



August 1, 2024
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Janice Luna Reynoso, Member-at-Large – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Kaye Turpin – District 2
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3
Holly Herring – District 3
Amanda Berry – District 4
Jerisha Rutlin – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1
Shea Benton – District 4
Aaron Byzak – District 5

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Todd Boyer – District 2
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
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 2:36 PM in-person and via Zoom.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 6, 2024

ON MOTION of Kaye Turpin, seconded by Gaurav Mishra, BHAB approved the minutes from June 6, 2024.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Five public comments requests, with no e-comments received.

In-Person Comments:

- Susan Gates expressed concern regarding the termination of the older adult outreach specialist contract positions. She has concerns regarding staff shortages and the quality of support older adults such as herself will get from this change. She stated the challenges faced by Peer Support

Specialists, noting staff burnout and lack of training may exist in assisting the older adult community.

- Mary Jo O’Brien recommended that Peer Support Specialists be actively involved in drafting job descriptions for related positions and a need for staff training in the 17 competencies when hiring. She emphasized the need for community involvement in decisions concerning the implementation of Proposition 1 and Senate Bill (SB) 43.
- Manuel Medina, representing the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions, offered support and resources for local county boards and encouraged visiting www.CALBHPC.org for more information.
- Devin Eshelman, a part-time, Peer Support Specialist employee at Community Research Foundation (CRF), raised concerns about the limited availability of peer support specialist positions, particularly noting a reduction in opportunities. He emphasized to BHAB to consider the needs of future peer support specialists with disabilities.
- Mike Phillips informed of the upcoming expansion of definition of “Grave Disability” under SB 43, effective January 2025. Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS) Patient Advocacy will provide education, resources, and community training on this topic.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ANNUAL RETREAT PLANNING

BHAB Chair, Robin Sales, discussed the planning of the upcoming BHAB Annual Retreat, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 19, to be held in person. Robin asked for volunteers for the planning committee and the following members have volunteered: Amanda Berry, Judith Yates, Stuart Gaiber, and Jessica Kramer. BHAB Coordinator will reach out for planning details.

V. PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kat Briggs, Chief, BHS presented Community Engagement Recommendations. The following was presented:

- Timeline and recommendations for Fiscal year 2024-2025
 - Continue to broaden and promote opportunities for meaningful participation.
- Changes from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)
 - Revised components and new definitions – opportunities for these programs and services to work in different ways, but challenging decisions ahead to comply with prescribed activities and requirements under BHSA.
 - Still multiple unknowns as state guidance is still pending.
- Recommendations
 - Host a higher volume of smaller-scale, tailored activities throughout the year in addition to larger events/discussions.
 - Incorporate activities as appropriate into existing meeting venues, e.g.:
 - Maintain existing engagement methods, such as:
 - Key informant interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Data workshops
 - Listening sessions

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Luke Bergmann, BHS Director, provided the following updates:

- Addressed concerns about the timing of BHS information being shared with BHAB and acknowledging the challenges presented by the Board of Supervisors’ (BOS) timeline. Highlighted BHS proactive efforts to anticipate and summarize upcoming BOS agenda items for BHAB.

- Announced the appointment of Ebony Shelton as the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the County of San Diego (County).
- Announced Aurora Kiviat, BHS' Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer, has transitioned to a temporary position in the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Executive Office as the interim Director of Policy and External Affairs.
- Proposition 1 grant funding, administered through the Prop 1 Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Bond (BHCIP), will be awarded in multiple rounds, prioritizing projects demonstrating site control and emphasizing residential treatment.
 - The BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready grant funding will be allocated up to \$1.5 billion designated for counties, cities, and tribal entities, and up to \$1.8 billion for additional entities.
 - Authorize the BHS Director to implement a formal process for evaluating and using letters of support for Proposition 1 Infrastructure Bond funding applications, ensuring alignment with state and County priorities.
- The County is seeking BHCIP funding for two priority capital projects:
 - The Substance Use Residential & Treatment Services (SURTS) facility aims to increase access to substance use treatment for Medi-Cal eligible individuals through the establishment of 72-96 residential and recuperative care beds. The project has an estimated cost of \$26.8 million.
 - The Children's Crisis Residential Care Facility (CCRC) aims to establish 16 new crisis residential beds for children and youth with serious mental health crisis, providing stabilization and treatment in the least restrictive setting possible.
- Senate Bill (SB) 43 implementation progress has been made across multiple areas, including:
 - Launched a comprehensive SB 43 website and conducting numerous stakeholder workgroup sessions.
 - Groundbreaking of a new Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) in East County.
 - Secured \$12.4 million for 48 new recuperative care beds and launching the SD Relay program for behavioral health support in Emergency Departments in October 2024.
 - Implemented a new Public Conservator data collection case tracker and updating referral processes to include SB 43 related involuntary treatment.
- There will be a Board Letter to Authorize Competitive Solicitation for CBO Training and Technical Assistance that is scheduled for the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 27, 2024.
- BHS has been awarded Round 3 of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) grant funding.
- The County is expanding Naloxone distribution including an implementation of 16 Naloxone vending machines.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Substance Use Prevention Subcommittee:

Stuart Gaiber, Co-Chair, stated the main discussion in the last meeting was the regional campus at Green Oaks Ranch. The subcommittee is hopeful there could be a collaboration with the local government and the County regarding this property.

Participation & Partnership:

Janice Luna-Reynoso, Chair, would like to increase participation with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) members of the community. One of their goals is to increase more community participation and having more service providers at their meetings. Jerisha, BHAB member, presented on BIPOC mental health awareness and the inclusion of community base organizations and the BICOP lived experiences.

Justice System Nexus with Current Behavioral Health Issues Through a Racial Equity Lens:

Robin Sales, Chair, shared part of the subcommittees' focus is to engage individuals with lived experiences and involve them in the policy making process. In the past meeting, family members of loved ones who passed away in the justice system gave their testimony.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

BHAB Chair, Robin Sales, asked for feedback on how to increase member engagement in future BHAB meetings. Some suggestions include:

- Provide agenda item on questions/comments from prior meetings.
- Ensuring members have the chance to ask questions in an equitable way.
- Importance of attendance and punctuality for all members.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements presented.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Jerisha Rutlin, the meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.