



## Minutes

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**Present:** Bruce Metcalf, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Zachery Ramos, Secretary; Supervisor Lloyd Pareira; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Keng Ger Cha; Linda Deol; Vicki Humble; Ted Werner; Manvinder Kaur; Genevieve Valentine

**Absent:** Mary Ellis; Vince Ramos

**Others Present:** Charles Bruce, Chris Kraushar, Dr. Jin Soofi, Monica Adrian, Zoe Talyor-Ploog, Sharon Jones, Paul Cummings, Adam Lane, Amy Houghtaling (Recorder)

### Call to Order / Roll Call

Due to COVID-19, today's meeting was held in a hybrid format, in-person and via video conference. Chair, Bruce Metcalf, called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Audible roll call was taken by Recorder, Amy Houghtaling.

### Review Teleconferencing Status

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce asked BHRS Director, Genevieve Valentine, for an update on the state of emergency status. Director Valentine expressed that, although the County is no longer in a State of Emergency, current information shows the State intends to extend their State of Emergency status through the end of September. Based on that update and Board discussion, Bruce stated that the Board finds a State of Emergency still exists at State level and that continuing hybrid format for another thirty days would allow safe attendance for all parties. Bruce then called for a motion to continue hybrid format for the next BHAB meeting.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Ragonut/Deol) to approve using teleconferencing for the next meeting. Bruce called for a roll call vote. The names of all present Board members were called and asked for their individual approvals. Use of teleconferencing at the next scheduled meeting was approved by a unanimous vote of members in attendance.

Pareira – Aye  
Ramos, V. – Absent  
Metcalf – Aye

Mojica de Tatum – Aye  
Cha – Aye  
Ramos, Z. – Aye

Ellis – Absent  
Ragonut – Aye  
Humble – Aye

Deol – Aye  
Kaur – Aye  
Werner - Aye

### Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Board member Sally Ragonut.

### Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2022 (BOARD ACTION)

**Discussion/Conclusion:** No edits or corrections were presented for the minutes.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Ramos, Z/Mojica de Tatum) to approve the April 5, 2022 minutes as written. Bruce called for a roll call vote on the minutes. The names of all present Board members were called and asked for their individual approvals. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of members in attendance.

Pareira – Aye  
Ramos, V. – Absent  
Metcalf – Aye

Mojica de Tatum – Aye  
Cha – Aye  
Ramos, Z. – Aye

Ellis – Absent  
Ragonut – Aye  
Humble – Aye

Deol – Aye  
Kaur - Aye  
Werner - Aye



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

### Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting

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

**Discussion/Conclusion:** No public comment.

**Recommendation/Action:** None

#### **Training/Presentation – Through the Eyes of the Client**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Chris Kraushar was not able to present today, as scheduled. This presentation was tabled until the June meeting.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

#### **Training/Presentation – County Homeless and Housing Projects**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** John Ceccoli, Deputy Director HSA HHSB, presented a Regional Homeless Planning Update to the Board. The Housing and Homeless Services Branch of the HSA was created by a Merced County Board of Supervisors action and became operational in January of two thousand twenty-one. In-depth homeless housing planning has been taking place since two thousand and eighteen when the Navigation Center was created through one-time funding. This is a low barrier center that accommodates pets, partners and possessions and connects people to resources through case managers on staff, providing things outside the parameters of just emergency shelter. The two primary areas of focus for county wide planning are; public space management and developing more affordable housing. Within those areas, they focused on four different activities; outreach engagement and assessment, emergency shelter, affordable housing and system supports to make sure these were all working well together. Today he addressed three of these areas. The Outreach and Engagement Center is currently located on the BHRS campus here in Merced and provides services county wide. This is the access point for their emergency shelter, admission to which is a process managed by New Direction, who coordinates with the emergency shelters for placement. Recently, they participated in the Governor's one hundred-day challenge, where they focused their efforts specifically in Los Banos. Emergency shelter was made available in the form of twenty-five motel beds and there was a focus on getting the rapid housing providers together. Having a really good detailed outreach list was key, giving them precise data, which was very motivational in this challenge. Not all counties had this quality of data. In the six months prior to the challenge, they had placed two people in housing. Their goal for the Governor's challenge was to place twenty in one hundred days. They met their goal by housing twenty permanently, and also had a goal of getting twenty-five people on a pathway to housing, which means they would be brought into emergency shelter and connected to services. They exceeded that goal by about fifty-eight people. John said that another outreach effort is multi-disciplinary teams and partnerships out in that area, saying that the partnership between law enforcement and services is great. A Social Worker from Adult Protective Services will soon be added, further expanding the multi-disciplinary team out in that area. They are going to focus on GIS mapping going forward, using an application for a point in time count. The second activity they focused on is emergency shelter. In two thousand and eighteen there were about ninety beds available. This year it will be closer to two hundred and fifty. The population center is in the city of Merced, so they are expanding and growing the various shelter services and options in Merced. Distributed Housing, where you rent a single-family dwelling and convert it into an emergency shelter, has been a positive and will increase over time, as it is the more cost efficient and quickly implementable solution. Especially in areas where the numbers are lower and a navigation center is not warranted. Respite care has expanded as well and gives those being discharged from the Emergency Department some time to recover more fully. Congregate shelter increased its beds by ten in Los Banos and they have seen a fifty percent reduction in unsheltered homeless in Los Banos. The most recent data also shows more families dealing with homelessness, so they are much needed. Distributive housing is being increased in the unincorporated areas as well. John pointed out that emergency shelter may take someone from unsheltered to sheltered status, but it does not cure homelessness. A lot of housing is restricted to the homeless and Affordable Housing also still has restrictions that are barriers to most of their clients. These barriers are not going to be overcome. The restricted housing units is how they manage that



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issue. Emergency Housing vouchers, through HUD, are good because they provide ongoing rental assistance as long as the client remains eligible. Project HomeKey, which came out of project RoomKey, is acquiring a motel on B street, which will provide ninety single room occupancies. A project on Childs and B will be coming in June or July and will have thirty units set aside for high utilizers. No Place Like Home, which will have sixty-five beds, will be restricted to folks with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness. These beds will be for individuals, not families. They are shooting for two hundred and fifteen more housing units over the next two years. Lots of opportunities lie ahead. John closed by thanking the broad partnerships. This is not just the effort of one organization or entity. Leveraging all our resources, melding them together, is key. John asked if anyone had questions and offered to speak to any groups or organizations that would be interested in this information. Bruce thanked him for his presentation and told the Board that John has been a strong proponent for collaboration for years now and he has been a real leader in this area.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### Chair's Report

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce shared that BHRS is restarting the CSOC Interagency Policy and Planning Council. This council meets quarterly and is being added now to the BHAB list of committees as a liaison appointment.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### Election of Officers

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce shared that the Board's By-Laws state election of officers is to take place at the Board's annual meeting in June, so today the Board will discuss interested parties and answer questions about these positions in order to prepare a voting ballot for the June meeting. He reminded the members that an email went out to them recently, which included a survey for members to complete with their interests for any officer positions or committees. Bruce shared that he is willing to stay one more year as Chair, if no other member is interested in taking on that position for the new fiscal year. He also shared that Sally would be interested in moving into the position of Secretary and that Zachery is interested in moving to Vice-Chair for next year. Sally added that she is willing to stay on the Executive Committee as Secretary, but will be happy to step away if Iris, or anyone else, would like to serve as Secretary. Iris said the same thing to Sally, she would step aside if Sally wanted to serve as Secretary. Discussion took place on methods of developing the voting ballot and Zachery shared his methods for this year's process. County Counsel clarified that, per the Brown Act, a Board member cannot go out and call all the other Board members to discuss something. What Zachery can do, as the Nominating committee, is reach out to each one-by-one for a separate conversation only relating to that one member. The best practice is to have the Board's supporting BHRS Secretary send communications and subject specific materials out to the membership and let them respond to her for compilation and delivery to the Executive Committee. Bruce closed discussion and moved to the next agenda item.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only. Board Action tabled to June meeting.

### Committee Appointments

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce repeated that the recent email asked about interest in joining committees. There was a total of three respondents to the survey. Linda Deol expressed interest in the Liaison to the MHSA Ongoing Planning Council Meetings and the Substance Use Disorder committee. Two members expressed interest in the Membership committee. Bruce expressed that more interested parties are necessary to be sure to have at least one member on every committee. For clarity, a revised email will go out to the members to put the Board Officer and Committee information in front of them once more in order for officer position voting and committee appointments to take place at the annual meeting in June.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only. Board Action tabled to June meeting.



### **FY 22/23 Top Priorities, Goals and Project**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce shared with the members the two project ideas submitted by members through the recent survey. Sally shared that the copy of last year's priorities and goals, that was attached to the recent email, should be used as a way to get your mind thinking of different ideas for the Board's new and different priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Final goals for the Board, and a project to ask of BHRS, can develop naturally out of the priorities agreed upon for the fiscal year.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only.

### **Announcements**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce announced a reminder that the Hilmar Dairy and Farm Festival is being held on June 4, 2022, in Hilmar.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### **Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** No new items brought forward.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only.

**Adjournment:** Bruce adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

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### **Open Public Hearing**

Board Chair, Bruce Metcalf, opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the hearing. Audible roll call was taken by Recorder, Amy Houghtaling. The hearing was opened with a quorum in attendance.

### **FY 22/23 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sharon Jones, BHRS MHSA Coordinator, presented a summary report on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update for fiscal year two thousand twenty-two and two thousand twenty-three. The full report is over three hundred pages. She explained that the Mental Health Services Act was created through Proposition 63, which passed in November of 2004 and began funding January 1, 2005. Funding comes from a one percent state tax on incomes of one million dollars or more; about two billion dollars per year. MHSA emphasizes transformation of the mental health system while improving the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness. The funding is provided to each County to create a state-of-the-art, culturally competent system that promotes wellness and recovery for adults and older adults with severe mental illness and resiliency for children with serious emotional disorders and their families. MHSA pledges to look beyond "business as usual" to help build a system where access will be easier, services are more effective, out-of-home and institutional care are reduced and stigma toward those with severe mental illness or serious emotional disturbance no longer exists.

Sharon presented the results from a Service Needs Assessment, which showed:

- Children and Youth (ages 0-15)
  - o Majority (approximately 57%) identify as Hispanic/Latino, suggesting strategies to engage Hispanic/Latino families and youth have been effective
  - o Among Children and Youth, individuals identifying as female appear to be underserved. Also, Asian, Black/African American, and White individuals appear to be somewhat underserved
- Transition age youth (ages 16-25)
  - o Majority of TAY (approximately 59%) identify as Hispanic/Latino, suggesting strategies to engage Hispanic/Latino families and youth have been effective
  - o Among TAY, individuals identifying as Asian and White appear to be somewhat underserved.
- Adults (ages 26-59)
  - o The largest percentage of consumers served were Adults (26-59)
  - o Among adults (ages 26-59), Hispanic/Latino populations appear to be underserved, approximately 43%
- Older adults (ages 60+)
  - o Among Older Adults, there is a higher prevalence of consumers identifying as female (60%)
    - Also, a higher number of older adults identify as Asian and White when compared to other age categories
  - o Among older adults, individuals identifying as male and Hispanic/Latino appear to be underserved
    - Question: Bruce asked if they see more females in the older adult category because women generally live longer. Sharon explained that it appears that women just generally more open to coming in for help

Sharon continued with some program highlights:

- Community Services and Support (CSS)
  - o Community Assistance Recovery Enterprise (CARE)-adult Full-Service partnership
  - o CARE acute hospitalizations
  - o Wraparound Empowerment Compassion and Needs (WECAN)-Children's Full-Service Partnership
  - o Wellness and Recovery Full-Service partnership (FSP)
  - o Merced Adult Wellness Center
  - o Dual Diagnosis Program Wellness Center
  - o Westside Transitional Wellness Center
  - o Transitional Age Youth Wellness Center (CUBE)
  - o Older Adult System of Care (OASOC)
  - o Adult Behavioral Health Court and CARE Court
  - o Southeast Asian Community Advocacy Program (SEACAP)
  - o CSS in Schools and Communities/MHSA Community-Based Mental Health for Youth
  - o Juvenile Behavioral Health Court
  - o Housing
  - o Housing-Continuum of Care
  - o Housing Supportive Services Program
  - o Community Outreach Program, Education, and Engagement (COPE)
  - o COPE – Central Intake
  - o COPE – Crisis Stabilization Unit
  - o COPE – Public Health Partnership
  - o Mobile Crisis Response Team/Mobile Triage Crisis Unit
- Prevention and Early Intervention
  - o Golden Valley Health Centers - Integrated Primary Care in Latino Community
  - o Merced Lao Family - Integrated Primary Care in Hmong Community
  - o Livingston Community Health - Integrated Primary Care in Latino Community
  - o Golden Valley Health Centers - Cultural Broker Program in Latino Community
  - o Merced Lao Family - Cultural Broker Program and LGBTQ+ Support in Hmong Community



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- Livingston Community Health - Cultural Broker Program in Latino Community
- Merced County Human Services Agency- Program for Encouraging, Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS)
- Mobile Triage Crisis Unit
- Training, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (CB)
- Collaboration with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)-Capacity Building of LGBTQQIA2-S Supportive Services
- LGBTQ Collaborative-Capacity Building of LGBTQQIA2-S Supportive Services
- Training, Capacity Building and Support for Program Evaluation
- Expansion of Capacity Building-Prevention and Early Intervention Services-One-Time Funds for Homeless Navigation Support
- CalMHS Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline
- Stigma and Discrimination Reduction
- Suicide Prevention Program
- Workforce, Education and Training
  - Financial Incentives – Stipends
  - Training and Technical Assistance – e-learning
  - Staff Development – Clinical Supervisor
  - Mental Health Career Pathways Program
- Innovation
  - Innovative Strategist Network-Service Integration Team (ISN-SIT)-Adults
  - Innovative Strategist Network-Youth (ISN-Y)
  - Transformational Equity Restart Program
- Prudent Reserve
  - Money set aside in case needed, which is currently just over three million dollars

Sharon then summarized the changes to the MHS Plan for fiscal year two thousand twenty-two and two thousand twenty-three:

- Transfer of twenty percent of CSS funds in fiscal year two thousand twenty-two and two thousand twenty-three to WET and CFTN
- Create pre-CSU services to pre-screen clients for admittance to CSU or provide non-CSU supportive service
  - Maximize original funding amount
- Adult Behavioral Health Court
  - Add CARE Court services to the ABHC and add one full-time employee Mental Health Worker to ABHC
- CSS in schools and communities
  - Change name of program to MHS Community Based Mental Health for Youth and move the unfilled MH Clinician position from PEI Caring Kids to this renamed program
  - \$134,797
  - Update program name to MHS Community Based Mental Health for Youth and hire MH clinician to work with MCOE Resiliency Center
- Merced Lao Family SEACAP
  - Increase budget line item for fiscal year
- New Justice and Community Integration Housing Program
  - Will serve care court clients - six available transitional housing spaces
  - Focused on at risk
  - Pre-conservator
- MCOE Caring Kids
  - Update funding to include only contracted amount. Unfilled MH Clinician to move to renamed CSS program MHS Community Based Mental Health for Youth

- MHSA community based mental health for Livingston and Hilmar
  - o MHSA Community Based Mental Health for Youth in Livingston and Hilmar areas
  - o Add two full-time Mental Health Clinicians
- Cancel MAPS Program
  - o Cancel MAPS Program with services to be included in the MHSA Community Based Mental Health
  - o Cost of Police Officer now included in MHSA Community Based Mental Health for Youth Program Mental Health for Youth
- PEI Strengthening Families
  - o Add one full-time Family/Community Development Partner to serve in Livingston community
- Mobile Triage Crisis Unit
  - o Split mobile triage crisis unit funding between CSS (seventy percent) and PEI (thirty percent)
  - o Move program from PEI to CSS and PEI
- NEW: Youth and Family Grief and Trauma Program
  - o Create a new team for grief and trauma interventions for youth and families
  - o Add two full-time Mental Health Workers and two full-time Family/Community Development Partners
- Merced Lao Family CB Program
  - o Increase budget line item for fiscal year
- Merced Lao Family IPC Program
  - o Increase budget line item for fiscal year
- NEW project
  - o Capital Facilities project-transfer funds from 20% calculation of CSS funds in fiscal year two thousand twenty-two and two thousand twenty-three
  - o Funds transferred from CSS for new project: Main Campus expansion (Justice, Co-Response, Critical incidents and improved Access)
- Workforce, Education and Training
  - o Transfer funds from twenty percent calculation of CSS funds in fiscal year to fund WET programs
- New Electronic Health Record
  - o Credible new HER with Kings View
    - Transfer funds from twenty percent calculation of CSS funds

Upon completion of Sharon's presentation, Bruce opened the meeting to public comment on this report.

**Opportunity for public input.**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Vicki commented that Sharon did a great job with her report today. Sally asked if the career pathways was coming just from Merced College or also UC Merced. Sharon explained that right now under MHSA, one of the partnerships is with CSU Stanislaus and another is for psychosocial rehabilitation through Merced College Business Resource Center. BHRS department is also building a robust internship program where they are coming from colleges all around us. This is helping the department with building career pathways as well as addressing shortages in clinical staff. Bruce called for public comment again. No further comment or questions were brought forward. Hearing no further comment brought forward in person or via teleconference, Bruce closed the public comment period and called for a motion to recommend the Annual MHSA Update to the Board of Supervisors.



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

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**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum/Ragonut) to recommend the Annual MHSA Update to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Bruce called for a roll call vote. The names of all present Board members were called and asked for their individual approvals. The recommendation was approved by a unanimous vote of members in attendance.

Pareira – Abstain  
Ramos, V. – Absent  
Metcalf – Aye

Mojica de Tatum – Aye  
Cha – Aye  
Ramos, Z. – Absent for vote

Ellis – Absent  
Ragonut – Aye  
Humble – Aye

Deol – Absent for vote  
Kaur - Aye  
Werner - Aye

**Adjournment:** Bruce adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Houghtaling  
Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_(Approved 6/7/22. Signed 7/11/22).\_\_\_\_\_  
Zachery Ramos, Secretary  
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_