



November 7, 2019  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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

Che Hernandez – District 1  
Joel San Juan – District 1  
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1  
Bill Stewart 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 1  
Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson – District 2  
Rebecca Hernandez – District 2  
Michael Matthews Member-at-Large (MH) – District 2  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Mike Grattan – District 3  
Deanne George – District 3  
Jerry Hall – District 4  
John Sturm, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 4  
Judith Yates – District 4  
Phil Deming – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Bill Wells – District 2  
Shannon Jaccard – District 3  
K.C. Strang – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 5

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health  
Ben Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III, Behavioral Health Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Jenifer Mendel, Chair, at 2:30 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of BHAB introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – OCTOBER 3, 2019**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Michael Matthews, BHAB approved the minutes of October 3, 2019, as written.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**V. ACTION ITEM: ADOPTING THE BHAB 2020 PRIORITIES**

The BHAB 2020 priorities were discussed and decided upon at the October retreat. The two priorities for 2020 are Continuum of Care and Building a Better BHAB, with the continuation of the following workgroups: Continuum of Care, Building a Better BHAB, and Homelessness and Housing.

ON MOTION of Jerry Hall, seconded by John Sturm, BHAB voted to adopt the BHAB 2020 Priorities.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

**VI. ACTION ITEM: BHAB 2020 EXECUTIVE OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The BHAB 2020 Executive Officer Elections nominating committee presented the following recommended 2020 Executive Officers slate: Judith Yates (District 4) as Chair; Bill Stewart as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair (District 1); Michael Matthews as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Jenifer Mendel (District 2) as Member-at-Large representing the Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder community; and John Sturm (District 4) as Member-at-Large representing the Mental Health community. No other nominations were brought to the floor.

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Michael Matthews, BHAB voted to approve the 2020 Executive Officer Elections slate as presented by the nominating committee.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by John Sturm, BHAB voted to appoint the members of the 2020 Executive Officers to the 2020 BHAB Executive Advisory Board.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VII. UPDATE: PEER SPECIALIST TRAINING**

**LeAndra Hamilton and Karrene Standard, RI International**

LeAndra Hamilton and Karrene Standard came before the board to present information regarding the Peer Specialist Training at RI International. The Peer Specialist Training is conducted over a 76-hour period over 10 weeks. It includes (but is not limited to) modules on self-esteem, environments, skills, conflict resolution, and employment search preparation.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Who can use RI International's services?

**A:** RI International's services are available to anyone receiving services within the system of care.

**Q:** How many trainings does RI International have in a year?

**A:** There are six trainings per year, with 30 seats per training.

**Q:** Are Peer Specialists paid?

**A:** Once they complete the training, they receive a certificate and are then eligible to be employed as a Peer Specialist.

**VIII. PRESENTATION: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING OUR REGION'S HOMELESSNESS CRISIS**

**Omar Passons, HHSA Director of Integrative Services**

**Amaris Sanchez, Homeless Systems Coordinator**

**Tamara Kohler, CEO, Regional Task Force on the Homeless**

**Update from BHAB Homelessness Workgroup**

Omar Passons and Amaris Sanchez came before the board to present information on the role of Integrative Services within the County's efforts to combat homelessness. This includes a Health and Homelessness team, which has three focus areas: intensive outreach and engagement; comprehensive care coordination (C3); and housing and tenancy supports. Community Care Coordination (C3) is a comprehensive care coordination, system navigation, and housing assistance through teams which include a Case Manager and Peer Support Specialists.

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, Integrative Services has launched an East County homeless outreach pilot through November 30<sup>th</sup>. The teams will focus on the unincorporated areas of El Cajon to identify, connect, and support homeless residents who have one or more of the following: serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or chronic physical health conditions.

Tamara Kohler came before the board to provide information on the role and work of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) is a 31-member board and a HUD Continuum of Care Planning Body. The task force's responsibilities include overseeing federal funding and the collaborative application of \$24 million for San Diego homeless funding, administrator of the Homeless Management Information Systems database, and coordinator of the Point in Time Count.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Does the County give funding to RTFH?

**A:** The County does not traditionally invest in the infrastructure of the task force. The task force receives some CDBG funding that helps with rent.

**Q:** How will the community outreach to neighborhoods to reduce community discomfort with homeless families moving in be addressed?

**A:** Integrative Services is working on an effort to go door to door to do outreach and answer questions in the neighborhoods. RTFH also coordinates community engagements in neighborhoods to break down stigma.

**Q:** Regarding Section 8, is there a way to incentivize clients on SSI to move on to make more housing available for homeless families?

**A:** Each of the housing authorities have their own programs to encourage SSI clients to graduate out of Section 8 housing once they are stabilized and able.

**UPDATE FROM THE BHAB HOMELESSNESS WORKGROUP:**

Joel San Juan presented to the recommendations from the BHAB Homelessness Workgroup to the Board. The eight recommendations include: a massive expansion of the diversion and prevention programs to include churches, schools, and colleges across the County;

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Dr. Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

Dr. Bergmann shared information on SB-1045 and SB-1040. These bills established a cohort of individuals eligible for conservatorship with the following criteria: individuals who have had eight 5150 calls within one year, and a dual diagnosis of a psychiatric disorder and a substance use disorder. The County Board of Supervisors opted-in to this pilot program, and directed staff to begin planning for implementation.

**X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson**

- The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions regional meeting will be in San Diego on January 17, 2020. Board members are encouraged to register and attend.
- Drafting the 2019 BHAB Annual Report: Please send in the year's highlights to Ben for inclusion in the 2019 annual report.
- The Continuum of Care, Homelessness and Housing, and Building a Better BHAB workgroups will be re-appointed at the December BHAB meeting. Interested workgroup participants will need to notify Ben during the month of November.

**XI. REPORTS FROM BHAB WORKGROUPS AND LIAISONS**

- **Housing and Homelessness:** The workgroup's eight recommendations were circulated to the Board and would like any feedback or suggestions sent to them for consideration. Once finalized, the workgroup will be submitting the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- **Continuum of Care:** The workgroup's recommendations were revised at the October retreat. The next workgroup meeting is set.
- **Building a Better BHAB:** The workgroup is attempting to explore appropriate duties following the passage of AB-1352 last year.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Michael Matthews, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.  
AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0