - Expecting to onboard two youth in July to become involved in BHAB, one from the County's youth engagement initiative and the other being trained transition age youth (TAY) participating in NAMI's Elevate Youth Program. BHAB members interested in serving as a mentor should connect with Judith directly. More information will be provided as this develops.

XI. WORKGROUP UPDATES

Overdose Prevention Workgroup, Jenifer Mendel and Rebecca Hernandez, District 2

Meetings take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month; two meetings convened with all members present. Workgroup is focused on diverse communities and children, inclusion of diverse members into the committee, and use of community resources related to prevention and treatment.

Criminal Justice Workgroup, Ed Weiner, District 3

Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Areas of interest include cash bail and criminal justice from a mental health perspective. Presentations on diversion before entering the criminal justice system by the Public Defender, District Attorney or law enforcement are expected. Group is also interested in Chair Fletcher's work on the North County MCRT program and how it may differ from PERT.

Alcohol and Other Drug Workgroup, Phil Deming, District 5

BHAB members were encouraged to join and participate in the workgroup.

Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup, Bill Stewart and Janice Luna Reynoso, District 1

BHAB members invited to participate in the workgroup. Due to recent changes with the BHAB Members, group is in the process of developing a mission statement and welcomes community members to participate in the workgroup.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Children and Youth Mental Health Awareness Day Celebration, virtual event scheduled for May 7th. To register, visit the May is Mental Health Month webpage on www.sandiegocounty.gov.
- California Association of Behavioral Health Board and Commissions, new members encouraged to visit www.calbhbc.org for resources, training, and opportunities for statewide advocacy.

XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Bill Stewart the meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.
AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1- Yates