

# Sacramento County Mental Health Board

**Sacramento County  
Mental Health Board (MHB) Special Meeting Minutes**  
April 5, 2023

**Meeting Location**  
**700 H Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

Attendance			
MHB Members			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Corrine McIntosh Sako, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Paul Wagstaffe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Evan Minton	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
William Cho, <i>Secretary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Maria Padilla-Castro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Matthew Gallagher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ryan Gallant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Patricia Wentzel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent		
County Staff to MHB			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Jason Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Rob Parrish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent

<b>Agenda Item</b>
<p><b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>                      Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum                      Acknowledge MHB Conduct Agreement</p> <p>Chair Corrine McIntosh Sako called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. A quorum was declared, introductions were made, and the conduct agreement was acknowledged.</p>
<p><b>II. Discussion/Action Item:</b> Review and Approve Recommendations to the BHS Director and the Board of Supervisors to Address Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis</p> <p>Chair McIntosh Sako provided an overview of the ongoing behavioral health workforce crisis (Handout #3). Recommendations included increasing the hourly rate at which BHS Mental Health Counselors and Senior Mental Health Counselors are compensated, as well as providing flexible work schedules (Handout #2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ryan Gallant agreed that the behavioral health workforce crisis is an important issue, and expressed support for the recommendations in principle.</li> <li>• Ms. Patricia Wentzel advocated for student loan forgiveness programs as an additional recruitment incentive. Ms. Andrea Crook and Dr. Ryan Quist outlined current student loan initiatives.</li> <li>• Mr. William Cho asked if the current County budget could accommodate these recommendations, and whether there is a political will to put them into place. Chair McIntosh Sako clarified that questions regarding budget feasibility and political will are beyond the scope of the recommendations as written.</li> </ul>

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- Ms. Theresa Riviera highlighted the enhanced need for behavioral health professionals who speak other languages, and advocated for recruitment of professionals to serve non-English speaking community members.
- Ms. Padilla-Castro highlighted the importance of working within the context of the County budget, in agreement with Mr. Cho. Ms Padilla-Castro also advocated for working with existing labor unions in recruitment efforts.
- County Counsel Rob Parrish clarified that these recommendations do fall within the MHB's scope. If the recommendations are passed, it would be up to the Board of Supervisors to decide where to direct resources.
- Mr. Paul Wagstaffe expressed support for the recommendations, as a benchmark for the Board of Supervisors to aim for even if current budget realities were to limit feasibility at this time.
- Mr. Matthew Gallagher advocated for consideration of non-clinical staff in these recommendations, in addition to clinical staff.
- County Counsel provided an overview of the County budget process.
- Mr. Cho urged members to consider time limitations in consideration of County budget and labor negotiation processes.
- Mr. Gallant recommended adding these recommendations to the MHB Annual Report, and to take the necessary time to consider these recommendations thoroughly.

Mr. Ryan Gallant moved to table the discussion for continuation at a future meeting and Ms. Theresa Riviera seconded the motion. (All members voted Aye.) Motion carried.

### III. Adjournment

Chair McIntosh Sako adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.