

Stakeholder Engagement Workgroup Final Report 3/2/22

We have worked together over the past year collaboratively about stakeholder engagement and how the community can be more integrated and included in decision making that informs the direction of BHAB and BHS contracting for more effective human centered services and programs. We request that our workgroup transition and continue our work as the Community Engagement Workgroup.

I would like to start this report as we begin our meetings. We acknowledge the land we occupy which is originally Kumeyaay and Poyamkawicum territory. To acknowledge a people as the original stewards of this land is to respect and greet someone in their own home. In relation to public health and social justice we understand that by naming those who have been affected by genocide on this land, then we can acknowledge a crucial point of infliction, what needs to be healed and the work can truly begin.

Strategic Goal #1: Community Program Planning (CPP) Processes

Build BHAB Member and stakeholder knowledge and capabilities to make more timely and informed contributions to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and BHS by becoming better informed on issues affecting the community, especially underserved populations, as well as issues of health equity, starting with the MHSA Community Program Planning Processes and strong stakeholder feedback loops.

Among the many responsibilities of BHAB, we have yet to understand how and when the BHS identifies it's Community Program Planning (CPP) processes, and at which point in time these plans and activities are 'reviewed and approved' by the BHAB as required by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and within our Bylaws. The BHS has been reticent in helping the workgroup fully understand answers to questions about this duty nor has it answered direct questions or responded to numerous written inquiries from a member of the workgroup. Without meaningful engagement from BHS we are left without answers and as a result we believe we are not meeting our duty to all stakeholders..

Strategic Goal #2: Workforce

- Scholarship and/or Grant for advanced degree students in behavioral health to encourage more social workers and case managers to enter the field..
- Create innovative incentives to recruit and maintain a professional and paraprofessional.
- Diversifying workforce.

Strategic Goal #3: Continuum of Care

- Strengthening the continuum of care and building new programs.
- Reduce barriers to care
- Streamline prescription processes at pharmacies
- Monitor contractor outcomes

We requested Danyte to attend our workgroup as a follow up to our year long mention of the CPP and how BHAB is required to be participatory in reviewing and guiding decisions that the BHAB has been excluded from. We proposed to actually include the community in designing the community engagement process alongside the contractor. To provide stipends for the many grassroots organizations who have a pulse on the community's needs and how to engage as they have been successful in doing so. When we as stakeholders and trauma informed experts in our community are asked to share findings, many of us are put out, involving time, resources, and our sharing of connections. There could be stipends to individuals doing this work and compensation to the organizations who have best practices and finding to share. We look forward to providing the community's perspective with the community through our Community Engagement Workgroup through the year. Thank you.