

INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, October 11, 2023
2:30 pm

Offered In Person at 1360 N. Main
Street, Bishop
And virtually via Zoom

Informational Notes Only - No Quorum

Call To Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 2:36 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

Membership Present

In Person: Michelle Saenz

Virtual: Lynn Martin

Community & Staff Present

In Person: Kimball Pier Araceli Morales Gina McKinzey
 Branden DeHaven Vanessa Ruggio Catie Grisham
 Vivian De La Riva Lucy Vincent

Virtual: Rose Colon, Kelly Nugent, Shelly Scott, Ralph Cataldo

Participants introduced themselves.

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.

Ms. Martin reminded participants that paperback books can be donated for jail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from June 14, 2023 meeting could not be approved for lack of a quorum. Informational Notes from July 12, 2023 meeting were shared.

INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE at 872-2590 or 873-6533

Director Update – Kimball C. Pier

- 1) asked Rose Colon and Shelly Scott to update the group on road closures and current events at Death Valley. They shared that 127 is affected, but other roads are open. Although Death Valley is closed to visitors, residents are able to receive supplies.
- 2) Nurse Karen Simerlink shared about outreach. She anticipates outreach efforts in South County.
- 3) A Tele-work policy is pending Board of Supervisors approval. Some reasons counties implement tele-work policies include the following:
 - a. Attending meetings virtually
 - b. Participating in trainings
 - c. Documentation time
- 4) Dr. Pier shared that we are using Life Flight in place of ambulance service. She continues to try to minimize crisis-response related stress. Transportation to the Crisis Stabilization Unit or psychiatric hospitals continues to be difficult. Inyo County Behavioral Health staff are trying to do everything possible to stabilize persons within the community. She also shared about collaboration taking place between departments and community partners for care coordination.
- 5) MHSA Modernization – MHSA Update: Senate Bill 43 passed and was signed. Care Court will impact our MH and SUD programs. Definition of grave disability will be expanded. People will be able to refer others to Care Court if they believe they are unable to meet their own basic needs. Senate Bill 326 renames MHSA to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). Dr. Pier explored some of the funding changes that would take place and a lively discussion ensued.
- 6) Telepsychiatry Contractor changes – Dr. Pier shared that a new contract with the North American Mental Health Services for the provision of telepsychiatry will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 17, 2023.

Michelle Saenz of Toiyabe shared about several topics:

- 1) Dr. Patel, located in Orange County, (Child & Family psychiatrist) provides services once a week.
- 2) SAMHSA Grant 988. One of the priorities Toiyabe is working on is building culturally conscious response through education.
- 3) Substance and Alcohol Use Disorders: Toiyabe offers daily Welbriety meetings and individual counseling. They are building robust local services to help community members returning from treatment.

Vanessa Ruggio, Coordinator for Crisis Mobile Unit (CCMU), shared:

- 1) She and Wellness Center Staff are attending mandatory CCMU trainings.
- 2) Effective June 2024, Wellness Center Staff will be responding with Law Enforcement in the field to assist individuals in crisis.

The meeting adjourned 3:55 pm

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent

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