



# County of Fresno

## ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### FRESNO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

DBH Health and Wellness Center  
 1925 E. Dakota Ave.  
 Fresno, CA 93726

#### Minutes

Meeting Via WebEx  
 May 20, 2020 3:30 p.m.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u>	
Carolyn Evans	Dawan Utecht, Director	Karen Tombs
Amanda Boone	Susan Holt	Jonathan Halverstadt
Francine Farber	Ahmad Bahrami	Tina Young
David Thorne	Stacy Vanbruggen	Shanan Yang
Donald Vanderheyden	Kristen Lynch	Kannika Toonachat
Marta Obler	Jeannette Dominguez	Sue Vang
Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler	Lawrence Seymour	Rosie Ornelas
Debbie Xiong	Tamara DeFehr	Francisco Torres
Kylene Hashimoto	Emma Mejia	
<u>ABSENT</u>		
	<u>PUBLIC MEMBERS</u>	
	Scott Hollander	Colleen Overholt
	Fidel Garibay	Doug Loera
	Ryan Banks	David Tan
	Robert Dutile	Etisha Wilbon
	Elizabeth Williams	Sharon Ross
	Amber Molina	Marilyn Bamford
	Fausto Novelo	Lance Nelson
	Rosio Laguna	Chris Roup
<u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u>		
Sal Quintero (absent)		

#### I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Carolyn Evans welcomed all participants to the Behavioral Health Board (BHB) virtual meeting via Webex. She informed participants that except for the Behavioral Health Board (BHB) members, all microphones will be muted throughout the meeting for sound clarity and all other participants will have the opportunity to comment during public comments portion of the meeting.

Newly appointed BHB member Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler was introduced and provided a brief introduction of herself and what interested her in becoming part of the Behavioral Health Board. Mary Lou stated that she has a son living with mental illness and that she has been an active advocate of mental health services for 23 years in Fresno County. Additionally, she attends BHB meetings, subcommittee meetings and served on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Fresno Board of Directors for 15 years.

#### II. Approval of Agenda by Board

Approved as written.

### III. Approval of Minutes for the Behavioral Health Board meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Innovations Plan Presentation Special meeting

Approved and accepted as written.

### IV. Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Update – Dawan Utecht, Director

- a. **General Update** – The Department update began with the Mission, Vision and Goals statement and an announcement on May being Mental Health Awareness month.

**Legislation** – SB 103 Peer Support Specialist is moving along and making its way through the process, with most other legislative action being on a wait and see status.

#### **Contracts/Items going to the Board of Supervisor**

March 24, 2020 Awarded:

- Retroactive approval of Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) grant application for school wellness centers.
- Reading and Beyond received Family Advocacy Agreement
- One-year extension to community gardens; pending evaluation

April 28, 2020:

- Contract amendments supporting revised payments through June 1<sup>st</sup> to allow modified processes due to COVID.

**COVID-19 Response-** With the need to shift to Telehealth/Telephone/Telework as the method to conduct business, needed equipment and software was acquired. Priority clients continued to receive services of:

- All crisis – Adult and children crisis stabilization units, adult and adolescent psychiatric health facilities and crisis residential facility.
- Injections, blood draws and new medication starts
- Other urgent needs.

**COVID-19 Impact on services and individuals served** - Please see attached PDF that contains detailed graph. Many waivers from the State/Federal Government were received in response to the impact of COVID such as:

- Enabled Telehealth/Telephone
- Allow for consent/signatures etc.
- Pending for rate setting

As business returns to the new normal, situations may develop, and changes will occur in addition to the following plans that will be implemented:

- Telework feasibility
- Entrance/Egress
- Workspace configuration for physical distancing
- Mask requirements
- Client satisfaction survey
- Service impact analysis

**Impact of COVID-19 on Room and Boards-** A wide range of strategies are being used to support the tenants of Room and Boards that range from challenges of keeping strict physical distance amongst guests, as well as tenant roommate arrangements, and up to the simple increase of practicing good housekeeping by all.

Independent Living Association – Has transitioned to Virtual Support. They are planning an Emergency Preparedness webinar in addition to the Introduction to Independent living operations training that will be held on the first Friday of every month.

**Impact of COVID-19 on Board and Care Facilities-** Board and Care facilities are using a wide range of strategies to support residents that consist of:

- Increased staffing
  - Additional cleaning of equipment
  - Larger facilities have slightly reduced capacity to allow more room for isolation if needed.
  - Established private areas for telehealth/telephone services for medical and behavioral health providers and family visits.
  - Piloting use of Netsmart tablets/kiosk at facilities where telehealth is not an option.
- **California May Revise Budget Impacts** - A \$5.6 Billion Surplus was projected for January, and now with unemployment rates at an historic low of 2.9 %, the State is showing a \$54.3 billion deficit for May. General Fund tax revenues (made from personal income tax, sales tax and corporation tax resources) expected to decline by \$41 billion. For fiscal year 2020-21 the budget is expected to “balance”, but out-year budget will increase.

**Some areas mentioned to help manage the deficit are:**

- Cancelling proposed medi-cal expansions
- Draw down from State reserves of Rainy-Day Fund & Net Reserve
- Borrow and transfer from special funds
- Generating new revenue by suspending net operating losses and limiting credits allowed for personal taxes
- Reduce spending from 2019 by a 10% pay reduction for State staff.

Funding revision that will impact Behavioral Health’s estimated funding:

- Delay in implementing California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CaLAIM)
- Delay in Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program
- There was an error in 2020-21 Federal Match with the State for immigrant services
- \$148.5m from the state General Fund for repayment and future years for County pay back
- Waiver for interim rate setting methodology included in budget
- Addresses decline in volumes; allowing for temporary increase of rates.
- Medi-Cal Postpartum Mental Health Expansion Eliminated (proposed in Jan)
- Proposition 56 Supplemental Payments and Programs Reduced
- Behavioral Health Integration
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Screening
- ACES Provider Training
- Funding for Behavioral Health Counselors in Emergency Departments reverted/reduced
- Withdraws January proposal to expand full-scope Medi-Cal to Undocumented Older Adults
- Withdraws January proposal to increase income eligibility level for the Aged, Blind and Disabled category of individuals
- Eliminates or modifies 13 optional services under Medi-Cal including Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatments for Opioids and Other Drugs
- Cuts funding proposed in January for homelessness efforts
- California Access to Housing and Services Fund
- Proposes allocating CARES Act funding to counties for “public health, behavioral health and other health and human services”, as well as funding to cities for homelessness and public safety.
- Recommends closure of 2 prison facilities

- Realigns responsibility for all youth offenders to local jurisdictions
- Recommends cutting Parole Outpatient Clinics
- Likely county behavioral health programs will be expected to serve parolees
- Reduction in Social Services funding from January proposal
- Eliminates Foster Family Agencies rate increases
- Eliminates the Family Urgent Response System – was in design phase
- Reduction in Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Rates to STRTP (Short Term Residential Treatment Programs) providers of 5%
- Eliminates the January proposal for the Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and Treatment Training which would have provided training and supportive services for individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health needs

**b. Update Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan**

- Due to the impact of COVID 19 on County and State staff, the limit for public gathering, etc., there have been delays across the state with the MHS Act Three Year Plans. The State has recognized this and is allowing counties time to complete their plans. Until Counties have new Three-Year Plans, they are to operate off their current plans (2017-2020).
- Fresno does not anticipate having its new MHS Act Three Year Plan ready for July 1, 2020 implementation.
- DBH staff has begun work on completing the writing and development of the plan. They still intend to share updates with the public before having the plan go through a 30-day public comment etc.
- A challenge the staff faced was the county was close to fully expended on its PEI funds with existing programs and efforts would not be able to add new PEI programs. Now they are working to ensure the sustainability of all the current services due to the impact of COVID 19
- The team is working on a plan with focus on limits for new programs/services that cannot be sustained, sustainability of current programs and flexibility to change the plan soon, as more fiscal impact may be understood.

**V. Old Business**

**Report from the Board on Site Visit to Exodus Crisis Stabilization Centers, Psychiatric Health Facility and Access Line**

Two BHB members attended the site visit to the Exodus Crisis Stabilization Center and Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) on March 11, 2020. The BHB members reported that they were glad to see improvements made with all the activities provided daily for clients. Staff retention remains an ongoing obstacle for the facilities. The BHB encourages the development of another inpatient facility and a larger Crisis Stabilization Center to provide more beds considering the current limitations. The Board also recommends not having security in uniform and to seek companies that provide the option of wearing street clothing during their shift.

**VI. New Business**

**LGBTQIA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual+**

**a. Concerns in public Schools**

Guest speaker of the Behavioral Health Board Lance Nelson shared his concerns about the lack of support that LGBTQIA students receive in public schools. Recently Lance submitted an article to the Fresno Bee sharing his personal experiences, while attending Selma High School. After research, Lance found that much has not changed since his graduation more than 10 years ago. Lance stated that more needs to be done to bring awareness to educators. (supporting documents attached)

**Motion Made** – Francine Farber moved that the BHB draft a letter to Superintendent of Fresno County Schools Jim Yovino, expressing concern and requesting information available on services provided within the school system.

**Motion Second** – David Thorne

**Roll Call Vote Members in favor** - David Thorne  
Francine Farber  
Marta Obler  
Kylene Hashimoto  
Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler

**None opposed**

**Abstain:** Carolyn Evans

**Public comment:** – Held / received

**Motion carried.** Francine will draft a letter for review and approval from BHB members before processing.

**b. Letter of Support for Innovation Plans**

On April 9, 2020 a Special meeting session was held via teleconference to provide a presentation of three MHSA Innovation plans:

- The Lodge
- Ride Well
- Handle with Care Plus+

A letter of support for the three plans was sent from the BHB to the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). (copy attached)

**VII. Committee Reports**

All committees are suspended. No committee reports today. As business slowly returns to the new normal, information will be distributed when available.

**VIII. Public Comment**

David Thorne asked the question of how many in the mental health community have internet access for the ability to receive needed information or services. Dawan and Susan provided information about clients who also have the option of telephone services and about surveys that have been developed to gather information on challenges, barriers and opportunity in the community as well as the names of providers that are conducting safe practice of continued services.

Nami Walk on May 30<sup>th</sup> will be streaming live from at 11:00 am with other activities throughout the day to raise awareness of mental health.

**IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:53**

**This meeting is open to the public under the Ralph M. Brown Act.**

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