

# MEETING MINUTES

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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Date: January 8, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM

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

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michelle Saenz called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

### MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

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

Virtual: no one

### COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: John Laux, Vanessa Ruggio, Gina McKinzey, Lucy Vincent, Brandon DeHaven, Cathy Rigney, Liliana Fregoso, Lori Bengochia, Karen Simerlink, Vivian De La Riva

Virtual: Melody Almond, Manuel Fletes Medina

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynn Martin expressed appreciation for HHS plans to provide improvement for remote access. Vivian De La Riva expressed gratitude for the new sign at the Bishop Wellness Center. Ms. Martin shared that the jail is still in need of paperback books.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from December 11, 2024 meeting: Mr. Peters moved to accept, Ms. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried: Supervisor Orrill– Aye, Mr. Peters – Aye, Ms. Martin – Aye, Ms. Saenz - Aye.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS BOARD TO BE GIVEN TO CA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL (CBHPC) (ACTION ITEM)**

After making suggestions, the group decided on the following verbiage, posed by Supervisor Orrill: "Local control, flexibility in use of housing funds for those experiencing Behavioral Health issues in response to the challenges of isolated rural counties." Mr. Peters moved to accept, Ms. Saenz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – Mr. Laux shared that December was a quiet month, and that he is continuing to inherit reporting tasks back from another Deputy Director who attended to them prior to his acceptance of his position. He shared that we are adding a few hours of tele-therapy services, due to an uptick in referrals. We are still in need of Clinical and SUD Supervisors. Supervisor Orrill asked about whether we had career path opportunities to help fill these positions.
- b. Family Strengthening Team Updates – Mr. Laux presented on behalf of Jody Veenker, who was not able to attend today's meeting. He indicated that she might be adding two families soon. He added that she is paying attention to developments in high fidelity Wraparound services.
- c. SUD Updates – Cathy Rigney reported the following: 2nd quarter reporting is in process. DUI – 17 clients enrolled this quarter. There were 3 completions and 3 clients who did not complete. 5 clients in Drug Court with 2 pending. SUD – IOP is starting. There are 3 clients in Women's Wellness. Staff members hold groups in jail on Mondays.
- d. Wellness Center Updates – Vanessa Ruggio reported: Staff is staggering lunches and schedules to accommodate community members' needs. Groups, showers, laundry, mobile crisis has been busy. PIT Count is seeking volunteers (Please see attached fliers). Volunteers are advised to come dressed to be outdoors in the field. Lone Pine, Big Pine & Bishop areas will be covered.
- e. Progress House Updates – Gina McKinzey reported on behalf of Kelly Nugent: 1 resident moved out. There are 4 long-term residents. Christmas was great. Progress House is fully staffed. The kitchen remodel is anticipated and will be designed like a commercial kitchen. Residents are attending 4 Wellness Center groups in Bishop weekly with plans to utilize the center more. There was 1 respite in December. There is capacity for more residents.

#### **6. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA), FORMERLY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) (DISCUSSION ITEM)**

Mr. Laux and Mrs. Bengochia explained that they are compiling data due at the end of this month. Mr. Laux told the group that this is the last year for MHSA; next we will be going into BHSA for 3 years. DHCS is making changes. This topic will be brought back for input and submission to DHCS. A discussion about some of these changes ensued.

#### **7. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Mental Health Diversion

Next meeting: 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 3:58 PM.