

MEETING MINUTES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Date: December 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

Pete Peters called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Supervisor Trina Orrill, Pete Peters

Virtual: Lynn Martin

COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: John Laux, Vanessa Ruggio, Kelly Nugent, Lucy Vincent, Cathy Rigney, Lily Fregoso, Araceli Morales

Virtual: Rose Colon, Shelley Scott

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from November 13, 2024 meeting: Supervisor Orrill moved to accept, Ms. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried: Supervisor Orrill– Aye, Mr. Peters – Aye, Ms. Martin - Aye.

4. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – Mr. Laux shared that he is continuing to settle in as he reviews programing, funding sources, and pending changes coming down from the state. He has

begun to meet with community partners to build relationship. Certain tasks temporarily assigned to fiscal and other HHS staff members are slowly being given to him. He will be working on grants. *Pressing for the BHAB Board: The CA Behavioral Health Planning Council is asking that BHAB identify an important topic (high priority) for the council to research for 2025. 2024 high priority was housing; the council is pulling together data. Time frame: due by end of January 2025. John proposed these topics: veteran services, rural access, Medicare access. Staffing positions still being flown include Clinical Supervisor, AOD Supervisor, clinicians and HHS Specialist IV.

- b. Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker was not able to attend today's meeting.
- c. SUD Updates – Cathy Rigney reported the following. DUI – 2 enrollments and 3 completions. 51 active clients at different stages of DUI program completion. SUD – 15-20 active enrollees, Drug Court: 6 clients. Referrals are coming in regularly.
- d. Wellness Center Updates – Vanessa Ruggio reported: New Wellness Center sign has been hung (name & phone number is visible from the street). Mrs. Ellis is working on the kiosk. Groups, showers, laundry, mobile crisis has been busy. For showers, Wellness Center Staff are accepting donations of soaps. Interviews were held yesterday for specialists – the Wellness Center wants to hire 2 specialists.
- e. Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent reported: not many changes from last month. 5 current residents & 1 respite that turned into a short-term stay. With holidays, they have been taking scenic drives and enjoying hot chocolate around the bonfire. Residents are still attending groups at Wellness Center - 4 groups weekly.

5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA), FORMERLY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) (DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mr. Laux said drafts for BHSA, SUBG and other grants to be brought back for input and submission to DHCS by June 30, 2025.

6. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

*Recommendations from this Board to be given CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) by the end of January. Supervisor Orrill recommends that Behavioral Health Staff participate in this meeting.

Experience of remotely attending a BHAB Meeting. Ms. Martin suggested that an Information Services (IS) staff member be brought to the BHAB meeting to help determine whether something can be done to help persons who attend remotely to see and hear the meeting better. Mr. Laux to follow up with IS to see what can be done.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday February 12, 2025, at 2:30pm at the Bishop COB Room 103, at Lone Pine Wellness Center (in-person, virtually) and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM.