

Minutes

Present: Micki Archuleta, Chair; Mary Ellis, Secretary; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Sally Ragonut; Keng Cha; Supervisor Lor; Vicki Humble; Vince Ramos; Paula Mason

Absent: Darrell Hall, Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf; Audrey Spangler

Others Present: Yvonnia Brown; Jacqui Coulter; Chris Kraushar; Liz Freitas; Mike Waite; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Secretary Mary Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Micki Archuleta.

Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: Sally Ragonut questioned the minutes. On page 2, at the bottom, she questioned the three items that were to be removed from Objective 4. She thought that one of the items had not been removed like the minutes stated. M/S/C (Ragonut / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the May 7, 2019 minutes depending on the outcome of the correct item being removed. *Follow-up – Carol Hulsizer, recorder of minutes, checked into the matter. Two items both started with the same verbiage and she verified that the correct item had been removed.* The May 7, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.

Discussion/Conclusion: Two members of the public were present today to seek help for their son. He discussed the issues they were having. The Assistant Director, Jacqui Coulter, who is in charge of clinical services, was present and she immediately followed up with them.

Recommendation/Action: None

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Development
- c. Nominating Committee
 - 1) Virginia Vega – District #1
 - 2) Alejandro Carrillo – District #2
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report Update
- f. Executive Committee
 - 1) Review Behavioral Health Board Committee (information only)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. No representative was present today. b. Supervisor Lor commented that they have not met yet. c.)1 & 2) Mary commented that she and Paula met with Virginia Vega. Paula continued that Virginia has a lot of community outreach skills. She has worked with Golden Valley Health Centers and First 5. Currently she works at Castle Family Health Center. They both thought that she would be a good fit for this Board. With regards to Alejandro, they had an appointment to meet with him and just prior to the meeting time he canceled. Mary called and left a message for him to contact either herself, Paula or Carol; they have not heard back from him since. d. Copies of the May 28, 2019 Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) meeting had been passed out. Mary stated that she hopes this information is helpful to everyone. The purpose of the QIC is so that others will know that they provide updates on the programs and services that are available to the clients. It was a very good meeting. Everyone is on their own to read her April and May reports. e. Micki commented that they met and are still working on the report. Sally continued that three of them met on May 23rd and 30th and will be meeting on June 6th. They will send the summaries to Supervisor Lor. They plan on leaving out some of the information that was contained in the previous report so that it will be a little smaller. They will continue working on it until it is complete. f. In this month's packet there was a summary of who is on each committee. Yvonnia stated that at the last meeting there was a little confusion as to who was on which committee. This month's attachment was just to help clarify this. Sally commented that these committees need to be updated because there are two people listed who are not on the Board anymore.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Ragonut / Mojica de Tatum) to approve Virginia's appointment to this Board. Carol will follow-up with sending the paperwork to the Board of Supervisors.

Election of Officers

- a. Chair
- b. Vice-Chair
- c. Secretary

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary first read the duties of each officer. She then passed out the ballots and asked everyone to vote. Mary then collected the ballots and passed them to Carol. Carol then counted the ballots. Sally Ragonut received most votes for Chair; Paula Mason had the most votes for Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf had the most votes for Secretary.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mason / Ellis) to accept Sally Ragonut, Paula Mason and Bruce Metcalf as the new Executive Committee for FY 19/20.

Updated Strategic Plan Approval

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally questioned Yvonnia about a statement on the Annual Report Tasks. The task is "to present a written report to the Board of Supervisors" and is that in addition to the Annual Report? Yvonnia stated that the written report is the Annual Report. Sally then asked about Objective #5 (continuous opportunities for board development) – she would like to add her name to the Committee. Currently Bruce Metcalf, Lee Lor, Audrey Spangler and Vicki Humble are on the committee. The Chair, Micki Archuleta, stated that it is not too late for her to join. Iris then asked what they are updating. Yvonnia stated that changes were made to the document at the May meeting. The one attached to today's packet reflects those changes.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Ragonut) to approve the updated Strategic Planning Timeline

Director's Report

- a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)
- b. External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) Preliminary Findings
- c. Network Adequacy Certification Tool (NACT) Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a. B Street Housing Project – the city is still moving forward with plans to build a 120-unit permanent supportive housing complex at that location. They are looking to have an answer on the tax credit; they made it through the first round of the different phases of the tax credit process. Hopefully they will have a final answer by July 2019 with the goal to start breaking ground as early as late fall. The old Juvenile Hall building was demolished a few months ago and that will be the future site for the Navigation Center. This will hopefully include housing for at least 180 residents for the homeless to include supportive services co-located there. Also at that facility there will be outreach and engagement. The facility will be over 35,000 sq. ft.; this could change when they get into the financial aspect. The complex will encompass housing, supportive services, enterprise center where people can come in and do life-skill training, education, etc., from an employment and training perspective. The money is coming in from SB 2 funding that was secured through Assemblymember Gray. Hopefully there will be other funding sources coming through the Continuum of Care. There is no funding coming from Behavioral Health. Behavioral Health will be partners providing supportive services like mental health and alcohol and drug counseling. Hopefully the plans will be finalized over the next 30 days. The projected timeline for completion is about fifteen months out. The question was asked if some of the 180 units are earmarked for the disabled. Yvonnia responded that it is only for the homeless. The B Street location is permanent supportive housing and about 30-36 units of the 120 will be designated for individuals who are severely mentally ill or at risk of being homeless. The Navigation Center will be trying to get people off the streets, get them services to link to other housing opportunities throughout the county. There are efforts looking at how something similar to this can be offered on the Westside of the county. A question was asked if the Navigation Center will follow the low-barrier shelter model and the Housing First model. Yvonnia stated it is definitely low-barrier, Housing First (which is low-barrier basically). This is still being discussed, she thinks it will be really low-barrier; the whole idea is to get people in where they are and work with them to try and get them into treatment. Animals will be included. There is even talk about having an outside court area for those who are not yet ready to go into a living quarters. All the details are still being worked on. Yvonnia was asked if she will be part of the discussion for the 30-units at B Street housing because it would be helpful if the units were for single occupancy rather than double occupancy. Yvonnia stated this Department is very integral in the discussions about the design. A couple of units will be for families and the majority will be single-units because of the complexity of trying to match people who can live together. Yvonnia was asked about the D-Street Shelter and if the homeless are still able to stay there. Yvonnia stated that per their Policy Board, they are housed but it is not on-going – it is no longer a shelter. Certain people can stay by saying they are working a plan to get into housing. Their capacity is 60; Behavioral Health still has a hold on a few beds. She understands that those that are there now, are working on a plan to be housed. It is no longer an in-and-out process. Paula commented that she recently attended a meeting that had a representative from the D-Street Shelter and they did state that there are no longer time limits as to how long someone can stay as well as check-in/check-out times. They have also added ten partner beds for couples. Yvonnia continued that they are in discussion with the Human Services Agency (HSA) regarding a mobile home development (an old complex) in Atwater. There are 25 units. They are looking at a lease-to-buy to assist housing the homeless in Atwater. They are also in very preliminary discussion with a motel in Atwater that is interested in maybe using that motel as permanent supportive housing complex. In the meantime, this motel has 13 to 16 units that they are discussing being used to housing individuals. They are also looking at the Westside for similar opportunities. **b.** The final report for the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) is part of today's powerpoint (everyone was given a copy). Yvonnia highlighted that FY17/18 recommendations were all met, except for two which were partially met. She explained why the two were partially met. She then went over some of the FY18/19 recommendations. In summary, the staff did an amazing job and the State gave them an overall rating of 87% compliant. The EQRO will be here again January and February – January for the Mental Health Plan and February for Substance Use Disorder. **c.** Yvonnia passed out a letter regarding the Network Adequacy Certification Tool (NACT). In 2016 Behavioral Health organizations went to a managed care concept; which means they are subject to timelines in the managed care agencies and time and distance provider capacity in all the different elements of managed care. The letter passed out is from Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) shows that this Department is being sanctioned potentially over \$500K/month and another \$150K for civil penalties. The reason behind the sanction is because based on the NACT tool provider capacity, it says that if you have over 8,000 clients, for example, you should have so many providers – whether the provider is here at this location or within the county or within 45 minutes or 75 miles. Ten counties received this letter, however, based on new information from the State in clarity and how they are interpreting and validating, 38 of the 58 counties resubmitted their tool because they were concerned that when the report is run in July, they may be subject to sanctions as well. There is a new submission they have to submit in July that is their annual submission in order to be certified by CMS (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services). However, the June submission is



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

301 E. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341

June 4, 2019

tied to December and March data. To get out of the penalties, sanctions and fines this county has to build their network. That requires looking to see where they missed opportunities and re-engage their community partners. Based on this report this Department needs 26 youth providers – mental health counselors or clinicians. They do not take into consideration the vacancies the Department has; they are looking for actual bodies ready to serve. Unfortunately, the Department will probably be sanctioned for June. But, once in compliance, they will get the money back; they probably will not get back the civil penalties. They Department is working very hard to expand capacity; they are looking within their network and providers to see how they can be folded into the system.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince reported that the regulation has been changed for food stamps and CalFresh. Anyone on social security could be eligible as of June 1st to receive food stamps.

Sally asked that all members gather after the meeting in order to have a picture taken for the Annual Report.

Recommendation/Action: None

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by: *Signed*
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: *Signed*
Mary Ellis, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: 7/9/19

Date: 7/15/19