

Sacramento County
Mental Health Board (MHB) General Meeting Minutes
 March 3, 2021

Meeting Location

In compliance with County, State, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention directives related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this meeting was held remotely via Zoom and Conference Call.

Attendance			
MHB Members			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Loran Sheley, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Silvia Rodriguez, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Laura Bemis, <i>Secretary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Maria Padilla-Castro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ann Arneill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
County Staff to MHB			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Jason Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Janice Snyder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent

Agenda Item	Discussion
I. Welcome and Introductions	Chair Loran Sheley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and introductions were made.
II. Comfort Agreement	Ms. Laura Bemis read the MHB Comfort Agreement.
III. Approval of Minutes	<p>Ms. Ann Arneill moved to clarify the language about youth being willing to be on both the MHB and the YAB, as follows: "In response to the idea that the same youth serve on both the Youth Advisory Board and the MHB, Ms. Arneill asked if they would have the time and energy to serve on both boards." Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro moved to add language that she supports youth involvement in the MHB.</p> <p>Ms. Bemis moved to approve the amended minutes and Ms. Arneill seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>
IV. System Partner Updates	<p>Advocacy Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Angelina Woodberry announced the Peer Empowerment Compent in June, with racial equity and disparities in mental health being an area of focus. Ms. Robin Barney and Ms. Woodberry shared that last month on February 19th, the Expert Pool event occurred with presenters from the NAMI, WRC South, and Disability Right organizations. The event was very well attended and well received. Ms. Barney announced that in the most recent CalVoices support group, members proposed Peers Now as a proposed name for the Alternatives to 911 program. Ms. Sandena Bader announced that the Family Advocate Committee met with Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Division Manager Melissa Jacobs last week, and feedback was shared that

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	<p>family advocates would like social workers to be more inclusive of biological parents and will be trained accordingly to help with reunification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Bader announced that the Youth Advocate Committee has a new executive team that will be doing amazing work moving forward. Ms. Bader will be encouraging the Youth Advocate Committee to attend next month's MHB meeting. <p>Association of Behavioral Health Contractors No announcements were made.</p>
<p>V. Mental Health Board Business</p>	<p>Liaison Reports Liaisons reported on the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee, and Older Adult Coalition.</p> <p>Standing Committee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's System of Care Committee: Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro and Dr. Jason Richards reported that the Children's System of Care Committee did not meet in February, due to the need for full MHB discussion and approval of the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding homelessness at the present meeting (see section VII below). The next Children's System of Care Committee meeting will be on March 25th at 4 p.m. The next Adult System of Care Committee meeting will be on March 23rd at 4 p.m. <p>Mental Health Board Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Bemis announced that NAMI is going to have facilitator training for support groups for peers March 20th and 21st. NAMI is also looking for family member support groups. The training is free, and interested parties can sign up at namisacramento.org or send an email to connection@namisacramento.org. Chair Sheley reminded MHB members to respond to the Doodle poll that they were emailed, regarding their availability for a Special MHB meeting next week regarding input to BHS regarding Assisted Outpatient Treatment.
<p>VI. Mental Health Board Action Item – 2020 Report on Performance of the Sacramento County Mental Health System</p>	<p>MHB members approved the 2020 Report on Performance of the Sacramento County Mental Health System (see handout #9), as amended at the February 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community member highlighted the unspent MHSA funds that Sacramento County has had the last few years, after recovery from the recession. <p>Ms. Bemis moved to approve the amended report and Ms. Arneill seconded the motion. Ms. Theresa Riviera abstained. Motion carried.</p>
<p>VII. Mental Health Board Discussion/Action Item – Recommendations to the Board of</p>	<p>MHB members reviewed and approved recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding coordination between the County of Sacramento and local cities to improve services for the unhoused</p>

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<p>Supervisors Regarding Homelessness</p>	<p>community, including opening warming and cooling shelters without the use of weather-based criteria.</p> <p>Ms. Padilla-Castro summarized the letter (see handout #10a) and highlighted the severity of the homeless crisis in Sacramento County, specifically individuals experiencing homelessness who have died due to weather issues while being unhoused. Recommendations included in the letter were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento coordinate their services for their underserved and vulnerable population of our un-housed and homeless community who are our neighbors.” • “The County of Sacramento change the weather criteria and move to year round shelter to include warming and cooling centers that are open 12/1 through 3/31 and 06/01 through 09/01.” <p>Ms. Riviera highlighted the need for coordination between the City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento on these issues.</p> <p>Ms. Bemis suggested adding a clause allowing warming and cooling centers to go beyond the stated dates during times of inclement weather.</p> <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member affirmed support for the letter and stated the importance of having shelters beyond just warming and cooling centers, as well as an audit of the housing money that has been put into this system. • Community member affirmed support for the letter and suggested the inclusion of cleaner air centers as needed due to wildfires, as well as inclusion of other cities in the County besides Sacramento. Ms. Riviera asked that the minutes reflect her agreement with these suggestions. • Community member discussed an increase in homelessness in unincorporated areas of Sacramento County and agreed with the suggestion above to include these areas. • Community member agreed with suggestions above regarding the inclusion of all cities in Sacramento County as well as unincorporated areas. <p>MHB members agreed to include the changes as suggested above.</p> <p>Ms. Padilla-Castro moved to approve the letter as amended and Ms. Riviera seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>
<p>VIII. Mental Health Board Discussion/Action Item – Augmentation of Mental Health Board Duties and Related Board Membership Needs</p>	<p>In their role as a community advisory board for Behavioral Health Services’ Alternative 911 Mental Health Response Program, the MHB reviewed the recommendations they made to the Board of Supervisors last year (see handout #10b). MHB members provided input on this topic moving forward as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bemis asked if this would involve an MHB subcommittee, and Ms. Sheley stated that this would be a possibility if the MHB chooses to have one. • Ms. Arneill highlighted the extensive community feedback received from over 500 individuals, as well as substantial agreement between what was included in the program and

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	<p>what the community proposed. Ms. Arneill outlined the MHB's role in advising BHS and the Board of Supervisors on this item, including feedback received at the current meeting. Ms. Arneill highlighted the ability of the MHB to create a subcommittee to address this item, as well as the efforts that this would entail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Riviera advocated for more MHB member involvement in the decision making process, before mental health related items go before the Board of Supervisors. • Ms. Bemis agreed with Ms. Riviera on the desire for more MHB member involvement, and advocated for the use of proper procedures in making these decisions. • Mr. Brad Lueth highlighted the early stage at which the development of this program is in, and advocated for MHB involvement moving forward. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member stated the importance of including members of the public, the MHB, and the MHSA Steering Committee in the development of this program. • Community member advocated for inclusion of diverse community members in the development of this program, as well as expanded hours of operation. • Community member advocated for 24/7 expanded hours of operation for this program, since mental health crises can occur at any time. • Community member advocated for the inclusion of peer specialists in this program, in addition to mental health clinicians. Community member also advocated for the money from this program to come from the Sheriff's department. • Community member advocated for community partner involvement in the program development process, and to be intentional and have the process be ongoing. • Community member advocated for more MHB inclusion in the decision making process regarding the development of this program, including but not limited to program design and funding. Ms. Riviera expressed support for this community member's concerns. <p>Dr. Quist summarized the chronology and development of the Alternative to 911 Response proposal. In Autumn of last year, the Board of Supervisors gave BHS 45 days to return with a proposal on this topic. Community listening sessions were held accordingly, with feedback from over 500 members of the public. A resulting staffing plan was prepared as a pilot project, with \$1.5 million as the initial proposed amount. However, community members advocated for the inclusion of items which required more funding, such as 24/7 program support. A tentative start date of July 1st was chosen to allow for more community feedback. BHS will be discussing this item with the Board of Supervisors again later this month, with additional feedback as submitted from the community as well as the MHB.</p> <p>MHB members discussed the possibility of creating a subcommittee to make recommendations to the MHB on this issue. Ms. Arneill, Ms. Padilla-Castro, and Mr. Lueth were chosen to make up the subcommittee and will coordinate a time to meet. The goal of the subcommittee will be to create recommendations prior to the April Board of Supervisors meeting.</p>

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<p>IX. Division of Behavioral Health Services</p>	<p>Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director, provided a written report on the status of BHS. He also provided verbal updates and answered questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacramento County job classifications have been created for the Peer classification series, which means the exam process can move forward. BHS does not currently have any Peer positions created, but intends to do so in the near future. The current exam process will result in a list of eligible applicants, which will be used to hire for these positions once they are created (see handouts #17 and #18). • On March 15th and 16th, community listening sessions are scheduled on the topic of Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Dr. Quist distributed a flyer for this event in the Zoom chat, and the flyer will be kept on file with meeting materials. • Ms. Padilla-Castro asked about how rural community members and community members without internet such as the unhoused are reached with vaccine information. Dr. Quist clarified that he would coordinate with Public Health to find out more information on how these populations are being reached.
<p>X. Public Comment</p>	<p>Public Comment 1: Community member advocated for enhanced community stakehold involvement in County processes, and expressed concern about the payscale of the new Peer classifications. Community member asked about the chat function on Zoom being unavailable. Chair Sheley clarified that the chat function is turned off during the meeting to allow for fairness in community members being able to provide public comments during the designated times.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: Community member advocated for stipends for Alternatives to 911 Response committee members.</p> <p>Public Comment 3: Community member reiterated concerns about the payscale of the new Peer classifications being lower than the Mental Health Worker classification, and advocated for the amounts to be raised. This community member also advocated for transparency regarding the funding stream for the Alternatives to 911 Response program.</p>
<p>XI. Adjournment</p>	<p>Chair Sheley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.</p>