



Minutes

Present: Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Supervisor Lor; Mary Ellis; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Vicki Humble; Virginia Vega; Micki Archuleta; Zachery Ramos; Vince Ramos; Emil Erreca

Absent: Brian Pena; Keng Cha

Others Present: Genevieve Valentine; Sharon Jones; Jennifer Jones; Chris Kraushar; Kim Carter; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Roll Call

Due to COVID-19 today's meeting was held via conference call. Chair Sally Ragonut called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Mary Ellis.

Approval of Minutes from May 5, 2020 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Archuleta / Metcalf) to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved the minutes.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Ragonut – yes	Metcalf – yes
Ramos, Z. – yes	Humble – absent	Erreca – yes
Archuleta – yes	Mason – yes	

Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.

Discussion/Conclusion: No public input

Recommendation/Action: None

Discussion on Changing Hours of This Board Meeting

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally reported that this item was placed on the agenda because at the April Board meeting/Public Hearing a member of the public commented that they liked having this meeting at a later date because it was easier for them to attend. Sally asked how other Board members feel about changing the hours of this meeting. Suggested times were 4:30pm to 6:00pm or possibly from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Bruce liked 4:00 to 6:00. Paula liked either time. Vince commented that he would like to keep the current hours – 3:00 to 5:00. Emil liked either time; he has a small business which would make it easier for him and possibly there would be more input from the public. Lee asked if this is indefinitely or until we go back to in-person meetings. Sally stated this was discussed at the Executive Committee and they thought this should be tried to see how it works and if others liked it. Sally was concerned about how this would affect staff who present at the meeting since their workday ends at 5:00pm. Genevieve stated that work schedules can



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be adjusted for staff on those days; it will not be a problem. Sally thought this could be done as a trial for six months or a year. Micki commented that we should do what is best for the public. Vince commented again that this information needs to be publicized and how to get into the meetings otherwise they would be defeating the purpose. Sally questioned Genevieve how this meeting information is publicized. Genevieve stated that the information is publicized, it is posted, it is put on the website, it is very much out there and that includes the conference call information. Micki suggested having the information in the newspaper; Genevieve commented that this has been done prior and she will follow-up with this. Iris commented that this can be streamed live on Facebook and people can ask questions or make comments during the meeting.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Metcalf / Ellis) to change the Board meeting hours to 4:00 – 6:00pm for a one-year period beginning July 2020. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved the changing of Board meeting hours.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Ragonut – yes	Metcalf – yes
Ramos, Z. – yes	Humble – yes	Erreca – yes
Archuleta – yes	Mason – yes	

Discussion on Using Blue-Jeans Video Conferencing for this Meeting

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally commented that last month Iris and Vicki were able to access video conferencing for this meeting; they had discussion on whether to open this up for all Board members to use video conferencing in order to see each other. Genevieve stated that this can be made into a full-video meeting. County Counsel was consulted to make sure there is no problem with all the Board members being able to have access to the video component and as long as there is access, it is up to the Board member if they choose to go in that way or to have a conference call option. Both options have to be available. The community will also be able to have both options; the Department will have to post the BlueJeans link for them to join the conference or video via the web. The agenda, or whatever presentation is being done, will have to be kept visual; thus, you may not see everyone’s face the entire meeting. It will take about a month or two to get this set up because all the cameras are in client-care areas due to telehealth. She will have to do some rearranging of cameras to make sure the video is set up. Genevieve thinks this can be accomplished by the July meeting. Everyone has to have the ability to call-in or video – as long as everyone is okay with it being an “or” option – because you cannot force people to do video. Emil commented that he is on multiple meetings every week via Zoom and when you open up the video sharing for anyone out there, you run the risk of having people hacking into the screen sharing and sharing lewd content. He wanted everyone to be aware of this. Genevieve commented that BlueJeans video conferencing has to be used because that is the platform the County has approved for meetings. She agreed that we will have to be careful in the sharing of the screen. Supervisor Lor commented that the option for people to tune in via audio or video has to be there – you cannot make people participate with the video. The concern about people tapping into the meeting – this is given because all the information is public. In regards to sharing the screen, she thinks that Carol is the host and she has the ability to control whose screen is being shared.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Election of Officers

- a. Chair
- b. Vice-Chair
- c. Secretary

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris reported that she composed an email and shared it with Zachery which was then sent out to Board members. She didn’t get any other volunteers for the slate; the previous officers have all agreed to serve another term.



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Recommendation/Action: a. M/S/C (Ellis / Mason) to approve Sally Ragonut as the Chair for FY 20/21. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they were in favor of Sally Ragonut being the Chair for FY 20/21.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Metcalf – yes	Ramos, Z. – yes
Humble – yes	Erreca – yes	Archuleta – yes
Mason – yes		

b. M/S/C (Ramos, Z. / Metcalf) to approve Paula Mason as the Vice-Chair for FY 20/21. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they were in favor of Paula Mason being the Vice-Chair for FY 20/21.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Ragonut – yes	Metcalf – yes
Ramos, Z. – yes	Humble – yes	Erreca – yes
Archuleta – yes		

c. M/S/C (Archuleta / Mason) to approve Bruce Metcalf as the Secretary for FY 20/21. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they were in favor of Bruce Metcalf being the Secretary for FY 20/21.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Ragonut – yes	Ramos, Z. – yes
Humble – yes	Erreca – yes	Archuleta – yes
Mason – yes		

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Orientation and Development
 - 1) Review and Discuss Board Orientation and Development Plan
- c. Membership Committee
 - 1) Recommendation for Approval of Kim Carter to Behavioral Health Board (BOARD ACTION)
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report
- f. Executive Committee
 - 1) Select Nominating Committee for FY 20/21 Executive Committee (BOARD ACTION)
- g. Board Member Reports

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Paula reported that Substance Use Disorder (SUD) continues to remain open to the public and community for services, but they are also using telephone services. They continue to do intakes and connect with community members in order to provide services throughout the COVID-19 virus. They have had to cancel or reschedule some of their meetings in order to practice social distancing. They are also utilizing the virtual meeting tools. They have two upcoming events – monthly provider meetings on June 8th and 13th and is by invitation only. They also had a Merced County Proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2020 to be Drug Court Month. The drug courts provide the focus and leadership of community-wide anti-drug systems and bring together criminal justice treatment, education and other community partners in the fight against drug use and criminality. The drug court movement has grown from twelve original drug courts in 1994 to over 2,300 drug courts. Merced County implemented its first Adult Drug Treatment Court on January 4, 2000, a Juvenile Treatment Court on August 2, 2001 and Dependency Drug Treatment Court on July 1, 2006. The

Prevention Team has also been actively involved in their Strategic Planning Framework process and it has moved on to the planning phase. The committee meetings typically meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00-12:00. If anyone would like to attend or add input, contact the Division Director, Lidia Caza-Burdick. The Mentoring Program for the school year came to an end because of the school closure. The Prevention Team is currently working on providing gift cards and pizza gift cards as alternatives to the youth participating in the mentoring programs from the last school year. They also continue to work on two Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs). It is a new State requirement that they do this. One is non-clinical – focusing on increasing youth engagement in substance abuse treatment services. The second is clinical – focusing on improving care coordination from residential back to outpatient services. **b.** Bruce had nothing new. **c.** Mary had no report today. **d.** Mary went over her report from the May 26, 2020 Quality Improvement Committee meeting. Iris had some questions regarding the Hospital Discharges information in Mary's report and she was hoping that Mary can get further information on this and report on it again at the next month's meeting. Genevieve clarified on the Hospital Discharges-Clinical-FY19/20 and the Hospital Discharges-Clinical-FY18/19 – the purpose was to show that the Department has done better in the last year based off those percentages. Additionally, the reason that Foster Youth is included on the FY19/20 chart is because the State now requires them to have all children's services in addition to foster care which they did not have to do in FY18/19. Sally asked who could come to next month's meeting and give a better view on what the numbers mean. Genevieve stated she would find the right person to do that. She also commented on the Future Trainings information in the QI report. These are all web-based. Staff are given a link to do the self-paced training on-line. The Department just gives them a deadline to have completed it. **e.** Sally reported she and Iris had another meeting on the phone this month; she has also had several meeting with Carol who is putting the report together as information is sent to her. She still needs Brian Pena's picture and bio. She thinks that there may be a draft copy ready to send out before the next meeting. Sally also needs a foreword from both Genevieve and Yvonnia for the report. Sally hopes to get this report to the Board of Supervisors by August. **f.** Sally stated that the Executive Committee planned everything being talked about. Iris had commented to her that the By-laws stated that if someone was on the State Planning Council, that they could be part of the Executive Committee. Carol looked it up and it now looks like Iris will be added to the Executive Committee. Iris clarified that she is on the California Behavioral Health Planning Council until December 2022. **g.** No reports

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Chair's Report

a. Strategic Planning Survey Results (Vote on Objectives)

Discussion/Conclusion: **a.** Sally reported that a survey monkey went out to Board members. Nine members commented. All said "yes" that they wanted to continue to have the objectives from last year. Sally read the objectives. She asked if anyone had any comments to makes; none were made. Lastly, Sally stated they will go through these objectives next month and plan their committees for next year. She would like to have everyone be on one of the five committees. She asked that Carol email out a new copy of the Strategic Planning Timeline to everyone.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Archuleta / Metcalf) to approve the Strategic Planning results/objectives for FY 20/21. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved the Strategic Planning results/objectives for FY 20/21.

Lor – yes	Vega – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes
Pena – absent	Ellis – yes	Ramos, V. – yes
Cha – absent	Ragonut – yes	Metcalf – yes
Ramos, Z. – yes	Humble – yes	Erreca – yes
Archuleta – yes	Mason – yes	

Director's Report

- a. Update on Behavioral Health and Rural Communities (Sharon Jones)**
- b. Update on Advocating for the Homeless During COVID-19 (Jennifer Jones)**

Discussion/Conclusion: Genevieve commented that most of her report will be updates from two of her staff. But first she updated on what the Department has been doing this last month. COVID-19 has challenged the Department to think outside the box. They have regular conversations and calls with the State; they are doing weekly meetings with the State as well as weekly management meetings and all-staff calls every other week. At the last Board of Supervisors meeting she provided an update on what Behavioral Health has been doing during COVID-19. They have also been looking at fiscal year budgeting. They are hearing rumors from the State that there is going to be some significant cuts in terms of revenue; they are preparing for this. Next month she will give a more detailed report on the fiscal year budget and what is being planned. The Department is being very mindful of revenue streams and how COVID-19 is impacting those sources. Iris asked if there has been any word from the State as it relates to moving forward with changes or modifications to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Genevieve responded that the Calif. Board of Directors and many individuals in the community wrote a joint letter to the State to make specific considerations on how to change or be more flexible with MHSA funding. They have not heard anything back from the State. She should have more information by July.

a. Sharon Jones was present today to discuss Behavioral Health and rural communities. Sharon continued that rural communities are very important and the need help, connection and linkage to services. A Powerpoint presentation had been sent to everyone and she went over it. Individuals are having to socially distance themselves at home even more so. Social isolation and distancing is not good if you are already dealing with depression. They are reaching out with stigma reduction, how they engage the community and how they provide outreach and education. They are looking at a health first model of prevention and early intervention – in real time if an individual needs help, that they can reach out and get help or linkage. Also they can get access to services during this time that is needed more than ever. Some of their strategies are: banners throughout the Department that says they are here to help and the banners will reflect the core values of inclusion, customer service, compassion, integrity and innovation. There will be a total of 66 banners placed on the three different campuses (children, main, Marie Green). Billboards in the community – these should be up any day – saying Behavioral Health is here to help – these billboards will be located on Santa Fe Drive, Hwy's 152, 99, 59, 140, and Childs Avenue. Posters – these will be located throughout Merced County. They are also working on radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) – the Director, Genevieve, is on the airways reaching out to let everyone know Behavioral Health is here. There is also digital marketing – ads will pop up in various media letting them know Behavioral Health is here. Digital marketing will reach many in rural areas. Since 2011 the Strengthening Families Program (comprised of nine extra-help staff and three full-time staff) have been providing support, linkage and sustainable resources to the outlying communities – Atwater, Franklin-Beachwood, Dos Palos, South Dos Palos, El Nido, Gustine, Le Grand, Livingston, Planada, Santa Nella and Winton. They have done great work and are the outstretched arms of Behavioral Health. They are making sure that there is linkage to care in a timely manner and operating on a health-first model. Iris questioned if the marketing strategies will be replacing the community partners; Sharon stated that marketing strategies are in addition to the community partners. Bruce commented that Hilmar was not mentioned as a community being served and wondered if it could be added. Sharon responded that under the approved MHSA plan these are the identified communities and even though Hilmar is not listed, services have been provided there. Delhi has also received services even though it is not listed either. Genevieve commented that they have done a lot of campaigning with Public Health. When Public Health sent out mailers to all Merced County residents, there was information about COVID-19 but there was also information on how to reach out to Behavioral Health. Behavioral Health also purchased bookmarks regarding symptoms of COVID-19 and trauma so that when cultural brokers are out in the community, they have the ability to show them that we are not only concerned about their mental well-being, but also maintain their physical well-being. In addition, they are still working on the van put together in order to do services in Hilmar and other locations. Unfortunately, the manufacturing of the van had to stop due to COVID-19 and the shutdown of the factory facility. Vicki commented that the Delhi-Hilmar-Stevenson areas need more services. She thinks that the suicides in this area end up at Emmanuel Hospital instead of being documented in Merced County. This should be worked on. Sharon commented that they realize that Delhi and Hilmar are in need. The Department is getting ready to embark on a Needs Assessment. The last official Needs Assessment by an outside person was in 2005/2006. She feels this will bring what is needed to the forefront and make sure programs are structured in a manner so that there is robust community health. b. Jennifer Jones was present today to give an update on advocating for the homeless during COVID-19. Jennifer stated that they have been doing outreach to the County during this timeframe to make sure the homeless have information about COVID-19, have food, resources, socks, blankets, water (for drinking and hygiene), and hygiene kits. The outreach



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team goes out a few days a week to make sure these resources are being handed out. The Wellness Centers have been supportive of these efforts. The Peer Support Specialists are also supporting these efforts and going out. They not only provided resources for the individuals but also gave out dog food. These teams are made up of staff from Behavioral Health and Human Services Agency (HSA). It also set into Project Room Key which is the homeless locations where individuals can stay if they are over 65 or medically compromised. The Governor had not announced it yet, but the homeless outreach work they were doing played a key role in the County being able to open because you had to have a certain percent (15%) of the volatile population housed. At the time the Governor made that announcement, the County was already at 28% of having this population housed. If you did not meet the 15% threshold, it meant that you could not move forward in your plan to reopen your area. Overall they reached out to more than 300 homeless individuals and housed approximately 100. It has been a major undertaking. They continue to go out and provide these resources. She is very proud of the work that is being done. The Rescue Mission is providing the oversight at the shelters and this is appreciated as well. In addition, Public Health partnered to go out and test individuals. Vince commented that this would be a good time to get data on which areas need the most help in getting food and services like Dos Palos and Le Grand. Jennifer responded that they have over 300 unduplicated individuals that they have served in these areas. They take food out weekly and add additional resources of information of organizations that are providing services. Zach asked if there was any help needed in the Santa Nella/Gustine area. His organization has been giving out free food boxes, masks, water and hand sanitizer in this area. He would be more than happy to talk to someone. Jennifer asked Zach to share his information with Sharon Jones. Iris commented that in the faith-based community her church volunteers and does the D Street Shelter on the third Thursday of the month. There are many ways that different organizations are serving the community. Genevieve thanked Jennifer and her team coming together with Public Health, HSA, Sheriff's, Police Dept. and BHRS because it was a beautiful organization of support among all the different departments including community departments. Jennifer did a good job in facilitating all of that and putting it together. She thanked Jennifer for all she has done.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally thanked Kim Carter for joining in today. She is awaiting to be appointed to the Board.

Recommendation/Action:

Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris asked for more information next month on the Needs Assessment that is going to be done.

Recommendation/Action: None

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by: Signed
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Signed
Bruce Metcalf, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: 7/20/20

Date: 8/13/20