



Minutes

Present: Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Supervisor Lor; Mary Ellis; Vicki Humble; Micki Archuleta; Zachery Ramos; Vince Ramos; Kim Carter; Keng Cha

Absent: Iris Mojica de Tatum; Emil Erreca

Others Present: Genevieve Valentine; Alicia Tacata; Jacqui Coulter; Sharon Mendonca; Chris Kraushar; Charles Bruce; Renee Smyth; 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 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken. Genevieve introduced the Department's new Compliance Manager, Alicia Tacata. Sally informed the Board that there has been a change to the agenda. The Director's Report was being moved up to item #5 directly after Public Input.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Zachery Ramos.

Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2020 (BOARD ACTION)

Discussion/Conclusion: There was no discussion.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Humble / Ellis) to approve the September 1, 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	Mojica de Tatum – absent	Ellis – yes
Ramos, V. – yes	Cha – yes	Ragonut – yes
Metcalf – yes	Ramos, Z. – yes	Humble – yes
Erreca – absent	Carter – absent	Archuleta – absent
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

Director's Report

- a. COVID-19 Update
- b. Behavioral Health / Law Enforcement Collaboration
- c. Navigation Center Update – December 2020

Discussion/Conclusion: Genevieve reported that she is excited to have their new Compliance Manager, Alicia Tacata. She asked that Alicia introduce herself and what her role on the team will be. Alicia stated this is her second week at BHRS. She is very glad to be here. She and Genevieve have worked together in another county. Alicia briefly went over the positions she has had in the past which led her to this job. Genevieve continued that Alicia will be making sure the Department is in compliance with all the COVID-19 policies and protocols as things are becoming actual norms in terms of the Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS). Now that these policies and procedures, that they thought were temporary, are becoming permanent. Compliance will really be looking at these. For example, the State has now approved for them to continue doing 5150s at the hospitals via telehealth. They are going to look at this from a compliance perspective. They have extended the telework and staggered staff schedules through the end of the year. a. No discussion. b. Genevieve reported that last Tuesday the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved for BHRS to launch a new division which also included new positions. This new division will be the Justice and Community Integration Division (or aka Justice League). The whole purpose of this division will be to integrate with the law enforcement community as well as do a lot of diversion work. There has been an increasing number of individuals who have been connect to mental health and substance abuse services that also inappropriately touch the criminal justice system. It is not against the law to be homeless or mentally ill. BHRS wants to work alongside law enforcement, including Probation, to divert individuals – both youth and adults – from jails, detention centers, prisons and Emergency Rooms. They will also be assisting the court systems and integrate throughout the whole continuum of law enforcement as well as re-entry, jail and juvenile hall. There are six gaps they realized were occurring from a mental health and justice perspective. They established six goals for the first year. 1. Reduce unnecessary local and state criminal justice involvement for the severely mentally ill; 2. Promote efficient and effective linkage to services post-detention or incarceration; 3. Provide evidence-based or promising practice interventions to reduce truancy recidivism rates; 4. Work collaboratively with law enforcement agencies to divert individuals from detention or local Emergency Departments (EDs); 5. Provide workshops and training support for local law enforcement on mental health first aid and cultural humility; 6. Facilitate acute stress or trauma debriefings with local law enforcement agencies or community members after a post-traumatic event that would include Mental Health and law enforcement. The Department of Justice will be closing down and those individuals who were part of the DOJ Division from the State level will be forced back down to community level supportive services for both youth and adults. As the new Division rolls out they want to assess with Probation what the magnitude of individuals will be coming back to this community in order to help them reintegrate into the system and reintegrate into the community to make sure they are successful as well as addressing homelessness or whatever else is the case. One of the big projects in addition to realigning current programing is three new big parts in this Division. First – opening a new innovation pathway that will be hooked with Probation specifically and will be co-located in Los Banos. They will be able to do outreach and engagement to those whose have been connected to Probation but not fully linked to BHRS. Second – through this Division they launched a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the Sheriff's Dept. and Merced Police Dept. They will have a staff member assigned directly to the Merced PD Disruptive Area Response Team (DART) where they will work alongside them as they are doing their community outreach and engagement. Third – enhancing services at Juvenile Hall. Currently there is only one staff stationed there providing services and they are hoping to make that a team of four - 2 clinicians (1 licensed and 1 an intern), a Mental Health Worker and a Peer Support Staff. Genevieve hopes that by the end of the year this new Division will be fully staffed. c. On July 1st the Navigation Center agreement, programming and contracting went over to the Human Services Agency (HSA). HSA is now the holder of the Navigation Center contract with BHRS as a collaborative partner. They are hoping to open the doors at the Navigation Center late November or early December; and accepting individuals by the end of the year or early 2021. BHRS will have a staff member stationed at the Navigation Center. The County's overall goal between staggered housing, Navigation Center, D Street Shelter and a variety of other things is to be able to have roughly 500 beds available at any given moment for the homeless in the community.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Chair's Report

- a. Top Priority – Behavioral Health Through Eyes of Client Action Plan
- b. Summary of Board of Supervisor Annual Report



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

301 E. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341

October 6, 2020

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The Action Plan for this item was sent to all Board members. Sally hopes that everyone had a chance to look it over. She then went over the information on the plan. Sally continued that Bruce is working on an Action Plan for the Orientation and Training Committee. She hopes the Board will be able to do Action Plans for all the Committees. b. Sally reported that Genevieve asked her to do a PowerPoint presentation for the BOS on the Annual Report. She presented this to the BOS on September 15th. She thanked Renee for helping her set up the laptop and connecting her to the BOS meeting. She named all Board members with what district they represent and went through what the purpose of the Advisory Board is. Sally also mentioned what the Board's goals are for this fiscal year.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Patients' Rights Advocate Overview

Discussion/Conclusion: Chris Kraushar, Patients' Rights Advocate (PRS) was present today. She is mutually engaged in a new project. This is a very worthwhile project at a very inopportune time. It will be difficult to get feedback from clients. Chris met with the Leadership Team on September 21st to try and get the top leadership onboard with this, understand what she wants to do and contribute to this. They decided to do this program by program. The three programs they are starting with are Marie Green during October, November and December; then she will report back to the Board on Marie Green. The following three months (January, Feb and March) will be Public Conservatorship; followed by Substance Use Disorder (April, May and June). On Thursday Chris is meeting with the Program Managers involved (Cara, Sabrina and Patricia) and they will decide on a protocol that will work across the board. Chris's idea on how to approach this is by using a written comment card. She cannot be here 24/7 to ask people how they feel but she does feel there are user-friendly questions to be asked that are not as formal. From this set of questions, they will get instant feedback. On those cards Chris will provide her phone number and an invitation to call her about their experiences and how she can be of help or answer questions they may have. Next week Chris will be attending the mandatory Marie Green Full Staff meeting because this kind of project does not work unless people are onboard. On the 25th they will actually begin the project. She could report back in December, but waiting until January would also work and allow her to gather a little more information. Sally asked if the questions will pertain to pre-COVID or during COVID; Chris felt it would be too confusing to differentiate and it may not even be helpful. The questions should just be general or at this moment in time. But this is something that can still be discussed and decided upon. Vince commented that the different programs should all be mentioned and ask clients if they are aware of these different programs; also ask them what needs to be done to improve BHRS. Chris continued that it would be helpful if a computer could be placed in the lobby of Marie Green or the main clinic allowing clients to have a Zoom meeting with Chris. This is one way she could meet individually with clients without having to be on-site. Jacqui thought this is absolutely possible and there is already a room available in the unit where this could be set up.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Combine November 3rd Meeting with October 20th Public Hearing

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally commented that it was discussed at last month's meeting about combining the October 20th Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 3-Year Program Public Hearing with the November 3rd Board meeting. A quorum will be needed for this meeting.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Metcalf / Mason) to combine the November meeting with the October meeting/Public Hearing. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved this change.

Lor – yes

Ramos, V. – no

Metcalf – yes

Mojica de Tatum – absent

Cha – yes

Ramos, Z. – yes

Ellis – yes

Ragonut – yes

Humble – yes



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Erreca – absent
Mason – yes

Carter – yes

Archuleta – absent

Committee Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Orientation and Development
- c. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- d. Executive Committee
- e. Board Member Reports
- f. MHSA Ongoing Planning Council

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Paula reported that SUD continues to be open and providing services. There are some upcoming events and they will be rescheduling their monthly provider meeting which is by invitation only. Red Ribbon Week is October 23 – 31 and will look different this year. They had Recovery Month with the clients; they were not able to do the BBQ but came up with something a little creative with clients and staff. They are working with the schools – schools are coming back on-track – with the Mentoring Program and looking at possible alternatives of being able to provide services. b. Bruce commented on the Action Plan chart Sally previously spoke about. He is using the same chart for the Board Orientation and Development Committee. Bruce went over this Action Plan. One of the notes was, “when will the binders be updated”. Their next task was to develop a check-off list for new Board Member Orientation and Lee Lor put one together; the question being when is the time to meet with new Board members. Another task is to identify specific topics for annual Board trainings; the committee and Executive Committee will work on this. The final task was to identify topics for special trainings; this will be an ongoing monthly task to focus on as an Executive Committee. Bruce is looking at what community members and leaders are available to help with special trainings. Some things will be done on an annual basis and others that might be once every couple years depending on the topic. Sally commented that she, Kim and Zach attended a training on October 2nd by the Calif. Local Behavioral Health Board/Commissions (CALMHB/C). The topics were duties, MHSA, data performance in fiscal, meetings and membership. Zach commented the training was well done and being new to this Board he found it eye opening. It made him more excited to be on this Board. Kim commented that with this training it has become apparent to her that the Performance Outcome Data Notebook actually is given out by the Calif. Behavioral Health Planning Council to each county each year. The counties are to fill in the information requested; the Behavioral Health Board does not fill this out. Local Boards are encouraged to work with the staff in filling out the Notebook. This could possibly be another training for the Board. c. Micki reported that the Committee seemed very concerned about being sued. They take the Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) very seriously and monitor themselves very well. She did not understand all the details of the discussions taking place at the meeting. But they seemed concerned about meeting their goals. From personal experience, when talking about the problems she sees at the Wellness Center, they are very good at circling the wagons and not really responding to complaints from clients. If the job is to not get sued, they are doing a good job. d. Sally reported that she, Paula, Bruce and Iris have a conference call with Genevieve every month to plan the agendas. She believes they need to look at the By-Laws every year to make sure they say what they want them to say. e. None f. No report.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

- a. Membership Committee
- b. Annual Report

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Mary had nothing to report. b. Sally discussed this in the Chair’s Report. They will begin preparations for the next Annual Report in about April of next year.

Recommendation/Action: Information only



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Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: None

Recommendation/Action: None

Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items

Discussion/Conclusion: Chris understands that the Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) has opened and that could be an item on how they operate. Sally thought this could be an item for next month.

Sally would like to have someone from law enforcement come and speak to the Board.

Sally reiterated to the Board that in two weeks they will be having a meeting/Public Hearing. There will not be a meeting in November. She questioned if Sharon Jones will be sending out any information on the Public Hearing prior to the actual meeting; Carol stated she would check with Sharon.

Sally questioned if the Data Notebook presentation would be taking place in December. Jacqui thought it would probably take place in December.

Sally would also like if the Director could give a report on the new adult residential facility in town on October 20th.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 5:35 pm.

Submitted by: *Signed*

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: *Signed*

Bruce Metcalf, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: 10/26/20

Date: 11/10/20