



**September 7, 2023**  
**Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bill Stewart, Chair – District 1  
Gaurav Mishra – District 1  
Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1  
Joel San Juan - District 1  
Serita Polinaire – District 2  
Todd Boyer – District 2  
Robin Sales, Member-at-Large – District 3  
Stuart Gaiber – District 3  
Shea Benton – District 4  
Judith Yates, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Carol Clemens, Member-at-Large – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

James Merino – District 2  
Janessa Goldbeck – District 4

**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 2:50 PM in-person and via Zoom.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 3, 2023**

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Serita Polinaire, BHAB approved the minutes from August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**III. NON- AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Robin Sales expressed her concerns on the SB326 Behavioral Health Modernization Act and possible funding cuts that may occur because of that legislation.
- Mark Lotus stated he is the father of a 22-year-old man with a mental health condition. He described the challenges his son encounters because of his mental health condition and as his father he advocates for individuals with mental health conditions to receive the care and services they need.
- Karen Lotus stated she is a mother of a 22-year-old man with a mental health condition. She described the challenges her son encounters because of his mental health condition and as his mother she advocates for individuals with mental health conditions to receive the care and services they need.

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB ANNUAL RETREAT DRAFT AGENDA**

The BHAB Annual Retreat will be held Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Behavioral Health Services administration building located at 3255 Camino del Rio S. San Diego, CA 92108. BHAB

members provided input for the retreat agenda and suggested that an ad-hoc group convene with Dania to help finalize the agenda.

**V. PRESENTATION: EAST REGION CRISIS STABILAZATION UNIT AND RECOVERY BRIDGE CENTER**

Dr. Piedad Garcia, Deputy Director, BHS presented on the East Region Crisis Stabilization Unit (ECSU) and Recovery Bridge Center (RBC) that will be located in El Cajon. Dr. Garcia described the services that will be offered at the ECSU and RBC:

- The ECSU will provide immediate mental health support and treatment services in a therapeutic setting to individuals in acute behavioral health distress who require urgent care beyond what an outpatient clinical service can provide.
- The RBC, co-located with the ECSU, will provide short-term services, usually about four hours but not exceeding 24 hours, in a supervised, non-medical environment to intoxicated individuals whose level of public intoxication puts themselves or others at risk. Outpatient substance use disorder services will also be available to ensure continuity of care.

**VI. BHAB SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

- Richard McGaffigan from the Criminal Justice (CJ) Subcommittee shared his concern with the challenges CalAIM may pose to developing new programs.
- Serita Polinaire from the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention (AOD) subcommittee spoke on the success of the 2023 National Recovery Month Kick-Off Celebration held on August 26, 2023, at the Waterfront Park.
- Janice Luna-Reynoso from the Community Engagement (CE) Subcommittee had no update.

**VII. PRESENTATION: BHS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES**

Kat Briggs, Chief Communication and Engagement Team, provided updates on BHS community engagement efforts and informed the board that BHS' approach to community engagement will include holding input sessions in a variety of community spaces, in smaller groups, and providing advanced notice to the community with the goal of creating multiple means of obtaining community input. Kat informed BHAB that in October they will have an action item to approve the community engagement approach.

**VIII. ACTION ITEM: CHAIR APPOINTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

ON MOTION of Stuart Gaiber, seconded by Joel San Juan BHAB approved the Appointment of the Nominating Committee.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Luke Bergmann, Director, BHS along with Charity White-Voth, Deputy Director, BHS provided updates on CARE Act detailing program eligibility, the petition process, and the four components of CARE Act that consist of housing, support services, medication adherence, and community services and support.

**X. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Bill Stewart, Chair, reminded BHAB members to send their input for the BHAB retreat agenda by email to Dania.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Stewart announced that K.C. Strang resigned from BHAB effective September 7, 2023.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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