

Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2020, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

REVISED: December 9, 2020 (FK)-See Revision Page

Meeting Location

Zoom Meeting (Open to the Public)

Moderator:

Farla Kaufman

Scribe:

Theresa Vinson

Board Attendees:

Steve Heath, Farla Kaufman, Barbara Law, Steven Orkand, Sonal Patel, Jeff Rabinovitz, Tina Slee, Phil Summers, Annie Tat

Board Members Excused:

Attendance Optional for Special Meeting

Board Members Absent:

Paula Green, Jack Zwald, Emanuel Petrisor, Olivia Kasirye, Sandy Damiano, Jofil Borja, Jennifer Anderson,

Guests:

Liz Blum, Christina Bourne, Bruce Wagstaff, Kenyan Bliss, Robyn

Meeting Opened:

12:03 PM

Review of Minutes:

This is a one topic Special Meeting called by Farla Kaufman

Vacancies and Appointments: N/A

Announcements: N/A

Division of Public Health Update N/A

**Division of Primary Health and
Correctional Health Update** N/A

INTRODUCTION (Dr. Kaufman)

This special meeting rationale is to respond quickly to what is going on and especially what comes before the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Dr. Summers drafted a letter for PHAB, and Dr. Kaufman felt this is pertinent to respond to, if PHAB so chooses.

The draft letter was posted on PHABs county website, emailed to the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) and was shared at this virtual meeting via zoom screen share.

PURPOSE (Dr. Summers)

Non Law Enforcement (LE) based crisis response and police accountability is being called into question in our community and in the entire country. In addition, response to quality of life violations, such as police being called upon homeless people or people living outdoors, and how those responses are sometimes the only responses the community feel they have access to, but does not meet the needs. As the public health advisory board to the Sacramento County BOS, we need to weigh-in and think about statistics, some of which are in this letter regarding rate of violence experienced by those in mental health crisis when they interface with LE, and think about more compassionate and humane ways in which to respond to meet their needs and ensure public safety. The letter was drafted in response to ongoing discussions at the County level which have involved the Sheriff's office, and included responses to the Sheriff's Crisis Response Team (SCRT) which may be currently understaffed, and not comprehensively addressing these needs, and also responding with LE.

Elsewhere in the country there are programs, such as the Support Team Assisted Response (STAR), in Denver, Colorado as well as the Critical Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (COHOOTS) program in Eugene, Oregon. There are several other communities experimenting with other models to employ Social Worker Peer Navigators, Emergency Medical Technician (EMTs) and others who can respond to mental health crises that do not involve LE.

In Sacramento Mental Health First (MHF) has been doing this work for over a year now, but has been temporarily

interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. They are a dedicated team of peers (people who have experienced a mental health crisis), healthcare workers and others who are dedicated to creating the change in responding to people who are in mental health crisis. Leaning on the Sheriff's Department may not be the best way to go. There are other sources of community expertise, and a lot more social capital that can be leveraged to create a more cost effective and generally effective response system.

BACKGROUND (Bruce Wagstaff)

Sacramento has a very extensive project underway that stems from the BOS budget hearings in September, and more specifically, Supervisor Kennedy's proposal to pursue an effort like this, and that effort is moving forward. A status report was given to the BOS recently, feedback was that was interesting because there was a long series of calls afterward. There are costs associated, and those costs are under review. It has been suggested that when people have a mental health crisis they do not want to call or deal with police, understandably. COHOOTS does utilize a non-emergency law enforcement line that is instructive. Denver set up a separate line, but the Sacramento community, and the BOS is interested in talking about having a separate line. To clarify, and in an effort to look into this, the DRAFT letter from PHAB states MHF was named as a leader, but for research purposes please clarify who established them as a leader so that follow-up on that information can take place; the letter is needed. Dr. Ryan Quist is familiar with MHF and, they have been mentioned in discussions. The BOS was advised of dates for next steps in hopes of returning to them in Feb 2021 with an update regarding planning efforts. COHOOTS integrates into their regular call-in system. PHAB will be kept informed of the efforts in this County.

Mental Health First (Dr. Bourne)

The letter includes a comprehensive summary of MHF. MHF does not rely on LE such as COHOOTS. It is important to not have LE and sheriff's deputies involved with people experiencing a mental health crisis. It is important they are met by a peer who is responding, and can meet them on the same level. MHF is in Sacramento so there is no need to build a system because it is already here. MHF is open and staffed for business Fri/Sat/Sun 7pm-7am, these are the times that have the least wraparound resources available. MHF responds anywhere drivable within the Sacramento region, and is not County specific. MHF is also reachable on Instagram (IG) Facebook (FB) and Twitter. There is an active phone line, and call related logs/statistics are kept.

The Primary Details section of letter was read aloud (Farla Kaufman), please see DRAFT Letter November 13, 2020, Special Meeting, Attachment 1 at:

<https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/BC-PHAB-Meetings-2020.aspx>

Action: **Motion made to vote on sending the letter to the BOS, seconded, carried. REVISION See voting information below provided by Farla Kaufman via email on 12/9/2020.**

00:55:14 Annie Tat: aye
00:55:17 Farla Kaufman: aye
00:55:17 Steven Orkand: Aye for the letter
00:55:19 Phil Summers: aye!
00:55:27 Steve Heath: Sorry, not comfortable as written. No
00:56:05 Sonal Patel: aye
00:56:29 Jeff Rabinovitz: aye
00:57:55 Barbie Law: no, I think we need more information before moving forward a recommendation
00:58:45 Jeff Rabinovitz: FYI: "peer lead" should be "peer led"
00:59:24 Tina Slee: no. I am getting hung up on item two. Do we know if this model should be predominately peer based? Why not peer balanced but working with our existing infrastructure

Public Comment – there was none.
Adjourned