

## Minutes

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**Present:** Iris Mojica de Tatum, Chair; Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; Paula Mason, Secretary; Kim Carter; Sally Ragonut; Supervisor Lee Lor; Bruce Metcalf; Norma Cardona; Mary Ellis; Angelo Perez; Keng Cha; Vince Ramos; Darrell Hall

**Absent:** Micki Archuleta;

**Others Present:** Yvonnia Brown; Tabatha Haywood; Liz Freitas, Christina Kraushar; Sabrina Butler; Lanetta Smyth; Crisha Mendez, Tim Pilkington; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

### **Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call**

Chair Iris Mojica de Tatum called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read by Iris Mojica de Tatum.

### **Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2018 (BOARD ACTION)**

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Hawthorne / Ellis) to approve the minutes from April 3, 2018.

### **Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.**

- Liz Freitas commented that she was contacted by someone who recently tried to get services and was told that BHRS does not provide Medicare services, only medi-medi, and was referred to Beacon. In that conversation Liz was also told that according to the Feds, Merced BHRS does provide services to Medicare recipients and there are two doctor's names listed. Liz is not sure if BHRS does or does not provide Medicare services. The Director, Yvonnia Brown, stated she would look into this and follow-up. She will have Lanetta Smyth, Program Manager, get the clients name and contact information from Liz in order for her to follow-up also.
- Iris commented that the Grand Opening went great. Everything went smoothly and all she heard was positive comments.
- Yvonnia thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the Grand Opening. If anyone was not able to tour the building, she is more than willing to do another tour after the Board meeting today.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

### **Behavioral Health Program Updates**

- a. Conservator Office Overview and Lanterman/Petris/Short (LPS) Proposed Bills – Sabrina Butler

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Sabrina passed out copies of SB 931, SB 1971, SB 1045 and AB 2156. Sabrina is the Supervising Deputy for the Public Administrator/Public Guardian/Public Conservator programs. She gave a brief overview of the services they offer. The programs they have are Public Administration of decedent estates (no will or trust), probate conservatorships, LPS conservatorships / Murphy conservatorships, and representative payee program. Conservatorship is a legal term referring to the legal responsibilities that a conservator has over a person that the courts have placed on conservatorship and put in their charge to care for. The conservator serves as the person who assists the individual in meeting their basic personal needs – food, clothing and shelter. A

conservator arranges for the client's care and protection. They determine where the individual will live, make appropriate arrangements for healthcare, housekeeping, transportation and recreation. The conservator over the estate manages the client's finances, locate and take control of assets, collect income due to them, pay bills, invest money and protect known assets. Conservators also provide case management including placement, make court appearances, prepare legal paperwork, provide property management for real and personal property, safeguard assets, connect individuals with mental health services and with physical health services. LPS conservatorships are established to arrange for mental health treatment and placement for people who are unable to provide for their own food, clothing and shelter. Currently her office serves 86 LPS conservatorships. Last fiscal year they investigated 25 LPS conservatorship referrals. Probate conservatorships are for people suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, traumatic brain injuries, developmentally delayed or other medical conditions that affect their ability to provide for their own basic needs. Referrals come from a variety of places within the community – Adult Protective Services, court, Marie Green, Mercy Medical Center, skilled nursing facilities, medical clinics, private practices, and Central Valley Regional Center. Sabrina then went over some proposed legislation that could have an impact if passed. Assembly Bill 1539 was introduced last year and proposed an expansion of the definition of gravely disabled but the bill died. This year it was re-introduced as AB 1971. Again, it seeks to expand the definition of grave disability to include medical treatment. Currently gravely disabled is defined as unable to provide for your own food, clothing or shelter. The expansion proposes that it would be unable to provide for food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment. AB 2156 is almost the same thing. It expands it even more, proposing that the definition of gravely disabled would be a condition which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is incapable of making informed decisions about, or providing for, his or her own basic personal needs for clothing, shelter, food or medical care without significant supervision and assistance from another person as a result of being incapable of making these informed decisions. AB 2156 makes the definition very big; AB 1971 is proposing to add medical treatment. Yvonnia made it clear that all these bills being talked about today have no additional revenue/funding associated with it. It could mean having more clients coming into conservatorship program, but no money to support the expansion. It would be an unfunded mandate. SB 1045 is a bill seeking to address the chronic homeless situation by way of having those who are chronically homeless meet criteria for conservatorship. It has been amended twice in the Senate and the new language suggests that the bill would establish a procedure for counties that elect to participate for the appointment of a conservator for a person who is chronically homeless and incapable of caring for the person's own health and wellbeing due to a serious mental illness and substance use disorder. Yvonnia stated that this bill has major implications regarding the chronically homeless. She had Sabrina do a cost analysis on funding the current 86 LPS cases and the cost would be about \$2.5M/year; for the 500 currently homeless the projection would be about \$25M. And, there is still a housing capacity issue. Sabrina continued with SB 931 – the professional person in charge of the medical services (Medical Director) at the county jail can refer for conservatorship - they are seeking to expand and give authority to the medical staff at the jail, CFMG. This bill would also prohibit a conservatorship investigator (Sabrina is an investigator) from considering someone's custody status as a reason for not investigating a referral. They already go out to the jail when they receive referrals and collaborate with Dr. Manuel. She is not real concerned with this bill at the moment. There was discussion with Board members and the public present related to the homeless and what is being done locally. It was suggested that Board members attend the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Community Action Agency (CAA) meetings to hear what is being discussed regarding the homeless issue.

**Recommendation/Action:** Carol will send out meetings dates/times for the CoC and CAA meeting dates.

### **Approve Ad-Hoc Committee – Reducing Recidivism in Acute Hospitalization (Board Action)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Iris stated that an Ad-Hoc Committee representing the Board has to be approved by the Board. In order for the Board to approve the Ad-Hoc Committee, the Board needs to be knowledgeable as to what the Committee will do, how long, etc. She and Sally then came up with specifications for this Ad-Hoc Committee. Iris read the process proposed for this committee.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Metcalf / Hawthorne) to approve Sally Ragonut, Bruce Metcalf and Mary Ellis to form an Ad-Hoc Committee related to Reducing Recidivism in Acute Hospitalizations which will include looking at demographics and duration of stay at Marie Green for the period of FY 16/17.

### **Chair's Report – Iris Mojica de Tatum**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Iris emphasized that the Retreat is scheduled for May 19, 2018. She asked everyone to put this on their agenda. It is from 9:00-1:00. They will discuss who they are as a Board, get to know each other, have discussion on moving forward and setting goals for the new fiscal year. The Retreat will take place in the new building – same location as today's meeting. Iris reminded Carol that in June they will have the election of officers and this needs to be added to the agenda. Iris would like to have a list of all the committees; Board members can then decide which committees they would like to be part of. This would be a good time to list which Board members would like to attend the CoC meetings. Richard stated that according to the By-Laws there are two standing committees – Alcohol and Drug Advisory Committee and the Oversight and Accountability Committee. It is up to the Chair to set the ad-hoc committees and this will vary from year to year. The Retreat would be a good time to discuss which committees the Board members want to be part of. The incoming Chair would then have a good start in establishing the ad-hoc committees and appointing Board members to them.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

### **Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Lor**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Lor thanked staff for the excellent ribbon cutting and to the Advisory Committee members that attended. She encouraged everyone who couldn't attend the ceremony to take the tour after the meeting today. She continued that not only is this the first Board meeting in the new building, it is the first ever in this building. It is very fitting for the Advisory Committee to have the first meeting ever in this building. Kudos to staff and everyone on the Board here today. Supervisor Lor highly encouraged everyone to be at the Retreat on the 19<sup>th</sup>. On June 5<sup>th</sup> Richard will be presenting the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). She encouraged and invited everyone to attend. Board members do not have to speak but she did encourage an introduction so that the BOS and public can put faces to names.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### **Director's Report – Yvonnia Brown**

- a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)
- b. LPS Update – AB 1539 (Gravely Disabled)

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Yvonnia reported that discussion is still taking place with the City and the County; they are working on the draft agreement. The proposal includes 120 units for affordable housing with 30-36 being used for permanent, supportive housing. It also includes some supportive services to be on campus – that could be Behavioral Health, HSA, or other community partners. There has also been talk of having a coalition come together from all interested community organizations to help bring everyone together in order to have a central location to provide other services in addition to outreach and engagement services. A central location is needed for the homeless to come to for services.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### **Reports / Updates**

- a. Executive Committee – Iris Mojica de Tatum
- b. QIC – Mary Ellis & Kim Carter

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. The Executive Committee had nothing to report. b. No report.

**Recommendation/Action:** None



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Behavioral Health Board Meeting**

**301 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Merced, CA 95341**

**May 1, 2018**

**Announcements**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Tabatha Haywood reported on the recent Youth-to-Youth Conference. They had 326 youth served. There were a lot of fun workshops with the youth along with some serious workshops. Sheriff Warnke and his deputies came out and cooked lunch for all the youth and served them. Some of the deputies stayed after and watched "Walk the Line" which is a very powerful movement to have youth bond and feel connected - about their not being alone in their circumstances. They had the "Drum Café" do the Opening Ceremonies. Drum Café uses rhythm and music to unit as one. It was a very energized 14-hour day. The kids had a lot of fun. She thanked everyone who attended. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> year for Youth-to-Youth in Merced; Tabatha believes that Merced is the only county that has continued to do Youth-to-Youth. Other counties, because of funding and priorities, have put Youth-to-Youth on the back burner.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 4:34 pm.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ *Signed* \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Hulsizer  
Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ *Signed* \_\_\_\_\_  
Paula Mason, Secretary  
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ *6/5/18* \_\_\_\_\_

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