

Behavioral Health Board Minutes
San Luis Obispo County
September 20, 2023
3:00p.m.

Members Present:

Barbara Levenson
Dr. Dana Hunt
Amber Gallagher
Mary Bianchi
Rose Fowler Plummer

Health Agency Staff Present:

Christy Haney
Dr. Star Graber
Morgan Torell

Members Absent:

Joseph Kurtzman
Chris Emert
Melissa Cummins
Sheriff Parkinson
Chief Robert Reyes
Supervisor Paulding
Donna Klein
Hugo Balcazar
Leslie Brown
Hugo Balcazar

Guests:

Dr. Seth Stabinsky
Devon McClellan
Dr. Seleste Browsers
Jon Nibbio

- 1. Barbara Levenson called meeting to order @ 3:05pm**
- 2. Introductions and Announcements:**
 - Round table introductions.
- 3. Public Comments:**
 - Mary Bianchi: The Child Advocacy Center has been making progress over the past few years but is still in development. This is between law enforcement, social services, and the community and district attorney's office to create a situation that supports a child who has been abused. This has been an effort to ease the process for the child and family. Mary is the advocate on the board for the family advocates. The Center for Family Strengthening has been working hard to keep it funded.
- 4. Approval on Minutes:** Did not meet quorum, will vote at the next meeting.

5. Ongoing Business:

- Vote on New Member: Devon McClellan, Tri Counties Regional Center representative, has applied for membership and has met all requirements.
 - M/S/C Mary Bianchi and Rose Fowler Plummer – unanimously approved to move forward to the Board of Supervisors meeting on October 31, 2023
- Interest Groups for MHSA Report Signup Sheet: A memo was sent to members for division of the MHSA annual report that will be received in October. We will be voting at the November 15, 2023, meeting. There will be a discussion amongst members before the vote. Please email Christy at chaney@co.slo.ca.us with your selections. Once interest groups have been established, Christy will be emailing those of the same section selections to connect.
- Broadcasting: County Counsel recommended moving forward with all Behavioral Health Board meetings in person. Zoom will no longer be an option for attendance. Those who would like to submit a public comment but are unable to attend the meeting can email Christy at chaney@co.slo.ca.us.

6. New Business:

- 2024 AdHoc Site Visits: A sign up sheet was passed around for future site visits. These site visits included Martha's Place, SAFE, and Family Care Network. Dates are tentative. Teams are typically of three and members can sign up for more than one.

7. Membership Committee - Update:

- New Member Proposed: Amanda Sherlock has applied for membership and has met all requirements. We will be voting at the October 18, 2023, meeting to forward to the BOS.
- CenCal is in the process of hiring for their community and integration position. They will be appointed as the CenCal representative on the Behavioral Health Board. We should expect to have this role filled by January.

8. Committee Representatives- Update:

- The QST, quality support team, meeting took place on September 14, 2023. A few events will be held in October on the topic of harm reduction education regarding curbing the impact of opioid use in the community. The first is October 17 at the San Luis Obispo library. The second is October 27 at the Paso Centennial Event Center. They reported on the use of Narcan in expected overdose. In 2021, 316 units of Narcan were offered per month with 30 reversals reported. In 2022-23 there were 685 units offered per month with 56 reversals. Fentanyl represents 60-75% of overdose with about one third of them accidental. San Luis Obispo clinic has proposed to adopt a program, Contingency Management, where gift cards are offered twice a week to participants with a clean urine drug test. There are requirements that need to be met in order to participate in this program. The contingency program has not started yet and is a pilot program under MediCal. We are one of 20 counties participating. We are anticipating starting in the next few months.

- MHET Site Visit: Rose, Mary, and Melissa met with the MHET, Mental Health Evaluation Team, on June 30, 2023. It is a mobile service countywide that covers all ages. It is an assessment process while clients are in crisis intervention. Their monthly averages are 150-175 calls a month. Their strengths are the collaborative design of the program with clear expectations and dedication to the resolution of crisis. A major goal of the team is to increase the design and use of safety plans by clientele and decrease the number of holds initiated that result in Emergency Room visits. Limitations to the program include lack of availability of staff, due in part to low salaries, making it difficult for the program to compete for the limited number of local clinicians and social workers. Transportation has been another limitation. Additionally, staff noted the lack of services for children in the county as a significant limitation. One recommendation is that MHET staff be present at the hospitals during the transition period to facilitate the process and make connections with placement personnel. Another recommendation is to explore increased services for children including placement within the county, as well as outreach during the summer, when students are out of school and often lack access to trusted adults.

9. Administrator's Report

- As of now there are only 5150, 72-hour hold, and 5250, 14-day, holds. The state has developed an option for a 5270 hold. This would be an additional 30-day hold on top of the 5150 and 5250. This would allow more time for complex cases. The Behavioral Health Department has decided to make this a priority. This option will need to be approved by the BOS, anticipated to be October 17.
- There has been discussion about a crisis continuum facility for youth in north county.
- The EmPATH unit at Twin Cities in Templeton should be fully functional in about 2 years. This will be a 12-bed facility.

10. Presentation: Morgan Torell – Mobile Crisis

- County behavioral health across the state are required to implement a community based mobile behavioral health crisis service by December 31, 2023. We are funded by clients who are MediCal eligible but the service will also be available for non-MediCal clients. These will be two-person teams available 24/7. The goal is to reduce law enforcement callouts, emergency department visits, admissions to inpatient facilities, and resolving the immediate risk of danger.
- The Health Agency is working on finding alternate destinations. They are working with CenCal to develop a 10-bed sobering center on the health campus in San Luis Obispo. This should be up and running in the spring of 2024. The EmPATH unit at Twin Cities will be another option as well.

11. Adjourn at 4:54pm