

MEETING MINUTES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Date: September 11, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Bishop COB Room 103, Lone Pine Wellness Center (satellite/virtual) and via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle Saenz called the meeting to order at 2:43 PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Supervisor Trina Orrill, Michelle Saenz, Lynn Martin, Claude Peters

Virtual: None

COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Vanessa Ruggio, Gina Ellis, Shyann T. Harvey, Kelly Nugent, Jody Veenker, Lucy Vincent

Virtual: Rose Colon, Shelley Scott, Manuel Fletes Medina (CALBHB/C Staff)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Martin shared her good news with the group: she has made tremendous strides in achieving better sleep!

Mr. Peters noted that Veterans are not included, or even mentioned, in the MHSA Plan. This item will be added to November's BHAB meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from August 14, 2024 meeting were approved as edited (#5 should read "Mrs. Saenz requested a motion to approve..." not approval): Ms. Martin moved to approve the Minutes as edited, Supervisor Orrill seconded the motion. Motion carried: Supervisor Orrill– Aye, Mrs. Saenz – Aye, Mr. Peters – Aye, Ms. Martin - Aye.

4. CARE ACT (DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mrs. Ellis presented on behalf of Anna Scott, who was unable to attend today's BHAB Meeting:

Mrs. Scott attended a small-county group meeting yesterday. Three counties have implemented CARE Court. As mentioned in previous meetings, we must implement the provisions of the CARE Act by December 1st. Most concerning: Every step of the way, when someone is referred to CARE Court, the referred person must be served with a subpoena. Those who are unhoused will need to be found. Mrs. Scott learned that other counties have enlisted the assistance of community members, such as, park staff or law enforcement. Supervisor Orrill inquired whether the expectation is that the Crisis Care Mobilization Unit (CCMU) staff will need to serve these subpoenas. Mr. Peters and Supervisor Orrill expressed concern about staff safety. A lively discussion ensued.

Service of subpoenas, follow-up and transportation to court are all tasks that will need to be achieved. Mr. Peters recommends that a neutral party be enlisted so staff can preserve the trusting relationships they enjoy with community members who may potentially be referred to CARE Court. Supervisor Orrill also posed the need for training and assurance of adequate compensation for this new requirement. Some meeting participants suggested working with the Probation Department or thought that Drug Court may already have a protocol that we could use. Supervisor Orrill inquired as to whether the grant could cover hiring individuals to carry out this role.

5. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – Gina Ellis was happy to announce that John Laux, HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, begins tomorrow. She explained his orientation process to BHAB members and attendees. EPI-CAL conference – Mrs. Ellis and Vanessa Ruggio attended the conference. There are plans to bring an EPI-CAL program to the community and to teach community partners and schools the referral process.
- b. Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker reported that the team is actively serving four families and that two families are in orientation.
- c. SUD Updates – Gina Ellis reported on behalf of Cathy Rigney. Drug Court graduation took place last week. There are several new participants. Recent graduates are attending to mentor new participants. An new SUD group started at Wellness Center Bishop last Thursday.
- d. Wellness Center Updates – Vanessa Ruggio reported: Groups, showers and laundry services are ongoing. Staff is very active in the CCMU. Multiple calls have been initiated by law enforcement since July 1, 2024. City Council Chief Derr expressed gratitude for the CCMU at the City Council meeting. Community partners are also giving positive feedback.
- e. Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent reported: 5 full-time residents including 1 respite, which turned into a longer-term stay. Residents are taking advantage of the nice weather, doing outings to Ridgecrest and Mammoth, taking therapeutic drives, and attending groups at Wellness Center.

6. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Bring back MHSA data to upcoming meetings
 - Supervisor Orrill recommended Veteran services/outreach be added to MHSA Planning. Mr. Peters spoke of Veterans helping Veterans – a PTSD support group.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 2:30pm at the Bishop COB Room 103, at Lone Pine Wellness Center (in-person, virtually) and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM.

DRAFT