



# Minutes

**Present:** Bruce Metcalf, Chair; Zachery Ramos, Vice Chair; Sally Ragonut, Secretary; Mary Ellis; Ted Werner; Manvinder Kaur; Linda Deol; Keng Ger Cha; Sharon Mendonca

**Absent:** Vince Ramos; Lloyd Pareira; Iris Mojica de Tatum

**Others Present:** Charles Bruce, Chris Kraushar, Lanetta Smyth, Cara Rupp, Amy Bonillas, 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 4:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Audible roll call was taken by Recorder, Amy Houghtaling.

## Review Teleconferencing Status (BOARD ACTION)

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce asked BHRS Assistant Director, Sharon Mendonca, for an update on the state of emergency status. Sharon expressed that, although the County is no longer in a State of Emergency, the State is still in a State of Emergency status. Based on that update, 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.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Ellis, Ragonut). Bruce called for a roll call vote to continue teleconference status for the next Board meeting. 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 – Absent	Mojica de Tatum – Absent	Ellis – Aye	Deol – Aye
Ramos, V. – Absent	Cha – Aye	Ragonut – Aye	Kaur – Aye
Metcalf – Aye	Ramos, Z. – Aye		Werner - Aye

## Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Board member Ted Werner.

## Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2022 (BOARD ACTION)

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

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Ragonut, Werner) to approve the June 7, 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 majority vote of members in attendance.

Pareira – Absent	Mojica de Tatum – Absent	Ellis – Aye	Deol – Aye
Ramos, V. – Absent	Cha – Abstain	Ragonut – Aye	Kaur – Aye
Metcalf – Aye	Ramos, Z. – Aye		Werner - Aye



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

### Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting

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

Merced, CA 95341

July 5, 2022

**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

#### Director's Report

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sharon Mendonca, Assistant Director – Administration for BHRS, gave a report on behalf of Director, Genevieve Valentine. Sharon reported that, at the last Board of Supervisors meeting, a preliminary budget was passed and BHRS is operating under that budget effective July first. The final budget hearing will be on September twenty-seventh. Union negotiations continue at this time, so by that point everything should be finalized. Sharon shared that the CalAIM electronic health record initiative has them changing to Credible for the BHRS electronic health record system. Their original Go Live date of July first had to be pushed back to January first because they wanted to make sure they were going forward with everything working properly. Medical Director, Dr. Jin Soofi, announced that she is retiring July seventh. She shared that Dr. John Yarbrough, a Child Psychiatrist with the County for the past eight plus years, has accepted the position and will start August first. Bruce expressed the Board's thanks to Dr. Soofi for her years of dedicated service to BHRS.

#### Training/Presentation – Peer Support Specialist

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Lanetta Smyth, Director of Adult System of Care (ASOC) and Cara Rupp, Program Manager, presented on the Peer Support Specialist role at BHRS. Lanetta explained that a Peer Support is someone who has been successful in the recovery process who then helps others experiencing similar situations. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process, and reduce the likelihood of relapse. They can be clients, or former clients, of mental health and/or substance use disorder services. They provide support to clients in a different and innovative way. These are individuals that have a desire to use what they learned from their own lived experiences to assist others with similar challenges. BHRS is looking at more patient centered care, which is the basis of what is taking place under CalAIM. Peers are there to listen and relate, and provide acceptance and respect on a peer level, throughout the continuum of care. Focusing on stages of recovery rather than illness and diagnosis. A peer can advocate for clients and help them navigate a system they may not understand. They are able to engage clients in services that they might not normally seek out, and provide linkage and education to client families. The Peer Support position is now becoming a certified position and will be able to provide billable services.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

#### Chair's Report

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce reminded the board members that updated information for the new fiscal year was distributed at the last meeting, was also mailed to homes. Please reach out to Amy if you are missing any updates. He also shared that one of the updates was the training list for the new fiscal year. There is still space for requested subject matter, so please reach out to him or Amy with any topic requests. Bruce reminded the members that mileage is reimbursable for members who travel from other parts of the county to attend the Board meetings. If you wish to submit for mileage, please see Amy to complete the forms.

#### FY 22/23 Goals and Project

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Bruce reminded the members that, at their last meeting, they came to an agreement on Top Priorities for the 22/23 fiscal year, which are Education and Awareness. Today, the process continues on to final determination of Goals and a Project for the new year. The text drafted from discussion at the last meeting, was read by Bruce. Bruce then opened the floor and invited



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discussion by all members. Sharon Mendonca complemented the Board on the great progress made and asked if anyone had any feedback or changes to the proposed goals as drafted at the last meeting, which are; *To seek out and receive continued education in the area of Behavioral Health and To increase awareness and education about behavioral health services in Merced County communities.* After a period of discussion, the members present approved these goals by consensus. Bruce then directed the members to review the text drafted from the last meeting to frame out a project for the new year. Bruce led discussion on how the project text being reviewed today ties back to the goals and priorities now agreed upon. Discussion took place and members agreed that the framework of the project is good and that it will be important for Board members to follow through on their part of the project, which would be to personally attend various meetings and events throughout the year and report back to this Board. It was agreed that each member should attend at least one event in the fiscal year. Project update reports will be made a recurring agenda item. Amy made that criteria an addition to the project framework and will contact the BHRS MHSA group to inquire about creating an ongoing communication stream that will keep the Board informed of events and meetings that they may attend throughout the year. Members agreed that this level of involvement is a positive for the Board and the community, and also ties back to the Core Values and Vision of this board. Discussion having concluded, Bruce asked if the group agrees to the project text as edited and formalized here today. The group approved the project details by consensus.

**Committee Reports**

**A. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**

**B. Executive/By-Laws/Planning**

**C. Membership Committee**

- 1. **Discussion/Conclusion:** Mary reported that we have a new applicant for membership to this Board. She has been interviewed by the Membership Committee and Mary requests at this time that she be approved by the BHAB for recommendation to the BOS for approval to this board. Yesenia Curiel is from district two, but because that district is already fully represented on this board, she would serve in a Member-at-Large seat on the board.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Ellis/Werner) to approve this request for recommendation. Bruce called for a roll call vote. The names of all present Board members were called and asked for their individual approvals. Recommendation of Yesenia Curiel to the Board of Supervisors was approved with a majority for members in attendance.

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

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

Ellis – Aye  
Ragonut – Aye  
Werner - Aye

Deol – Aye  
Kaur - Absent

**D. Board Development (New Membership Orientation and Onboarding)**

**E. Liaison to the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)**

**F. Liaison to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Ongoing Planning Council**

**G. Liaison to Children’s System of Care Interagency Policy and Planning Council**

**H. Other Board Member Reports**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** **A.** No report, new representatives for FY 22/23. **B.** No report. **C.** Mary’s request for membership recommendation is detailed above. **D.** Bruce reported that all members have now been through onboarding. Amy reported that only one new item has been added to the member binder, which is text defining the difference between an advisory board and a governing board. **E.** No report, new representative for FY 22/23 **F.** No report, new representatives for FY 22/23 **G.** No report, newly created liaison role for FY 22/23 **H.** Linda shared that Livingston is turning one hundred years old this year and they have things planned all year long in celebration. She will send Amy the calendar of events and Amy will forward this information to the full Board.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only



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**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports**

- A. Annual Report**
- B. Nominating Committee**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** **A.** Sally shared that the annual report is nearly complete and she is hoping to have a draft to Board members for review prior to the August meeting. **B.** No report.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**Announcements**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** None

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** None.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only.

**Adjournment:** Bruce adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.

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

Approved by: Approved and Signed 08/02/22  
**Sally Ragonut, Secretary**  
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

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

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