

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

**Offered In Person at 1360 North
Main Street, Ste. 103, Bishop; In
Person as Satellite location (via
Zoom) at 310 Jackson Street in
Lone Pine;
And virtually via Zoom**

Minutes

Call To Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 2:36 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

Membership Present

In Person: Lynn Martin Jane Gillam Michelle Saenz

Community & Staff Present

In Person:	Kimball Pier	Catie Grisham	Patricia Barton
	Alexis Safarik	Sarah Downard	Jane Theisen
	Gina McKinzey		

Virtual:	Lucy Vincent	Shelley Scott	Rose Colon
	Kelly Nugent		

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Request Board approve minutes from October 12, 2022 meeting. Ms. Martin asked that a spelling error under Public Comment Number 2. “lace” be corrected to “place” and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Michelle Saenz moved to approve, and Jane Gillam seconded the motion.

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

Motion to accept Minutes unanimously approved by vote:
Ms. Saenz – Aye; Ms. Gillam – Aye; Ms. Martin – Aye

INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

Director Update:

1. Addressing impact of shortage of mental health professionals on Inyo County and proposed solutions. Dr. Pier shared that staff vacancies are being experienced all over the country. She shared some of the reasons for this.
 - a) The State is looking at peer counseling training so community members can help deescalate crises and provide support to their family members, neighbors, and friends, and to offer support to community members who need help with the challenges of daily living and life domains.
 - b) Dr. Pier stated that more training will be offered. BHAB Members and meeting participants discussed about ways of providing a work environment more attractive to clinicians and potential interns.
 - c) TeleConnect Therapies. A contract amendment has been brought before the Board of Supervisors, extending the end date of the contract so we can continue to utilize the bilingual tele-therapy services they provide to our clients while we are seeking staff.
2. Wellness Center updates – presented by Gina McKinzey on behalf of Vanessa Ruggio. Topics included:
 - a) New and existing groups, group participation – how they measure success by seeking community participation and response to determine which groups to continue or initiate.
 - b) People come to Wellness Center to socialize in a warm place, to shower, do laundry, cook, or use the computer.
 - c) Case managers help people with many tasks; however, they do not provide medical care.
3. Progress House – proposed expansion of scope of services – presented by Gina McKinzey. The following topics were discussed:
 - a) Residency is currently low, for a variety of reasons, among them are clients have a diagnosed mental illness and who also have histories of violent behavior or active substance use disorders, or who fall outside the age range.
 - b) Inyo County Behavioral Health Team is evaluating how Progress House can better meet the needs of the community. A lively discussion ensued.
4. SUD Program Update – Catie Grisham presented. Topics included:
 - a) informed the group about new specialist, Cathy Rigney, who provides a warm welcome to persons seeking SUD services.
 - b) IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program) groups – more group offerings, and more hours of service are being offered.
 - c) Coordination with community partners for cross-referrals to MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment)/IOP.
 - d) Fentanyl update – Catie Grisham shared about a fentanyl awareness presentation she attended.
5. SUD Prevention Programs – Sarah Downard reported. Topics included:
 - a) Mentoring program
 - b) Youth Coalition
 - c) Outreach

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- d) 3 Outdoor hikes took place and camp will be offered for 3rd through 6th grade students.
- 6. Ms. Martin reported about the brand-new Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist program, and the three-week training she attended.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Martin requested the items from the October 12 minutes be placed on a future agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent