



# 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

Special meeting Session via teleconference  
April 9, 2020

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u></p> <p>Carolyn Evans Amanda Boone Francine Farber David Thorne Donald Vanderheyden Debbie Xiong Marta Obler</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ABSENT</u></p> <p>Kylene Hashimoto</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u></p> <p>Sal Quintero (absent)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u></p> <p>Dawan Utecht, Director Ahmad Bahrami</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PUBLIC MEMBERS</u></p> <p>Meeting conducted via teleconference with only Chris Roup introducing herself.</p>
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#### I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Carolyn Evans called the meeting to order via teleconference at 12:02 p.m., stating the reason for this special meeting session is for Innovation Plan presentation from the Department of Behavioral Health and for approval by the Behavioral Health Board (BHB) for processing to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

#### II. Approval of Agenda by Board

Approved as written.

#### III. Department of Behavioral Health update – Dawan Utecht, Director

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Department has moved mainly to using Telehealth and telephone services while continuing to provide clinical services for individuals who require medication injections, lab work, and for all psychiatric crisis situations. COVID-19 screening processes are conducted upon arrival at all open facilities for staff and clients. Additionally, a temporary module unit was set up for injections as an effort to limit transport into buildings and to keep consistent with distancing guidelines.

The Department has been in constant contact with all contracted providers to discuss their needs, assist with issues while encouraging continued operations and services for the community. The Department will present an item to the Board of Supervisors on April 28<sup>th</sup> that will allow amendments to provider contracts, including advancements to assist the organizations sustainability throughout the pandemic.

Daily preparations are being made including creating action plans for the ever evolving and possible surge situations, which include inpatient facilities, the smaller outlying communities and

the homeless. Homeless efforts made and resources, consist of:

- Three housing shelters - the former facility of Comprehensive Addiction Program (CAP)
  - 1040 N. Pleasant
  - Hacienda with 40 studio units ready for occupancy
- Currently housing over 300 individuals
- Currently, there are no positive tests or symptomatic individuals at the shelters
- Two separate hotels for individuals who have been received directly from Hospital Emergency Room Departments and tested for COVID-19 until test results are received
- Testing turn-around time has decreased, results provided in two-three days

The BHB commended the department on its WARM Line. It is a great way to enhance trust within the community by providing support. The number is (559) 600- 9276 (WARM).

#### **IV. DBH's Innovation Plan Review and Approval**

Presentation of plans were provided for the three innovation programs. The Lodge, Ride Well and Handle with Care Plus+. It was reported that ideas and concepts that existed in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) three-year plan have been worked on by designing them with greater first-hand input from several resources, such as peer perspective, focus groups conducted with the Multi-Access Points (MAP) program at the Poverello House - Homeless Outreach Team. Additionally, input was gathered from rural providers and the Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) on the needs and challenges of transportation for a rideshare type of model versus a shuttle. Data received from Handle with Care, community input from Every Neighborhood Partnership, and Trauma Resiliency Network will be fine-tuned before final submission.

A virtual meeting held live through YouTube included a public comment portion with the opportunity for questions and answers in real-time. Questions and comments have been received requesting clarification on logistics and other details. While these plans are more in the form of framework, each program will be flushed out, addressing all specifics during contract negotiations and through each program development. With approval from the BHB, plans will move forward and aim to be on the agenda for the May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, MHSOAC meeting.

**Motion Made:** By Francine Farber to support and approve plans moving forward

**Second:** Donald Vanderhyden

**Public Comment:** NAMI program available online that can complement Parent Cafe

**Ayes:** Francine Farber

Donald Vanderhyden

Amanda Boone

Marta Obler

David Thorne

Debbie Xiong

**Noes:** None

**Abstention:** Carolyn Evans

**Motion Carried:** Approving Innovation plans: The Lodge, Handle with Care Plus+ and Ride Well.

#### **V. Public Comment:**

NAMI Walk event scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been canceled, with a new virtual event with the theme of "Mental Health for All" being created for May 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Adjourned at 1:17 PM**

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

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