

Behavioral Health Board Minutes
San Luis Obispo County
February 21, 2024
3:00pm

Members Present	Members Absent
Barbara Levenson	Melissa Cummins
Mary Bianchi	Joseph Kurtzman
Hugo Castaneda	Leslie Brown
Chris Emert	Ian Parkinson
Rose Fowler- Plummer	Sup. Jimmy Paulding
Laurie Thomas-Hicks (for Amber Gallagher)	Amber Gallagher
Devon McClellan	Guests
Amanda Sherlock	Jon Nibbio
Dana Ready-Hunt	Lupe Crawford
Jeremiah Malzhan (for Robert Reyes)	Barry Johnson
Health Agency Staff Present	Mike Bossenberry
Star Graber	
Frank Warren	
Morgan Torell	
Christina Rajlal	
Landon King	
Allie Metcalf	

1. **Barbara Levenson called meeting to order @ 3:07pm**

2. **Introductions and Announcements:**
 - Round table introductions.

3. **Public Comments:**
 - Jill Bolster White wanted to draw attention to TMHA’s 40th Annual Strike Out Stigma Bowl-A-Thon. Time is running out to secure a lane. You can join or create a team to bowl at different places in the county throughout the month of March. You can also donate to support an existing team.
 - Jill Bolster White also wanted to let everyone know about the Opening Minds Art Show taking place in May in support of Mental Health Awareness Month at the Bunker. You can apply to have your art, story or performance included in the event. Applications are due by March 29th.
 - Barry Johnson let everyone know about TMHA’s 40th anniversary celebration happening on April 20th. More information to come but it is going to be an all-day event with bands and farm tours.
 - Chris Emhert informed the board of a State Mental Health Services Act grant from Cal

Vet that County Veterans Services was awarded. The award is \$200,000 over two fiscal years (\$100,000 per year) to go towards mental health outreach. They will be partnering with nine veterans' organizations in the county to help with outreach numbers.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from January 17, 2024 M/S/C: Mary Bianchi/Chris Emert Abstain: 1

5. **Ongoing Business:**

- January site visit: Family Care Network- Devon and Amber visited Family Care Network Inc. on 1/29/24 and will report out next meeting in March
- Reminder next site visit: SAFE (Services Affirming Family Empowerment) April- Hugo and Barbara
- Cal BHBC Training/Quarterly meeting was January 19th & 20th. Hugo Castaneda attended and reported out. Hugo mentioned it was very informative specifically around how the BHB functions, the Brown Act, and the responsibilities of the Board. There were many different panelists especially regarding criminal justice and how they work with County Behavioral Health. Hugo noted how well San Luis Obispo County was doing especially in collaboration with other departments in the county. He noticed many of the problems other counties faced, which we as a county did not have. Other highlights were the conversations around Zoom and how it is utilized in BHBs and the conversation around Prop 1.
- Annual Report Review- No Comments were made. Chair Barbara Levenson made a motion for the report to be approved and moved to the Board of Supervisors. M/S/C: Devon McClellan/ Amanda Sherlock. Barbara was recognized for her hard work on the report and making this deliverable possible.

6. **New Business:**

- Morgan Torell gave a presentation on the Bridge Housing Program Round 3: Strategic Enhancements. This round of the Bridge Housing Program is focused on expanding implementation of bridge housing to address immediate housing needs for people experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions. County of SLO can apply for up to \$5 million for operations and services and \$2 million for purchase and renovation of existing structures. There are a few different program options the county can go with. Some of the options consist of expanding existing programs, emergency/transitional housing, creating new bridge housing, etc. There is a need for input on what track the county should go on. There is a request for feedback on what the most urgent housing needs are, population focuses and other recommendations on program design. Applications are due April 10th, 2024. Feedback is wanted by the beginning of March. You can contact Morgan at mtorell@co.slo.ca.us (see PowerPoint for more details).
- Frank Warren and Christina Rajlal gave a presentation on MHSA/Proposition 1. A quick review of the Mental Health Services Act was given including the current projected three-year fiscal plan for the county and the five components of the program. The reform (Prop 1) was then explained. The five components will be replaced with three new buckets with a specific amount of money needed to go into those three buckets. The

impact this would have on San Luis Obispo County and the programs that are currently funded through the MHSA that would be at risk with this reform were presented (see PowerPoint for more details).

7. Membership Committee - Update:

- Have finalized version of recruitment flyers. Discussed that more consumers are needed on the Board. The members were asked to distribute this flyer and asked what format they want it in. The question came up wondering if someone who is contracted or employed by County Behavioral Health Department is allowed to serve on the board? They can sit on the board but cannot vote on anything financial. It was asked that this point would be added into the flyer.
- There are three Individual Board members' terms that are expiring in June 2024- Dana Ready Hunt, Leslie Brown and Donna Klein (Donna Klein has resigned from the board). The recommendation for re-appointment vote will happen in a few months if the board members wish to continue. There are other Board Positions that are agency designated and although they expire in June 2024, they do not need to have a vote for re-appointment.

8. Committee Representatives- Update:

- No QST Meeting
- MHSA Advisory Committee- two funding requests were voted on and approved:
 - One-million-dollar funding for continuation of the middle school comprehensive programming for two to three years using PEI funding.
 - A short-term full-time BHD position using one time MHSA funds to expand planning for outreach and medical engagements with unhoused individuals within the CAT and bridge housing team.

9. Administrator's Report

- The executive summary of the strategic plan was presented. The whole plan is a 5-year strategic plan. This executive report displays the 5 strategic goals and the tasks that are set for the first year. The whole plan will be finished and presented at the next meeting.
- External Quality Review (EQR) happened. It is for all counties behavioral health services. Will have the final report within 60 days and will present it either at the March or April Meeting.

10. Presentation: Topic of Greif and Support- Amanda Sherlock

- Amanda Sherlock presented the work she does with the Grief Recovery Method as a grief recovery specialist. There are many types of loss the method deals with, but this presentation was specifically on helping children with loss. The purpose of the helping children with loss program is to help guide children with their relationship to pain, isolation, and loneliness caused by significant emotional loss of any kind (see PowerPoint for more details).

Reminder: Next Month Presentation on Juvenile Hall Support Services- Robert Reyes & Team

11. Adjourn at 4:57pm

Next Behavioral Health Board Meeting March 20th, 2024 at 3:00pm