

**INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
FRIDAY, February 18, 2022
10:00-11:30 am**

**Offered In Person at 1360 North Main Street, Suite 103
and Virtually via Zoom**

Minutes

Call To Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m.

Attendance (Virtual):

Lynn Martin Supervisor Dan Totheroh
Michelle Saenz Jason Forehand

Community & Staff Present

In Person: Marilyn Mann Douglas Cooper Kimball Pier
Virtual: Jennifer Ray Lisa Trunnell Lucy Vincent
 Chrystina Pope

PUBLIC COMMENT

This item is set-aside at each meeting to allow the public to address issues not on the agenda. No action can be taken, but items can be placed on future agendas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Request Board approve minutes from January 12, 2022 meeting. Supervisor Totheroh moved to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Ms. Saenz. Motion approved by vote: Ms. Martin – Aye; Supervisor Totheroh – Aye; Ms. Saenz – Aye; Mr. Forehand - Aye

INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Director Update
 - a) Staffing: Ms. Mann welcomed Kimball Pier, new HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, and informed the group of the rehiring of Mark Kalin, a licensed clinician, joining our Behavioral Health Team as a therapist.
 - b) Trauma Informed Care Training – Ms. Mann informed the group that we have continued to move forward in our initiative to become a trauma-informed agency, in partnership with Probation, Owens Valley Career Development Center, Bishop Indian Head Start. A core team of individuals representing these agencies

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- participated in the basic training on resiliency and being trauma informed. Some of these individuals will participate in the next step in training, preparing them to become trainers. The rest of the team will champion the process and the importance of understanding that many people who come through our doors have experienced trauma in their lives.
- c) Transition of Local Mental Health Director, Alcohol and Drug Administrator and LPS Conservator Timeline. Kimball Pier will be taking over Ms. Mann's role in the Behavioral Health Advisory Meetings as she transitions some of her duties: On March 1, 2022, an item will be presented to the BOS, requesting that the Board appoint her Local Mental Health Director, and LPS Conservator, and Alcohol and Drug Administrator.
 - d) SmithWaters Group update – we had hoped they would have presented themselves at this meeting but were not able to attend at this time. We hope to have them join us in March.
 - e) Other: Dr. Pier shared that our staff will be transitioning from working remotely to coming back into the office. She is looking forward to welcoming staff back to the office. Ms. Mann added that vaccinated staff will no longer be required to wear masks in the office, except when working directly with clients. Face coverings are still a requirement in healthcare settings.

- Supervisor Totheroh brought up IMACA and Ms. Mann explained that IMACA is experiencing significant financial challenges, impacting their ability to continue providing the services in the same manner. They have been without a comptroller for three months. This has impacted their ability to submit reports and requests for funds. They have been meeting with community partners to transition some of their programs and services to other community partners. Ms. Mann offered administrative assistance and The Point in Time Count will still take place next Wednesday at 5 p.m. IMACA released a press release yesterday and will issue another one as they have more details to share.
- 2) Mental Health Awareness Month – Flag update and Discussion (Possible Action). Mr. Cooper shared his Flag ideas and preliminary designs and a lively discussion ensued. Ms. Mann followed up with the group, informing us that, since last month's BHAB meeting, she had received Administration's approval to fly a flag, underneath the California Flag, at the Clint G. Quilter Consolidated Office Building for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Ms. Mann has submitted a request to Public Works about assessing and procuring the necessary hardware. If we can approve the design by next month, Ms. Mann will order the flag and hardware in time to fly it in May. In April, she will also ask the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Mr. Cooper suggested it would be good to televise the hoisting of the flag, and Ms. Mann said we could plan such an event to take place on May 1st.

Ms. Martin called for a motion to direct Ms. Mann and Dr. Pier to work with Mr. Cooper to find to finalize a flag design, incorporating lime green in the background, with a County of Inyo Seal, and the statement "Every Mind Matters", and to work with Dr. Pier and Ms. Vincent to involve the media in the flag-raising. Mr. Forehand made the motion, motion seconded by Ms. Saenz. Motion approved by vote: Ms. Martin – Aye; Supervisor Totheroh – Aye; Ms. Saenz – Aye; Mr. Forehand - Aye

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- 3) MHSa Update – Ms. Mann shared that Gina McKinzey, our Progress House Manager, has had her position reclassified to MHSa Coordination and Reporting, including stakeholder involvement and MHSa Planning. A new supervisor will be hired in her place, to supervise the day-to-day work of the Progress House. Ms. McKinzey will be reporting to this group quarterly, along with the other groups who report to this board.
- 4) Rebranding Behavioral Health - Discussion. BHAB members and participants shared alternative terms that might represent the services we provide better than the term “Behavioral Health”. One goal is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Ms. Martin is looking forward to learning what stakeholders think about this term. Several terms were suggested, and a lively discussion ensued. Mr. Cooper recommended that the term be kept plain and simple, not something so complicated that it causes confusion. Supervisor Totheroh asked whether there is a requirement for the term used. Ms. Mann said that there’s no specific requirement for what we call it, we just need to offer mental health services. Ms. Saenz suggested that this topic be explored, and that the discussion be continued. Supervisor Totheroh stated that he looks forward to this meeting each month – it is the most positive group he participates in. Ms. Mann, Dr. Pier and Ms. McKinzey will explore the state and national conversation regarding how we describe what we do, to determine if we can address stigma by rebranding the services we provide.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- 1) Introducing The SmithWaters Group
- 2) IMACA Status Report
- 3) Healing Trauma through the body – Tools you can use

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 2:30 pm.

Transcribed by: