

**Behavioral Health Board Minutes**  
**San Luis Obispo County**  
**January 18, 2023**  
**3:00p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Barbara Levenson  
Pam Zweifel  
Marshall Hamilton  
Supervisor Ortiz-Legg  
Mary Bianchi  
Jessica Yates (for Sheriff Parkinson)  
Andres Pille (Cencal)  
Eulalia Apolinar  
Melissa Cummins  
Josh Pintor (Sheriff's office)  
Joseph Kurtzman  
Amber Gallagher  
Robert Reyes  
Dana Hunt

**Health Agency Staff Present:**

Anne Robin  
Laura Zarate  
Christy Haney

**Members Absent:**

Christy Nichols  
Rose Fowler Plummer  
Johnny Rodriguez

**Guests:**

Leslie Brown  
Chris Emert  
Donna Klein  
Hugo Balcazar  
Jon Nibbio  
Seth Stabinsky

- 1. Barbara Levenson called meeting to order @ 3:03 pm.**
- 2. Introductions and Announcements:**
  - Round table introductions.
- 3. Public Comments:**
  - Chris Emert: The VA just announced that starting 01/17/2023 any veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for treatment for free emergency healthcare. Legacy Village in Nipomo is the only VA approved in-resident treatment facility in the western coast and are looking for referrals. They will take them in before approval and start treatment. While treatment is taking place, they will work on the approval process.
    - What happens if they do not get approved? Unsure, will follow up.
    - Will this be widespread to get the word out? Unsure.
- 4. Approval on Minutes:** Minutes from November 16, 2022.  
M/S/C: Melissa Cummins/Pamela Zweifel Abstain: None

**5. Ongoing Business:**

- A. **Administrative Action:** VOTE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE UNTIL THE BHB'S NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, AS AUTHORIZED BY ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 361

Vote in favor of meeting by Zoom in February: Unanimous approval.

**6. New Business:**

- Bi-annual by-law review: The committee will be looking at the codes and by-laws biannually. Melissa Cummins and Pam Zweifel will be working on this. Any changes that will need to be made will need to go to the Board for ratification. Anne Robin or Christy Haney can help with clarifications on laws if needed.

**7. Membership Committee - Update:**

There were three candidates interviewed: Hugo Balcazar, Leslie Brown, and Donna Klein. Committee members will cast their final vote for these candidates during the February meeting. There is one more applicant that will be followed up with.

**8. Committee Representatives – Update:**

- AD HOC Committee Site Visit: Dana Hunt visited Youth site. She is waiting for her report to be reviewed, will be submitted before the next meeting. Only toured one facility, but it went well. Learned that they serve 13 school districts.
- Next site visit will be the jail. Melissa Cummins, Andres Pille and Joseph Kurtzman have volunteered. Josh Pintor will be the point of contact for scheduling this visit. Once the date has been decided, the date will be announced to the committee. Committee members will have a chance to volunteer at that time.
- List of site visit
  - Josh Pintor encouraged others to visit the jail, wants to give the opportunity to see the hard work that is being done. Could possibly schedule a second tour.
  - Mary Bianchi would like to interview the Mental Health evaluation team in the office.
  - Andres Pille recommended visiting Family Care Network, Martha's Place and Prevention and Outreach.

**9. Member Current Subject of Interest:**

- New Health Agency Executive Assistant, Christy Haney, was introduced.

**10. Administrator's Report**

- New laws taking effect:
  - AB 738- This bill would require at least one member of the board to be a veteran or veteran advocate in counties with a population of 100,000 or more.
  - Mental Health posters with resources will be required in schools.

- Foster Children Law- Has to do with who is paying for treatment. Protects Medi-Cal funding if a child needs to transfer to a different county for Mental Health needs.
- AB 1598- A microgram of fentanyl can lead to death and this law makes it legal to carry fentanyl testing strips. This was considered drug paraphernalia before. These strips are expensive, but we are hoping to have a stock of them. We can possibly get funding through the opioid settlement. Hoping to have these available for youth and for our general population involved in use.
- Going to be looking at having psychiatric advanced directives for those in psychiatric treatment. This is similar to wellness recovery action plans. This will make sure people have direction to where they are going to go for care, the kinds of treatment they would like done and various other things.
- SB 1338 CARE Court (Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment Court)- This has been approved and 7 counties in California will starting pilots later this year. Los Angeles County will be fast tracking it. There was a little bit of funding put in the governor's funding to support other counties. Those who need to be brought before a judge before other treatment can be recommended will be able to do so. Staffing is an issue, we need housing, and the courts are not ready. San Luis Obispo County may be starting in 2024.
- General acute hospitals will need to start doing urine drug screening for fentanyl as part of their usual assessments. This will be sure that they are being treated appropriately.
- SB 367- This law encourages school campuses to have naloxone, opioid reversal medication, and can be administered on school campuses.
- 2275 Process: Within the 72-hour hold, you are supposed to have someone taken to a designated facility for psychiatric treatment. That does not always happen for those who have private insurance, Covid-19, or children. The majority of Medi-Cal adults do make it to the PHF within the first 72-hours that the hold is written. This law has a process where the evaluation and legal hearing can be held at the emergency department for those who are going past the initial 72-hours and up to 7 days. This creates a legal process which requires the Patients' Rights Advocate or an attorney and hearing officer to hold a hearing at the emergency department. Emergency departments have promised to provide quiet areas, security, and access to the internet. After the initial 72-hour hold, the practice has been to do a second evaluation and write a second hold. This will take this away and just goes to a 7-day process. There has not been any funding approved for this process, but we may be able to get Prop-30 funding if it meets the criteria. In December, San Luis Obispo County developed a process of how it will work here for now without funding. Details are still being worked out, but this will provide more protection for individuals. If someone is in the emergency department after 14 days, then you start a conservatorship investigation.
- Still working with CenCal on enhanced care management.
- CCS (Community Care Supports)- Still in conversation with CenCal to develop a sobering center. In San Luis Obispo County we do have opioid settlement funds which could be used in part to support a sobering center.

- Strategic Plan RFP: We would like to have a strategic plan similar to the one that Social Services did for the homeless plan. This would be a detailed strategic plan with actions. Looking at strategies for us as we move through the next five years with all the changes to initiatives including CARE Court, ECM, community care supports, mobile crisis expansion, and peer supports in mental health and drug and alcohol.
- The Board has approved for us to go into negotiations with Crestwood to take over operations of the PHF. They operate 7 other facilities in the state with a great recovery attitude and treatment. Crestwood would still be serving those with Medi-Cal, we still do not get reimbursement for private pay. It has other impacts on other parts of our Health Agency system. It will probably not be a private insurance facility anytime soon. Health Agency is working with Human Resources and the Union on stay incentives for current PHF staff, this will be going to the Board on February 6, 2023.

**11. Presentation: Presentation Calendar – BHB wish list for 2023:**

- Please email any wish list ideas so that we can reach out to presenters.

**12. Adjourn at 4:44PM:** Pam Zweifel/ Mary Bianchi