

MEETING MINUTES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Date: February 12, 2025

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 2:35 PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Supervisor William Wadelton, Pete Peters

Virtual: Lynn Martin

COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: John Laux, Vanessa Ruggio, Gina McKinzey, Araceli Morales, Carri Coudek, Jody Veenker, Scott Bayhurst, Brian Bell, Lucy Vincent, Brandon DeHaven, Cathy Rigney, Liliana Fregoso, Lori Bengochia, Vivian De La Riva

Virtual: Kelly Nugent, Manuel Fletes Medina

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Bell expressed a desire for a positive community environment between all community partners and community members.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes from January 8, 2025 meeting. Ms. Martin requested the following edit to public comment: "Lynn Martin expressed appreciation for HHS plans to provide improvement for remote access."

Mr. Wadelton moved to accept minutes as edited, Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried: Supervisor Wadelton – Aye, Mr. Peters – Aye, Ms. Martin – Aye.

4. STAFF REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- a. Behavioral Health Updates – Mr. Laux shared recent staff changes: Carri Coudek has been promoted to position of SUD Supervisor. We are seeking a full-time SUD Counselor to fill the spot she has vacated. Behavioral Health has hired a new AMFT. A Case Manager has accepted a job offer. Lori Bengochia, PIQA Team Supervisor, shared DHCS Audit for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) and for Drug Medi-Cal. Audits resulted in 8 findings; 2 of which are related to needing documents to be made available in Braille; and 2 for Drug Medi-Cal. One finding concerned the need for verification of Medi-Cal eligibility for client prior to each appointment. Other findings included our need to contract with Adult Residential Treatment facilities (ARTS) and Child Residential Treatment Services (CRTS) for BH Clients and strengthening and monitoring Policies and Procedures.
- b. Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker reported her team is working with 4 families and onboarding 1. They are meeting with 2 more families about coming into services. The Family Strengthening Team is also working with families using PC Care (Parent Child Play Therapy), which is an interactive therapy.
- c. DUI Program Updates – Cathy Rigney reported the following: For January DUI Program had 2 completions, 1 Wet and Reckless, 1 3-month program. There were no new enrollments.
- d. SUD Updates – Carri Coudek reported the following: For January, SUD – IOP (Intensive Outpatient) SUD groups (9 hours a week) have begun with 9 clients. In collaboration with Prevention, the SUD team has spoken to the schools, providing addiction education. They are also holding a social skills group at WC.
- e. Wellness Center Updates – Vanessa Ruggio reported: Bishop: 281 client visits, LP: 18 client visits. The yearly PIT (Point in Time) count dinner was successful. Groups continue to be held at Bishop Wellness Center Tuesday through Friday. The Wellness Center continues to be busy with showers, laundry, and mobile crisis response.
- f. Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent reported: Current resident count is 5. They had 1 respite since the last meeting. Residents attend Wellness Center groups which include peer support, creative wellness, wellness, and mindful wellness. Residents are still enjoying scenic drives. Gina mentioned a Veterans discussion to be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025. Mr. Peters mentioned that there would be an Elks Veterans Fair to be held on March 15, 2025 at 11 am.

5. MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION (DISCUSSION)

Mr. Laux shared the following with the BHAB: There has been a recent change in District Attorney. John is talking with the Health and Human Services Assistant Director and will bring the information back to this meeting when it is available.

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

Mr. Laux said this is the last year for the annual update to MHSA submission. He plans to be ready to bring this before the BHAB in April. Will proceed with the 1st 3-year BHSA Act. DHCS is still in the process of providing direction about Prop 1. They will roll out the clarification and direction in 3 separate modules.

7. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BHSA (standing informational item)

- BH Connect and Inyo County's role (Informational) (Lori Bengochia). Tim Whitney and Mr. Laux to meet regarding FTE (Full Time Equivalency) requirements for staff – will report at March BHAB meeting
- in 6 months: Care Court implementation update
- April 9, 2025: BHSA Update (due June 30)

Next meeting: Wednesday March 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 3:12 PM.