



### FRESNO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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

#### Minutes

Meeting Via Webex  
 July 15, 2020 3:30 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u></p> <p>Carolyn Evans          Francine Farber          David Thorne          Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler          Kylene Hashimoto          Debbie Xiong</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ABSENT</u></p> <p>Donald Vanderhyden          Amanda Boone</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      Susan Holt          Ahmad Bahrami          Tina Young          Kristen Lynch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PUBLIC MEMBERS</u></p> <p>Deborah Walker                  Diana Castaneda          Emma                                  Fidel Garibay          Nakia Vue                              Chris Roup          Luis Santana                          Scott Hollander          Kaylie DeWolfe                      Katrina Rudnick          Lawrence Seymour                  ICSI          ICSI Juangar                          Several call-in users</p>
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**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chair Carolyn Evans called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM. Tina Young did a roll call of the BHB members.

**II. Approval of Agenda by Board**

The agenda was approved as written.

**III. Approval of minutes for June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with submitted changes.

**IV. Education and Report from Patents’ Rights Advocates – Stan Lum, Patients’ Rights Advocates**

Patients’ Rights Advocates (PRA) is contracted with the Department of Behavioral Health to provide advocacy services for Fresno County consumers who identify with psychiatric disabilities. Stan Lum, a Supervising Patients’ Right Advocate works with 2 other Patients’ Rights Advocate Specialists in providing individuals services in the areas of:

- Registering complaints
- Most common complaint heard from individuals at inpatient facilities believing they are being illegally detained
- Review hearing certification
- Assist Adolescents in patient rights
- Receive an average of 12 – 15 phone calls a day

- Receive occasional phone calls from inmates at the County jail seeking help in accessing additional resources

The 3 levels within the complaint process are:

- Patients Right's Advocate will assess, investigate and address with an effort to resolve
- Dissatisfied outcomes are lifted up to the Director of Behavioral Health for help in resolution
- If the resolution is still not an acceptable outcome, the complaint is then referred to the State Department of Mental Health.

PRA is currently creating a new format of a complaint form they anticipate being completed by August 2020 and it will be made available to the BHB.

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

- General Update** – Began with the Mission, Vision and Goals statement with the mention of July being National Minority Mental Health Awareness month.

### Legislation/State/Budget

- The Budget is still the Main focus
  - Secured \$1B of the proposed \$3B reduction in overall realignment funding
  - Counties are expected to take on the Integrated Service for Mentally Ill Parolee-Clients (ISMIP) without no additional funding received. This service was previously provided by State Parole.

ISMIP Fresno County –Current provider for Fresno County is Quality Group Homes

Contract details:

- Capacity = 50
- Annual Parolees served = 182
- Average # PC 290 registrants = 17
- Average monthly housing subsidies = \$52,229
- Annual contract amount for program + housing = \$1,322,909

### Contracts/Board Agenda Items

- June 23
  - Master Agreement for Individual and Group Providers
  - California Department of Rehabilitation – vocational rehabilitation
  - Out of County Providers payment through purchasing agreement
  - Central Star – Adolescent PHF
  - State Hospital Beds
- July 7
  - Amendment – Master Agreement – Short Term Residential Treatment Providers
  - Approval for planning for approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation projects

### COVID-19 Update -

New restrictions in place and Fresno County has been on monitoring list for 3+ days. Counties above 8% are placed on watch list and according to the World Health Organization to have control of a virus outbreak the county must be under 5%.

Fresno Statistics – Total Population: 1,032,227

Total cases = 8,941  
Per 100k = 380.7  
New cases = 3,930  
(Last 14 days)

Total deaths = 91  
Per 100k = 1.6  
New deaths = 17  
(Last 14 days)

Test reported (Last 14 days) = 33,783  
Test positivity = 11.6%  
Daily per 1,000 residents = 2.3

**b. Response to Behavioral Health Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors**

1. Educate and inform the community about behavioral health services available, along with a navigation system for accessing those services.

*JP Marketing brought on board and developed a communication plan with ongoing DBH Website improvements and when completed will be demonstrated at BHB meeting.*

2. Move forward with the development of permanent supportive housing, available to all clients of the Department of Behavioral Health.

*A priority for the Dept with multiple projects currently in process that are regularly reported on.*

3. Increase the number of programs, services, and housing specifically for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 14 – 16.

*A priority for the Dept. and they will continue to report out on progress.*

4. Establish additional programs, including Sober Living Homes for individuals with co-occurring Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and Mental Health Disorders.

*A priority for the Dept. and they will continue to report out on progress.*

5. Implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law) for individuals who do not respond to existing programs.

*Finalize current work to ensure the full continuum of care and expect implementation by the end of the fiscal year.*

6. Expand the number of Wellness Centers throughout the County, emphasizing diet, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.

*DBH has begun working with Public Health and the Department of Social Services (DSS) for broader health and wellness education and activities within the community.*

7. Expand the behavioral health staff at the Fresno County Jail to provide better care for the inmates with mental health and substance use disorders.

*Increased with New provider and continued to be monitored.*

8. Increase outreach services for individuals who are homeless, who also experience behavioral health disorders.

*Significant activities, driven by COVID, allowing for more collaborative focus.*

**c. Services to Homeless Population** – All Shelters have remained operational with COVID funding approved through September 2020 with an anticipated additional funding request through December.

- Three specific shelters in place due strictly to COVID

- Established homeless shelters such as the Poverello House and the Rescue Mission have additional capacity from COVID funding
- Trailers, shelters and motels are used separately in the different situations of tested positive and awaiting testing results
- COVID shelter beds in Sanger and Selma as well
- Multiple outreach groups canvassing throughout Fresno County to bring individuals into shelter
- Shifted ongoing focus to supporting the transition of homeless from shelters to permanent supportive housing.

The Department is also collaborating in efforts to support farm workers in COVID related areas of education, safety, English/Spanish translation and up to steps to take when tested positive.

- d. Update on Family Advocates** – Reading and Beyond is the new contracted provider for the targeted population of family members and support systems for individuals of all ages served within the entire Behavioral Health System of Care.

Time/Budget/Staffing

- Contract executed on March 24, 2020 and expires June 30, 2025
- Total Budget \$1,294,694
- Nakia Vue, Program Manager
- Katrina Rudnick and Diana Castaneda are 2 Family Advocacy Navigators (FANs)
- Services will begin August 1, 2020

Services

Assist family members and support systems in coping with signs and symptoms of mental illness of a loved one and in navigating the system of care in a culturally appropriate manner. Services will be obtainable by phone and by video conference while under the current pandemic restrictions. When the restrictions are lifted, services may be found at the Heritage Center and Metro Campus, M-F 8am – 5pm, and will include:

- Information and education
- Support, empowerment and advocacy
- Navigation through DBH System of Care including referrals to community resources
- Liaison services to help treatment providers and families facilitate strong and collaborative working relationships
- Participation in designated DBH activities and committees to represent the voice of families in department planning and policy development

- e. Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant for Wellness Centers** – The Partnership with All 4 Youth and the Fresno County Office of Education was awarded a six million-dollar MHSSA Grant over four years that will be utilized in:

- Employing Family Partners
- Providing confidential space for All 4 Youth Clinicians, Youth Care Specialists and Youth Intervention Specialists to provide specialty mental health services
- Development of toolkit for how to develop behavioral health partnerships between schools and behavioral health systems
  - Work began for proposed development of toolkit for the state
  - To be named: “Bridging Education and Mental Health: A Toolkit Integrating School-based Services in California”
- Serving as a community centered prevention and early intervention service

throughout Fresno County with information at accessible locations to the underserved communities

- Expanding current All 4 Youth Program efforts to encourage comprehensive self-care and education for youth (ages 0-22), families and school staff
- Promoting within the community of learning to connect, improve health and well-being, find fulfillment, access resources of mental health for all to reduce stigma and increase likelihood of youth and families to access services
- Serving as gathering spaces for, NAMI on campus chapters, LGBTQ and other cultural student groups to receive mental health-related programming information / support led by Family Partners
- Hosting trainings on trauma and mental health for the community, students and families to increase knowledge and learn strategies
- Collaboration with schools and districts to extend implementation of Natural School Mental Health Curriculum: Guidance and best practices for States, Districts and Schools to families and communities
- Development of four new Wellness Centers
  - On or next to a school campus
  - First center will be on Fresno Pacific University Campus
  - Strategically located first center near elementary, middle and high school campus in an underserved area of Fresno
  - Three other locations pending school district approval

#### Implementation Timeline

Contract Start Date: September 1, 2020

- Services to start as renovations allow (tentative October 2020)
- Other three centers will begin construction in November 2020 with a target completion date of September 2021

## **VI. Old Business**

### **a. Report on Virtual Tour of Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP)**

BHB conducted a virtual site visit tour of the MAP program on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. BHB members reported the program appeared capable of sustaining their program needs considering the current situation of COVID.

### **b. Report on California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions Meeting on June 19, 2020**

BHB members learned of current marketing process of telehealth. The department will incorporate into their current marketing campaign the option of telehealth and its availability to the community.

### **c. Report on Youth Symposium, sponsored by NAMI California, CalMHSA and Blue Shield California**

The purpose of the Symposium, with 500 registrants, was to empower youth to change the conversation behind Mental Health. A BHB member of Fresno County served on a panel that used their personal experiences to drive change through advocacy in local and state work.

A concern heard was the difficulty of youth accessing services under private pay insurance. Deputy Directory Susan Holt responded with information on the process of walking individuals through steps according to their specific service needs to provide the information being sought.

**VII. New Business**

**a. Hybrid Board Meeting for Aug/September**

Awaiting the COVID situation until the ability to meet safely

**b. Virtual Site Visits**

Next Virtual Site Visit will be with the Turning Point Vista Program July 31, 2020

**VIII. Committee Reports**

All BHB sub-committees, except for Executive, are suspended until further notice during Pandemic

**IX. Public Comment**

Member of the community, new to the area, asked what efforts are being made to reduce the current need for housing.

Email address requested to receive related information

**X. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.**

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

1925 E. Dakota Ave. Fresno, California 93726

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