



Minutes

Present: Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Supervisor Pareira; Kim Carter; Keng Cha; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Vicki Humble; Micki Archuleta

Absent: Sally Ragonut, Chair, Paula Mason; Mary Ellis; Vince Ramos; Zachery Ramos

Others Present: Genevieve Valentine; Brian Sterkeson; Jeff Sabeau, Dr. Jin Soofi, Sharon Jones; Charles Bruce; Priscilla Martin, Recorder

Call to Order / Roll Call

Due to COVID-19 today's meeting was held via conference call. Chair Bruce Metcalf called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Roll call was taken. Bruce welcomed everyone.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Bruce Metcalf.

Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2021 (BOARD ACTION)

Discussion/Conclusion: Bruce asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Pareira) to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved the minutes.

Pareira – yes	Mojica de Tatum – yes	Ellis – absent
Ramos, V. – absent	Cha – yes	Ragonut – absent
Metcalf – yes	Ramos, Z. – absent	Humble – yes
Carter – yes	Archuleta – abstain	Mason – absent

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

Discussion/Conclusion: No comments

Recommendation/Action:

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update & Innovation Plan

a. Close Public Hearing

i. Approve MHSA Annual Update & Innovation Plan (BOARD ACTION)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Supervisor Pareira will check with county council if he can vote on the MHSA Plan. Sharon Jones gave a presentation on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update and Innovation plan and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation for the meeting. She then asked if the public had any questions. Kim thanked Sharon for a great presentation. Kim asks with regards



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

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to program changes was it correct that the Mobile Crisis Response Team was moving from CSS to PEI and will be combined with the Mobile Triage Unit? Sharon confirmed. Kim continued, does that mean the \$295,000 would be dropped or added to the amount the triage crisis unit has? Sharon said that amount would be reduced under CSS and PEI would pay for it. Kim asked if there was anything going on preparing for AB988, the 988 national crisis number that would replace the suicide prevention hotline that all the counties are supposed to set up and implemented by July 2022? She asks Sharon if she knows anything about how that will be? Sharon says currently BHRS has the ACCESS Line and contracts with Kingsview for the Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline. They'll have to have further discussion about this. Genevieve adds the state hasn't really given them direction yet. The national hotline would have someone directly contact their Mobile Crisis Team or Crisis Unit for them to do the prevention work that needs to be done. The state is still figuring out the networks. Iris asks Sharon since COPE is moving from CSS to PEI how is that impacting services and staffing? Genevieve says that based on the calls they've been receiving from their Mobile Crisis they realized that most of those individuals are not already in service, so most of it is prevention driven. It better serves the individual because they haven't historically had mental health services. Their Mobile Crisis and Triage team really are more of a prevention for longer term mental health. They already have the staffing available and ready to go, so they're not changing the staffing ratios. It would be a direct handoff from the Mobile Crisis Response team to outpatient if they don't need Mobile Crisis or they'll go to a mild to moderate referral to one of their clinics (Lao Family, Livingston, Golden Valley services). Iris asks if COPE will be more of a mobile team going throughout the county. Genevieve says that is more of their hope. Pangcha noted one of the slides said having a safe and welcoming interaction between the community and law enforcement. She asked how that was going to be achieved. Sharon responded by saying they would build relationships and by enhancing the connections they already have. They're trying to build an integrated network to help individuals who are facing various barriers. They want to build bridges and resources for individuals so they can break the cycle of recidivism from the hospital to the jail. It will start with relationships, integration, coming together and talking and having an identified plan to help individuals before they're released to the community. Pangcha continues that there needs to be law enforcement accountability. Sharon agreed, but said she thinks it's a larger issue that can start with training and education. Micki asks how they propose to use innovation with the LGBTQ+ community. She continues that so far the plan offers \$50,000 in capacity building for community members. Sharon explains that the Transformation of Equity Restart Program is for individuals who are living with a mental illness and who are connected to the justice system who oftentimes are arrested and rearrested. The goal is to provide support, through individual clinical interventions and meeting the person where they are. Micki adds that Sharon mentioned LGBTQ in her presentation, and asks how? Sharon said the goal is to increase access, increase services, and increase support. She adds that they also have an RFP out where the \$50,000 adding more supportive services for their LGBTQ+ community. The goal for this particular innovative project is to try to break that cycle of recidivism for individuals who are living with a mental illness or substance issue who really don't need to be in the justice system. Micki continues that anybody with recidivism problems in the jail system needs to connect with the LGBTQ community will need safe places to gather and they need places to be able to support one another. Sharon agrees. Genevieve adds the RFP just closed and will actually be able to give them the ability to have a community-based organization that has services they can use specifically for the LGBTQ+ community. Once they have the innovation project up and going they will have the ability to make the right connections and like Sharon said, really develop a network of natural supports. Jeff adds he believes part of the RFP is to provide training for the community and mental health professionals on how to work with folks from the LGBTQ community. Micki says she understands and adds that she believes they need something else. Pangcha says they need a program where LGBTQ are leading the program at a grassroots level. Bruce asks if there are any other comments from anyone else. Pangcha comments that they talk about barriers that people face but the jail system feeds them crappy food and water, they aren't provided good sleeping areas, they're basic human rights are being provided for and that their human rights are being taken away from them. They come to juvenile hall poor and when they're released they're poor. They're given poor conditions and yet they're expected to fulfill probation expectations. They're doing a disservice when they're provided poor quality food and poor quality mental health services and this is a real problem that they need to improve conditions and how people are treated when they come out juvenile hall. Bruce checks with Supervisor Pareira on what response he received regarding voting. Supervisor Pareira said county council said he was eligible to vote because its an advisory to the Board of Supervisors and doesn't disqualify him. If it was the planning council it would be different. Bruce called for a vote to approve the MHSA Annual Update and Innovation Plan.



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Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Archuleta) to approve the MHSA Annual Update and Innovation Plan. Due to this being a conference call, the names of all Board members were called and asked whether they themselves approved the plan

Pareira – yes

Ramos, V. – absent

Metcalf – yes

Carter – yes

Mojica de Tatum – yes

Cha – yes

Ramos, Z. – absent

Archuleta – yes

Ellis – absent

Ragonut – absent

Humble – yes

Mason – absent

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: None

Recommendation/Action:

Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items

Discussion/Conclusion:

Recommendation/Action: None

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 5:26 pm.

Submitted by: _____

Priscilla Martin

Recording Secretary

Approved by: Signed as Approved on 7/6/21 _____

Bruce Metcalf, Secretary

Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____