

**Sacramento County
Mental Health Board (MHB) General Meeting Minutes
December 15, 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>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Bradley Lueth	Present <u>Absent</u>
Silvia Rodriguez, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Corrine McIntosh Sako	<u>Present</u> Absent
Laura Bemis, <i>Secretary</i>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Jasmine Morales	<u>Present</u> Absent
Ann Arneill	<u>Present</u> Absent	Lourdes Santana-Sanchez	<u>Present</u> Absent
William Cho	Present <u>Absent</u>	Maria Padilla-Castro	<u>Present</u> Absent
Ryan Gallant	<u>Present</u> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<u>Present</u> Absent
Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	<u>Present</u> Absent	Paul Wagstaffe	<u>Present</u> Absent
County Staff to MHB			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Jason Richards	<u>Present</u> Absent	Janice Snyder and Rob Parrish	<u>Present</u> Absent

Agenda Item	Discussion
I. Welcome and Introductions	Chair Loran Sheley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and introductions were made. Chair Sheley introduced the topics for this meeting, and expressed appreciation for community feedback at MHB meetings.
II. Comfort Agreement	Ms. Laura Bemis read the MHB Comfort Agreement.
III. Mental Health Board Discussion and Action Item Review and Approve Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding Wellness Crisis Call Center and Response (WCCCR, formerly Alternatives to 911) Advisory Committee	Members of the MHB WCCCR Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Workgroup discussed their recommendations (Handout #2). A summary of these recommendations may also be found on pages 3-5 of Handout #3, as summarized below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A subcommittee of the MHB would be the advisory body for the WCCCR program, with all committee members, including community members, having voting privileges. • The role of this committee would be to make program recommendations and review outcomes regarding the WCCCR program. • Committee membership would be representative of key demographic groups identified as critical during stakeholder feedback sessions. • The committee would be included in the planning of any external evaluation of the WCCCR program. • As a subcommittee of the MHB, committee actions and recommendations would go to the full MHB for review and approval before moving forward.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation that BHS would add staff capacity to support the committee and its work, beyond the existing staff that currently support the MHB, due to the anticipation of increased community interest and associated workload. • The committee would have access to data and information to monitor implementation and outcomes of the WCCCR program. • Committee meetings would be held during evening hours, options for remote meeting participation would be included, and funding for travel/childcare would be provided if in-person meetings are resumed. • Committee members would be provided with a stipend or other compensation for their participation on the advisory committee. • Committee members would be provided with training on relevant topics (e.g., communication, trauma-informed practices, Brown Act, County systems, implicit bias). • Enhanced processes for information sharing about the WCCCR program. <p>MHB members provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro asked for clarification regarding non-MHB members' voting rights on the committee. Chair Sheley clarified that committee recommendations would need to be approved by the full MHB in order to move forward. • Dr. Corrine McIntosh Sako clarified that the ad hoc workgroup vetted these recommendations and consulted legal counsel before bringing them to the MHB for approval. Dr. McIntosh Sako emphasized that the recommendations were heavily based on community feedback and include an overrepresentation of individuals disproportionately affected by behavioral health issues in the community. • Chair Sheley highlighted the recommendation that diverse community members (e.g., race, age, lived experience with mental illness and/or substance use, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, other forms of diversity) be included on the committee. Highlighted exclusion criteria included stakeholder feedback recommending that individuals involved in law enforcement or criminal justice not be on the committee. • Mr. Ryan Gallant expressed concerns about unelected individuals appointing members and voting on the committee, prospective members being as young as 14, and individuals involved in law enforcement being excluded from the committee. • Mr. Gallant clarified that he serves as a consumer member on the MHB, has lived experience of these issues, and values the democratic process. Mr. Gallant advocated against the exclusion of law enforcement officers and reminded members that a County Supervisor is a former law enforcement officer. • Dr. McIntosh Sako advocated for the inclusion of differing perspectives in the decision making process, and the importance of alignment of MHB members with the MHB's values and mission. Dr. McIntosh Sako emphasized the importance of serving community members who have been disproportionately affected by these issues, and urged MHB members to vote in support of the recommendations. • Dr. Ann Arneill thanked Dr. McIntosh Sako for her support for marginalized community members and her advocacy for the recommendations. Dr. Arneill advocated for the

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	<p>appropriateness of inclusion of youth members and exclusion of law enforcement members on the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jasmine Morales expressed appreciation for community member voices and support for the recommendations. • Ms. Padilla-Castro discussed her background and lived experience as a social worker, and advocated for the inclusion of diverse community members including law enforcement, stating that otherwise it would not be true inclusion. Ms. Padilla-Castro advocated for representation of the Latino/Latina/Latinx community, who are also disproportionately affected by these issues. • Ms. Silvia Rodriguez highlighted the thought, research, and consideration of community voices that went into the recommendations. Ms. Rodriguez expressed support for Dr. Arneill's advocacy for the inclusion of community youth. Ms. Rodriguez advocated for MHB members to not allow one issue, the exclusion of law enforcement, to cause them to vote no on the recommendations. • Mr. Paul Wagstaffe agreed with a community member's advocacy for the inclusion of individuals disproportionately affected by these issues. Mr. Wagstaffe affirmed that everyone in the community deserves a voice, including law enforcement members on a case by case basis who might be able to provide important feedback for the committee. • Ms. Theresa Riviera asked Mr. Wagstaffe about the possibility of rewording the exclusion of law enforcement in the recommendations. Mr. Wagstaffe stated that he would prefer to remove this item, with the preference that potential members be vetted during the application process on a case by case basis. • Ms. Laura Bemis expressed appreciation for the opinions of the MHB members who would like to remove the provision excluding law enforcement members, but advocated for inclusion of the provision based on the feedback of community members. • Dr. McIntosh Sako expressed that law enforcement and those impacted adversely by law enforcement do not have equal needs, and reminded MHB members that language which dismisses community members' experiences can be traumatizing. Dr. McIntosh Sako reminded MHB members that a goal of the WCCCR program is to reduce law enforcement involvement in behavioral health issues and increase behavioral health support for community members who need it. • Ms. Padilla-Castro expressed the importance of including all stakeholders and hearing all voices in order to heal people most effectively, and that alienating law enforcement who are already working with individuals with behavioral health needs would work against that purpose. • Ms. Rodriguez discussed research regarding members of law enforcement wanting to be involved in behavioral health related solutions, but affirmed that community members need a forum to discuss these issues whereas law enforcement already has a forum for those discussions. Ms. Rodriguez asked that MHB members vote in favor of the recommendations accordingly. • Ms. Morales expressed appreciation community member feedback and advocated for adoption of the recommendations accordingly.

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	<p>Ms. Arneill moved that the law enforcement member exclusion criteria in the recommendations be adopted as written. Dr. McIntosh Sako seconded the motion. Public comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member advocated for the adoption of the exclusion language as written and stated that law enforcement changes people due to being in an institution with origins and culture rooted against minorities. • Community member advocated for the adoption of the exclusion language against law enforcement as written, as well as renaming the WCCCR program. • Community member expressed frustration with some MHB members' advocacy for inclusion of law enforcement on the committee. • Community member stated that law enforcement already have a forum for having these conversations and are not trained to heal. • Community member affirmed the feedback of community members and MHB members in support of this motion, and discussed the retraumatization of community members who shared their experiences. • Community member discussed the historical exclusion of African American and Black Community members in the decision making process, the expertise that affected community members have in their own experience, stated that if well-meaning law enforcement officers exist they would stop the bad ones, and recited the names of several individuals who would be alive if not for the actions of law enforcement. • Community member called the MHB's attention to the fact that there were no law enforcement individuals at this meeting to give their feedback, and therefore they must not care enough to have this conversation. This community member expressed that there is nothing that law enforcement can provide for these issues that behavioral health professionals cannot provide for the community. • Community member stated that society has internalized the favoring of law enforcement, when they have a long history of abusing power and killing people. This community member stated that having an law enforcement individual on the committee would exclude others. • Community member stated this this committee would not be as effective with law enforcement as members. • Community member expressed support for this motion, and to let the community decide how they want behavioral health responses to happen rather than law enforcement. • Community member expressed the importance of listening to community members, regardless of the language they choose in delivering their comments. This community member stated that the exclusion of law enforcement involvement should mean any involvement, including family members and friends of law enforcement. <p>MHB member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor Kennedy expressed appreciation for community member and MHB member feedback, and stated that he would welcome community member feedback before the full Board of Supervisors before making a decision on this issue. Supervisor Kennedy abstained from this meeting's votes due to these considerations.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wagstaffe and Dr. McIntosh Sako discussed and clarified that existing law enforcement programs, including the existing teaming model with behavioral health, would still exist. The WCCCR program would be provide an additional type of response and resource for the community. <p>Motion carried. Votes were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Ms. Riviera, Ms. Morales, Ms. Rodriguez, Dr. Arneill, Ms. Bemis, Ms. Santana Sanchez, Ms. Sheley, Dr. McIntosh Sako • No: Mr. Gallant • Abstain: Supervisor Kennedy, Mr. Wagstaffe <p>Dr. Arneill moved to approve the WCCCR committee's recommendations. Ms. Riviera seconded the motion. Chair Sheley opened the floor for public comment. No public comments or MHB member comments were made at this time.</p> <p>Motion carried. Votes were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Ms. Riviera, Ms. Morales, Ms. Rodriguez, Dr. Arneill, Ms. Bemis, Ms. Santana Sanchez, Ms. Sheley, Dr. McIntosh Sako, Mr. Wagstaffe • No: Mr. Gallant • Abstain: Supervisor Kennedy <p>Dr. McIntosh Sako moved to approve the following MHB bylaw changes and Mr. Wagstaffe seconded the motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the Mental Health Board as the parent body to the County's Behavioral Health Wellness Crisis Call Center and Response Program Advisory Committee • Specify the WCCCR advisory committee under Article VIII – Committees <p>Public Comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member stated that the MHB member who voted no in support of the above motions was supporting law enforcement by doing so. <p>MHB comments were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Riviera moved to include a friendly amendment to emphasize cultural diversity in Article VIII of the bylaws. The moving parties agreed to include this amendment. • Mr. Wagstaffe moved to include a friendly amendment, stating that the WCCCR advisory committee would submit their recommendations to the MHB, for submission to the Board of Supervisors. The moving parties agreed to include this amendment. <p>Motion carried as amended. Votes were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Ms. Riviera, Ms. Morales, Ms. Rodriguez, Dr. Arneill, Ms. Bemis, Ms. Santana Sanchez, Ms. Sheley, Dr. McIntosh Sako, Mr. Wagstaffe, Mr. Gallant, Supervisor Kennedy • No: None • Abstain: None
<p>Public Comments for Item III Overall</p> <p>(Public Comments for specific votes are included in the</p>	<p>Public Comment 1: Community member asked for clarification about written public comment inclusion in the record. Dr. Jason Richards confirmed that written public comments are sent to MHB members and included in the record.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: Community member advocated for the over-inclusion of community members who are disproportionately affected by behavioral health issues. Community member also advocated for</p>

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<p>associated sections above)</p>	<p>renaming the WCCCR program, and provided alternative names to MHB members via written public comment (included in the record).</p> <p>Public Comment 3: Community member advocated for the inclusion of community stakeholders with lived experience of mental illness, and emphasized that this committee should not be a democratic process because law enforcement isn't either.</p> <p>Public Comment 4: Community member expressed support for the recommendations of the ad hoc workgroup, as informed by community feedback. Community member also advocated for an overrepresentation of African American and Black Community members, as well as the exclusion of law enforcement members.</p> <p>Public Comment 5: Community member expressed agreement with Public Comment 4, advocating for the overinclusion of African American and Black Community members, as well as the exclusion of law enforcement members.</p> <p>Public Comment 6: Community member advocated for the inclusion of family members who have lost loved ones to law enforcement action, as well as the exclusion of law enforcement members.</p> <p>Public Comment 7: Community member advocated for an overrepresentation of community members with lived experience as well as members of the African American and Black Community.</p> <p>Public Comment 8: Community member advocated against having a democratic process, because law enforcement have not given affected community members a democratic process.</p> <p>Public Comment 9: Community member advocated for the importance of community voices and feedback.</p> <p>Public Comment 10: Community member advocated for the exclusion of individuals related to law enforcement from the committee. This community member advocated for the inclusion of local community feedback.</p> <p>Public Comment 11: Community member thanked MHB members for their hard work on the recommendations, and advocated for the inclusion of youth members on the committee. This community member advocated for assistance being made available for committee applicants in filling out the application.</p> <p>Public Comment 12: Community member advocated for the overinclusion of African American and Black Community members, youth members, and members with lived experience on the committee. This community member also advocated for the exclusion of law enforcement members. This community member asked if law enforcement is involved with the MHB or the WCCCR committee. Chair Sheley clarified that there is nothing precluding law enforcement from serving on the MHB or its committees, but the proposed recommendation is that law enforcement should be excluded.</p> <p>Public Comment 13: Community member advocated for the inclusion of community members with lived experience of behavioral health issues on the committee.</p>

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IV. Adjournment	Chair Sheley adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.