



April 5, 2018  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

---

P.O. BOX 85524  
San Diego, CA 92186-5524  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2775/2705

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Rebecca Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4  
Jerry Hall, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 4  
K.C. Strang – District 5

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)  
Ben Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III, Behavioral Health Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Jenifer Mendel, Chair, at 2:32 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 1, 2018**

ON MOTION of Phil Deming, seconded by Michael Matthews, BHAB approved the minutes of March 1, 2018, as written.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. ACTION ITEM: SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT BOARD LETTER**

**Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

The Board of Supervisors will consider an item on April 17, 2018 requesting the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the County of San Diego (County) enter into a control to enable the County to receive Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funding through DHCS. The SABG funds are used to provide substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services that are not covered by Drug Medi-Cal funding and for uninsured residents of San Diego County that are not covered by Medi-Cal or other health insurance.

ON MOTION of Michael Matthews, seconded by John Sturm, the BHAB approved the board letter authorizing the substance abuse block grant on April 5, 2018, as written.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Are Block grants intended to cover the expenditures that are not covered by Drug Medi-Cal?

**A:** One revenue source is block grants, and there are also Behavioral Health Realignment funds, which are locally controlled and finally County general purpose revenue. There are also additional State and Federal funds.

**Q:** As the County Implements Drug Medi-Cal ODS, will SABG funds be lessened over time?

**A:** Advocacy groups are recommending Congress at least maintain the block grant funding for treatment, recovery and prevention. Some are asking for more funding for prevention.

**Q:** How much of SABG is contingent on State and Federal budgets being passed?

**A:** SABG is contingent on the federal budget being passed. Although when there have been instances when the federal budget was impacted, it did affect the flow of dollars to the state, but with minimal impact to the County.

**Q:** Does San Diego have a large population of people that are not covered by Medi-Cal?

**A:** The population that receives County substance abuse services is between 70-80% covered by Medi-Cal.

**VI. ACTION ITEM: LOCUM TENENS TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL STAFFING BOARD LETTER**  
**Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

The Board of Supervisors will consider an item on April 17, 2018 requesting authorization for Behavioral Health Services to extend and increase current temporary professional staffing contracts to ensure continuous services. Temporary staffing in the medical field is referred to as locum tenens. It will also authorize the competitive procurement of future locum tenens services. The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency utilize temporary staff to fill vacancies until permanent hires are made, or for vacancies of clinical positions that are considered difficult to fill due to a limited pool of qualified individuals. Specifically, contracts with temporary staffing agencies for psychiatrist, medical doctor, and nurse practitioner positions assist whenever there are vacancies at the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH), Edgemoor District Part Skilled Nursing Facility and County-operated Behavioral Health Services Clinics to maintain continuity of services for residents of San Diego County.

ON MOTION of Michael Matthews, seconded by John Sturm, the BHAB approved the board letter authorizing the Locum Tenens Temporary Professional Staffing Board Letter on April 5, 2018, as written.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Does Locum Tenens covertly circumvent the regular hiring process and civil service protections? Is there concern that this staffing could have a negative impact on the County? Are physicians exempt from civil service protections?

**A:** It has not been a predominate issue in negotiations, but we are aware of the concern. A counter point is that in hospital settings, doctors are not supposed to be employees. There are state laws to prevent that not only in hospitals but in clinic settings as well.

**Q:** What does a psychiatrist start at in terms of salary in the local market, compared to the County?

**A:** Market salary now is \$300,000 and the County is \$50,000 to \$75,000 beneath that.

**Q:** Is there a cost ratio analysis done, to determine if the County saves money by using Locum Tenens versus offering a higher salary for certain positions?

**A:** Yes, this is how BHS is able to justify offering the Locum Tenens positions. Furthermore, many young doctors are not looking for benefits such as a pension since they have hundreds of thousands of dollars in student debt and need the cash flow in order to pay off debt.

**Q:** How many psychiatrists last fiscal year were under the Locum Tenens program?

**A:** At Edgemoor, it is almost all of them. The trend has been more and more towards utilizing Locum Tenens. This trend started at Edgemoor and has continued across the rest of the system. About 95% of the doctors are Locum Tenens. Currently about 40-45 psychiatrists and medical consultants are Locum Tenens. No psychologists are currently being used as Locum Tenens.

**Q:** Are the psychiatrists under the Locum Tenens program allowed to work hourly for the County and in private practices as well?

**A:** Yes, some Locum Tenens work between 40-50 hours per week with us and others work 10 hours per week with us and also elsewhere.

## **VII. PRESENTATION: LONG TERM CARE CONTINUUM AND STRATEGY**

### **Dr. Michael Krelstein, Clinical Director, Behavioral Health Services**

The County of San Diego works with various types of long care facilities including Independent Living Facilities, Licensed Board and Care facilities, Skilled Nursing facilities, state hospitals and Edgemoor. Under the current plan, there are patients waiting for discharge to a lower level of care but there is a lack of available beds at various facilities. Under the new strategy, the Long Term Care Expansion Plan would shift from dependence on acute care by increasing capacity at lower levels of care that results in treating people at the least restrictive level of care, lowering costs to the County, providing the best value to the County, and are consistent with the Live Well San Diego Vision.

### **DISCUSSION:**

It was noted that despite County of San Diego efforts to issue RFPs, contracting with facilities requires interested, qualified, and available business partners. The County is not always able to ensure these exist in the region.

**Q:** For transitional residential housing, how many beds do BHS facilities contain? Should there be more? Can the County open some of their own?

**A:** BHS is opening up an adult facility that will be coming online in June, and will continue to identify what regional needs are, in order to meet them.

**Q:** How much is the cost per day for care at a long term care facility?

**A:** There are different amounts dependent on contracts, patient needs, and the kind of facility.

## **VIII. PRESENTATION: 2018 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND MHSA REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

### **Adrienne Yancey, MHSA Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services**

The Revenue and Expenditure Reports (RERs) reflects actual expenditures by fiscal year and any unused dollars. FY 16-17 RER is still being developed. BHS submitted the FY 15-16 annual report to the Department of Health Care Services.

One of the required activities under MHSA is the community engagement process. The proposed 2018 activities include hiring a consultant to perform engagement activities to reach 800-1,000 people. The plan is to hold at least six in-person community forums, hold focus groups, conduct surveys, and provide an online survey.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** Is this a return to the model used two years ago, since last year there were only tele-townhalls? Many people showing up at the forums have been contractors and providers not the people receiving services.

**A:** BHS is considering more engagement to ensure the entire County is reached. This is based on feedback received from BHAB when BHS announced a reduction in the number of forums last year. It may not be necessary to hold 12 forums but perhaps one in each region in order to capture the community need across the County.

**Q:** Did the tele-townhall model have challenges?

**A:** There was a challenge keeping people engaged. When the tele-townhall began, there were over 400 participants, but less than 100 stayed until the end of the phonecall.

**Q:** Do the funds used to hire the consultant come out of MHSA funding? Has BHS used the same consultant consistently? Where are the consultants based, and did that influence cost?

**A:** Yes. The regulations allow BHS to dedicate a portion of MHSA funding for community program planning or community engagement. BHS has not always used the same consultant. Last year and the year before were different consultants. Last year's consultant was based outside of the County, but it did not cost BHS more.

**Q:** Are the community engagement results tabulated by the consultant or by the County?

**A:** When we have a consultant, the results are compiled by the consultant.

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- Susan Bower and Holly Salazar worked to develop a stronger partnership with BHS's Public Safety partners and the courts through the formation of the Health and Justice Integration Committee. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, there is a Justice Forum serving as a "kick off" to an academy that is being developed to train behavioral health providers and support evidence based practices for individuals in the Behavioral Health system who are also involved in the Justice system. BHAB is invited to the forum.
- NAMI and partners are hosting the 2018 NAMI walk and HHSA wellness expo on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is encouraged.
- May is Mental Health Month. There are a number of activities planned and BHS staff will be providing a calendar to BHAB. If you have an event planned, please provide information to Nancy Page or Ben Parmentier so they can update the master calendar.

**X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Jenifer Mendel, Chair**

- Thanks to Bill Stewart for volunteering to be part of the community advisory group for a Live Well Center that is being planned in the Southeast area of San Diego.
- The Bylaws revisions project was discussed in the Executive Committee. Ben is working to draft the final bylaws and board letter to authorize the changes. If they are ready at the June BHAB, we will vote on the revision of the bylaws and the board letter together.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Q:** What is a Live Well Center?

**A:** It is a place that aims to bring as many HHSA services under one roof as possible. The next one slated is for the Southeast region where HHSA aims to incorporate a mental health provider and substance abuse provider in the same building.

**Q:** How does HHSA budget for these Live Well Centers?

A: The County has looked at various facilities and will invest to make buildings secure and client friendly. HHSA Executive Finance Director Andy Pease will address BHAB in June and can elaborate on funding specifics for Live Well Centers being planned.

**XI. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

Michael Matthews made a comment regarding HSAB (Health Services Advisory Board) meetings. In the last meeting, the amount of STD cases in the County was discussed.

**DISCUSSION:**

Q: Can BHAB members get a copy of the minutes from the Health Services Advisory Board?

A: Ben will be providing a copy of the minutes to the BHAB.

**XII. BOARD MEMBER COLLABORATION:**

Q: When will BHAB have a presentation with a focus on homelessness?

A: There will be a homelessness presentation in June by Dr. Piedad Garcia and Susan Bower.

Q: If there is a topic that we would like to have a presentation on, is an email to Jenifer and Ben sufficient?

A: Yes. Staff and the executive committee will attempt to book it in upcoming months.

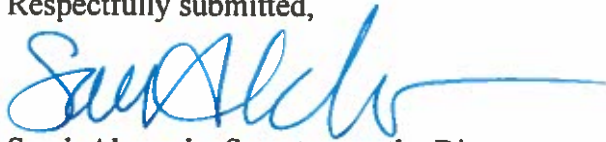
**XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of Phil Deming, seconded by Richard McGaffigan, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,



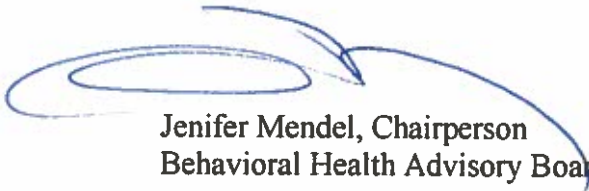
Sarah Alvarado, Secretary to the Director  
Behavioral Health Services

Reviewed by,



Benjamin Parmentier, Administrative Analyst III  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board Support Staff

Approved by,



Jenifer Mendel, Chairperson  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

**For BHAB documents, agenda, minutes and Director's Reports, please read or download from the Network of Care Behavioral Health Advisory Board at:**  
**<http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/content.aspx?id=257>**