



June 6, 2024

Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1
Janice Luna Reynoso, Member-at-Large – District 1
Guarav Mishra – District 1
Todd Boyer – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Holly Herring – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Amanda Berry – District 4
Jerisha Rutlin – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Aaron Byzak – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Joel San Juan – District 1
Kaye Turpin – District 2
Shea Benton – District 4

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE

Andrea Rodriguez on behalf of Chairwoman Nora Vargas

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Robin Sales at 2:33 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2024

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Stuart Gaiber, BHAB approved the minutes from May 2, 2024.

AYES: 10 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

We had four public comments. We received two (2) e-comments.

- Jane Doe expressed concerns about the impact of Proposition 1 on employee wellness and the quality of mental health services provided to the community. She requested collaboration between the County and mental health organizations to address these concerns and protect mental health workers' well-being.

- Mary Jo, co-chair of the San Diego Behavioral Health Peer Council, emphasized the importance of peer involvement in the design and implementation of programs related to Proposition 1 and Senate Bill (SB) 43. She advocated for peer-designed tiny home villages and affordable housing units.
- Rob Gordon expressed concerns regarding the rights of mental health patients who experience abuse or mistreatment by service providers.
- Anthony Avalos advocated for the inclusion of mental health support in the County's social equity program development. He emphasized the need to address the trauma experienced by individuals who've been engaged by law enforcement and urged BHAB for their support.

E- Comments:

- Steve Dilley advocated for increased housing solutions for elderly Veterans with support animals. He urged BHAB to consider options for accommodating Veterans in similar situations.
- Linda Tabro raised concerns about deficiencies in accessing urgent medical care and follow-up care for individuals experiencing severe symptomatic schizophrenia disorder.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS) UPDATE ON FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORTS

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, updated BHAB members on the County's flood response noting the following:

- He emphasized the importance of behavioral health support during and after natural disasters.
- Clarified the County's behavioral health care structure and emphasized the need for increased accessibility of services from diverse providers.
- Additionally, acknowledged the challenges faced by individuals due to the floods were due to inequitable infrastructure.

Janice Luna-Reynoso, Member-at-Large, emphasized the need for service providers and the County to meet flood survivors where they are, considering their individual circumstances and needs.

Jerisha Rutlin, M.Ed., LPC, LPCC, NCC, and BHAB Member stated she has provided pro bono services to individuals affected by the floods and has concern over the County's efforts. Her pro bono services are restricted to her existing clients and is not taking on new pro bono cases.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, provided the following updates:

- A recent Board Letter by Chairwoman Nora Vargas highlighted the negotiation with UC San Diego Health System to establish behavioral health services for Medi-Cal patients at their new East Campus, focusing on Medi-Cal patients. Approximately 30-45 beds will be devoted to Medi-Cal patients.
- The budget reductions proposed in the Governor's Fiscal year 2024-25 budget will have a significant number of changes in behavioral health investments. The final budget is set to be determined by the end of June.
- The County is seeking authority to enter into a single source agreement with Exodus Recovery Inc. to provide inpatient acute psychiatric services at the psychiatric health facility being developed in partnership with Tri-City Medical Center.
- A Board Letter by Chairwoman Nora Vargas notified she will be working with the BHS Director to establish priorities for the Prop 1 bond measure funds dedicated to behavioral health infrastructure.
- BHS has an open Notice of Funding (NOFA) for the Community Care Expansion Preservation Grant Program. Applications are currently being accepted from County contracted licensed

residential adult and senior care facilities (Board and Cares) serving persons with a behavioral health condition and at risk of closure.

The purpose of this program is to preserve licensed residential adult and senior care facilities. The funds may support operating subsidy payments as well as address critical repairs and upgrades needed. Applications are due no later than June 30, 2024.

VI. SENATE BILL (SB) 43 ROUNDTABLE PANEL DISCUSSION

The following panelists participated in the SB 43 roundtable discussion:

- Mike Phillips, Senior Director of Patient Advocacy and Housing Services, Jewish Family Service of San Diego
- James “Diego” Rogers, PsyD, Chief Executive Officer, Community Research Foundation, Inc. (CRF)
- Caryn Sumek, Vice President, Hospital Association of San Diego, and Imperial Counties
- Michael P Stirk, Lieutenant, San Diego Police Department (SDPD).

During the SB 43 roundtable panel discussion, panelists representing patient rights advocates, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, and hospital representatives discussed their preparations for the implementation of SB 43. The following main concerns were discussed:

- Ongoing efforts to educate stakeholders on behavioral health and its implications for various aspects of behavioral health services.
- The challenges and opportunities to the expansion of treatment services for individuals with substance use disorders, including the need for additional patient beds, financial reimbursement mechanisms, and legislative changes.
- The importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, including law enforcement, behavioral health providers, emergency medical services, and advocates, to ensure a smooth transition and effective implementation of SB 43.

VII. PRESENTATION: BHS PROCUREMENTS AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS BOARD LETTER

Cecily Thorton-Sterns, Assistant Director, presented BHS Procurements and Contracts Extensions Board Letter. The following recommendations were made:

- Authorize competitive solicitations for five contracts totaling \$13.2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26.
- Authorize single source contracts pertaining to two contracts totaling \$5.9 million in FY 2025-26.
- Authorize contracts for short-term residential therapeutic programs for four contracts totaling \$3.4 million in FY 2024-25 and \$3.5 million in FY 2025-26.
- Amend and extend two existing contracts totaling \$0.9 million in FY 2024-25.
- Approval of the DUI program for one contract totaling \$0.3 million in FY 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- The total estimated investment for these recommendations is \$27.2 million.

VIII. ACTION ITEM: BHS PROCUREMENTS AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS BL

ON MOTION of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Todd Boyer, BHAB approved the motion for the BHS Procurements and Contract Extensions Board Letter.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 1 ABSTENTATION: 0

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robin Sales, Chair provided the following announcements:

- The next BHAB Executive meeting will reconvene on July 18th, 2024, at the Behavioral Health Services Administration office.

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large provided the following announcements:

- The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) will have a meeting on June 21, 2024, followed by a training event on June 22, 2024.
- All qualifying youths interested in joining BHAB, please reach out to the BHAB coordinator for further information.

Amanda Berry, BHAB Member provided the following announcements:

- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Behavioral Health Transformation, are having stakeholder webinars with updates on Proposition 1 and various of grant fundings. BHAB members are encouraged to sign up to participate in webinars to stay informed.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Serita Polinaire, seconded by Todd Boyer, the meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.