

**INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
***BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD***  
***MONDAY, February 8, 2021***  
***10:00-11:15 am***  
***Virtually Held via Zoom***  
***Minutes***

***Informational Only/No Quorum***

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

All present via Zoom introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 11, 2020 Minutes – Informational Only, No quorum. Jane Gillam called for an approval of the minutes and they were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNITY & STAFF Virtually PRESENT**

Supervisor Dan Totheroh	Lisa Trunnell
Dr. Gail Zwier	Jane Gillam
Lynn Martin	Gina McKinzey
Karen Colter	Salvador Montanez
Lucy Vincent	Vanessa Ruggio
Douglas Cooper	Ralph Cataldo
Robert Rubio	Mikaela Torres

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Jane Gillam, acting as Chairperson.

**DIRECTOR'S REMARK**

- ❖ Keeping our priorities in focus – Dr. Zwier shared that Inyo County Behavioral Health has committed to incorporating the following priorities in all that we do:
  - A Focus on Strengths
  - Developing Resilience
  - Equity – in terms of racial, cultural, poverty issues, taking into account all of the inequities BH comes in contact with – lifting people up – treating everyone with respect and helping clients get their needs met.
  
- ❖ A lively discussion ensued about the use of the term “behavioral health” and possible connotations of the word. While we cannot change the term as it refers to a State (DHCS) and County (HHS) division, one option discussed was to have the PIQA

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Team do something interactive at a meeting, creating a picture that could be posted to our website to clarify the intention behind the term “Behavioral Health”.

Supervisor Totheroh shared that he had attended an unconscious bias meeting. He acknowledged that the words we use can be a form of unconscious bias.

- ❖ Crisis work – Dr. Zwier shared that Inyo County Behavioral Health leadership had attended a meeting 2 weeks ago with our local Emergency Department staff. Although it has always been a challenge to access hospital beds for Inyo County residents experiencing a mental health crisis, this challenge has been exacerbated by the Pandemic. She illustrated that the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is now asking that we call them first for access even if being transported by law enforcement. They have told her that they don’t have the capability of handling some of the persons who we have sent as they are not a locked unit and it puts strain on their local law enforcement. Being able to use the CSU is important because they have access to Kern County beds, and can place people there from the CSU. It is very important that we are on the same page with the CSU and will continue to explore challenges.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pertaining to any item on the agenda:

- ❖ Ms. Gillam asked about the local hospital and taking psychiatric patients. Discussed lack of access to after-hours psychiatric consultation. Dr. Zwier expressed the need, as a community, to discuss finding a psychiatrist who could be available for consultation on a telemedicine basis, especially in view of Dr. Schneider’s pending retirement.
- ❖ Salvador Montanez noted that Mammoth Hospital uses Telepsychiatry when medication support evaluations or crisis services are needed.
- ❖ Supervisor Totheroh and Dr. Zwier will discuss with local hospital.
- ❖ Jane Gillam spoke about how equity means that our fellow citizens, friends and family members who experience mental illness deserve respect and equity in getting their mental health needs met.
- ❖ Supervisor Totheroh mentioned the importance of serving people with mental illness by addressing them as persons, not as an illness.
- ❖ Lynn M. brought up the fact that a vaccine is safe for most people, but can cause severe injury to a tiny percentage of people and the fact that the vaccine does not qualify for compensation with the no-fault national VICP (Vaccine Injury Compensation Program).
  - To see a fact-filled article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on January 20, 2021, discussing the VICP and CICP, go online (to [tinyurl.com/42g33rlv](https://tinyurl.com/42g33rlv)).
- ❖ Ms. Gillam surmised that, as the vaccines move out of the emergency approval category, at some point the standard VICP policy will apply. Supervisor Totheroh mentioned that we will always have people moving into qualifying for the vaccine in the future; for instance when they reach the age of 17.

### **REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

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## ***QI Committee Meeting Report:***

### ***Ralph Cataldo summarized the meeting:***

- We are in compliance in on-call response, as all calls were relayed to an on-call counselor within 3 minutes
- We are close to compliance – 85% - for appointment days for new clients being booked within the allowable number of days.
- We are in compliance with regard to the no-show rate.
- We are doing well with our referral system and tracking it.
- We close to 100% in compliance for NOABD.
- The 2 Performance Improvement Projects will be submitted to EQRO today. Mikaela and Ralph will respond to the feedback received and adjust as needed.

### ***Mikaela Torrez shared:***

- We have new time-saving Dashboards in Kings View (our electronic health record). These summarize a lot of key elements which assists the PIQA team prepare required reports. These reports help us produce a clear snapshot of what we're doing as a clinic. These dashboards will be a good tool for looking at and addressing any areas that are in need of improvement.

## ***PROGRESS HOUSE RESIDENT MEETING REPORT by Gina McKinzey:***

- Population this past month remained steady. Residents received their first Covid19 vaccination. No adverse reactions were experienced.
- Crisis response has been typical.
- Everyone is well and safe.
- Groups are still taking place remotely via Zoom.
- Supervisor Totheroh recommended caution regarding any changes to be made as a result of vaccination and advised that leadership check with Dr. Richardson before changes are implemented.

## ***WELLNESS CENTERS: presented by Karen Colter:***

- Field based services – Case managers continue to assist with food and medication deliveries.
- Showers and Laundry Monday, Wednesday and Friday are scheduled by appointment only
- Laundry services are limited to one person at a time
- Vanessa and Gina attended three days of Strengths model training last month.
- Salvador Montanez shared that the MAT Program of Rural Health will be collaborating with Wellness Center this coming Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 pm to provide breakfast bags, scarves, beanies, towels and community service information.

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## ***Reports received from Chrystina Pope, LMFT:***

### ***Youth Services***

- ❖ The child and family team continues to navigate the additional struggles youth are experiencing. The team is attempting to provide more services in the field to access clients. It has been a transition from being able to access clients at schools to attempting to reach clients in their homes. Clients are wanting and need more face to face interaction. The team is preparing for training to be more ready to engage in the FURS team (Foster Urgent Response System) team which will provide in-home crisis support and de-escalation for Foster youth and their families. This is an exciting opportunity to create more collaboration within HHS and the community for youth.

### ***Adult Therapeutic Services***

- ❖ The adult team is collaborating more with Case Managers and the strengths model. This is creating a stronger continuum of care for the adult population within Inyo County. In Mid-February Matthew Blankers is beginning a new Wellness Group for client to manage symptoms through community and collaboration with peers.

### ***SUD Treatment Services***

- ❖ We have two new Addiction Counselor Interns in our program. Cory Mann and Paula Friedrichsen are gaining hours toward licensure. They are observing and co-facilitating groups at this time bringing new perspective and excitement into the treatment groups. Currently, the SUD team is reviewing their processes and documentation to ensure best quality of care and access for clients.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

MHSA priorities and planning – We are pursuing a last-quarter of the fiscal year possible contract with Northstar in accordance with our MHSA PEI Plan – We are asking Northstar to expand services offered at school, so they see more kids than they are currently seeing. The vision is that Northstar would have a licensed provider that could provide supervision to train other clinicians, maybe provide Mental Health First Aid, maybe some suicide prevention training also.

Although we aren't planning any major expansion of MHSA-funded services for next fiscal year, we are looking for ways to expand outreach and engagement at the WC & PH to more successfully target unserved and underserved persons in our community.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be virtually held will be held on Monday, March 8, 2020 at 10 am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

Transcribed by:

*Lucy Vincent*