



November 2, 2023
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Stewart, Chair – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan - District 1
Serita Polinaire, 2nd Vice Chair – District 2
Todd Boyer – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Member-at-Large – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Judith Yates, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
James Merino – District 2
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4
Shea Benton – District 4
Carol Clemens, Member-at-Large – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Bill Stewart at 2:35 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

- Karen Marie shared her concerns for her son who is diagnosed with anisocoria, which impairs his ability to recognize he is sick. His conservatorship was approved, and his family is thankful to all those who helped make that happen. She advocates for improved care services for her son and seeks to connect with someone who can help the family move forward in being involved in his care.
- Jerry Hall stated he attended the BHAB Fall retreat and shared his concerns over subcommittee structure and the BHAB duties. He advocated for a subcommittee to be formed to review contracts and procurements in alignment with BHAB duties.
- Shelley shared her concerns regarding housing for individuals with mental health conditions. Three living options: Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD), Jail, or Independent Living Homes (ILDH). In-between there are in the streets, shelters, hospitals, and rehab. She believes these options are not working to serve the population in need and advocates for communal full wrap housing, with regular operator inspections and with staff required to complete a mental health course.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 5, 2023

ON MOTION of Stuart Gaiber, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the minutes from October 5, 2023.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FENTANYL OVERDOSE PREVENTION GRANT FUNDING

Nadia Privara, Assistant Director, Chief Strategy & Finance Officer, introduced the Fentanyl Overdose Grant Funding which would total \$1.2 million – split across four fiscal years – and is pending the authorization to accept the grant funding needed by the Board of Supervisors as BHS is waiting for the notice of award from the state. Funds would go towards existing grants to support the following:

- Provide harm reduction and overdose prevention education programs in schools through regionally focused overdose education and naloxone distribution programming to students, parents, guardians, educators, and school staff.
- Increase testing abilities for fentanyl through community fentanyl education, distribution of fentanyl test strips (FTS), training on how to use FTS to increase testing in the community and promotion of local drug checking services.
- Expand and support overdose prevention including increasing naloxone access via regionally focused naloxone distribution and real-time overdose response outreach and distribution efforts.
- Reduce stigma through the development and implementation of anti-stigma activities that seek to support cross sector understanding and connectivity of harm reduction services and their value in supporting the well-being of people who use drugs (PWUD).

V. ACTION ITEM: 2023 DATA NOTEBOOK

Bill Stewart, Chair, introduced the 2023 Data Notebook and noted the focus this year was on community engagement. He recognized Kat Brigs, Chief Communication & Engagement Team, to present on the responses provided in the Data Notebook, specifically around community engagement. Kat emphasized to BHAB that community engagement in BHS is as high a priority as services and her team is building a bench to increase engagement efforts and leverage County tools for improved community input gathering.

ON MOTION of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the 2023 Data Notebook, 2023

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. BHAB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Subcommittee Chairs provided brief updates on their progress to date. The following meeting updates were shared.

- **Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention (AOD) Subcommittee:**
Date: November – NO MEETING
- **Community Engagement (CE) Subcommittee:**
Date: Wednesday, November 15th
Time: 4:00PM to 5:30PM
- **Criminal Justice (CJ) Subcommittee:**
Date: Monday, November 27th
Time: 3:30PM to 5:00PM

VII. ACTION ITEM: VOTE ON THE SLATE OF 2024 BHAB OFFICERS

Bill Stewart, Chair, introduced the slate of 2024 BHAB Executive Officers and called for the vote. The following BHAB members were nominated to serve as Executive Officers for 2024:

- Robin Sales – Chair
- Serita Polinaire – 1st Vice Chair
- Judith Yates – 2nd Vice Chair
- Janice Luna Reynoso – Member-at-Large (*representing the mental health community*)

- Bill Stewart – Member-at-Large (*representing the alcohol and substance use community*)

ON MOTION of [not recorded], seconded by [not recorded], BHAB approved the Vote on Slate of 2024 BHAB Officers.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, Director, BHS shared the following updates with BHAB:

- Luke Bergmann, Director BHS, provided CARE Act program updates noting it has had a modest start in terms of petition requests and this was expected by BHS. The CARE Court team has been active in processing CARE Court petitions and operations are working well to support the process. He also noted that numbers coming from first responders are low overall in proportion to the overall number of petitions received, though may change over time.
- Luke also addressed SB 43 which would go into effect in two months unless the Board of Supervisors approve its deferment.
- Finally, Luke highlighted the Update on Preventing Suicide Board Memo that will be shared with the Board of Supervisors and will thereafter become public, and he encouraged BHAB to review the Board Memo as it represents a rich body of work which includes findings on mortality inequities and research on additional sources of funding to keep supporting this work.

IX. CHAIR'S UPDATES

Bill Stewart, Chair, introduced Dania Barroso-Conde to provide a recap of the BHAB Fall retreat. He also introduced BHAB's newest appointed member from District 3, Jessica Kramer. Jessica is looking forward to bringing to the board her perspective on disability rights and disability accommodation.

X. BHAB RETREAT RECAP & ONGOING DISCUSSION

Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator, BHS, shared the BHAB Fall Retreat key findings notes to assist BHAB members in their discussion regarding identifying priority areas for 2024. Among the desires of the board is to see a more deliberate effort to have BHAB weigh in on issues of importance to the board and BHS decisions, with a better understanding why decisions are made. Also, of interest to BHAB is SB 43 and how BHAB can be impactful in advising the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Robin Sales attended the *Live Well* Conference and observed the Legal Aid Society presentation and participated in a workshop for Children's Mental Health.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Gaurav Mishra the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.