



Minutes

Present: Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Mary Ellis; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Keng Cha; Supervisor Lor; Vince Ramos; Virginia Vega

Absent: Mickie Archuleta; Darrell Hall, Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Vicki Humble

Others Present: Sharon Mendonca; Jacqui Coulter; Chris Kraushar; Marilyn Mochel; Brian Pena; Rigo Robles; Adam Lane, Emil Erreca; Christian Lambar; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Sally Ragonut called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Paula Mason.

Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Ellis) to approve the June 4, 2019 minutes.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Marilyn Mochel was present representing the Board of NAMI Merced County. She announced that NAMI Merced County is diversifying much of its programming. They have a lot of different programs doing presentations for African-American community members, Spanish speakers, members of the LGBTQ community and other smaller groups – the Southeast Asian community, and Hmong's. They also post an article almost every day on their website – some aspect of mental wellness, mental illness. Today's article had to do with July being Minority Mental Health month. The post was collecting articles from Southeast Asian community members about the impact of mental illness on them and their families. They want to promote the collection of stories across different groups and they hope everyone will look at NAMIMerced.org (their website) regularly. They have a video posted that was written by a high school student called, "My Cousin Eddie"; a Le Grand High School student wrote it and was turned into a video by Phoenix Creative Collective and was part of their Rising Story Tellers Conference/Event this year. They hope to regularly come to this Board and give updates.

Adam Lane was present; he is with the Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance. Pride 2019 is happening this weekend – all on Main Street this year. He invited everyone to attend and left some flyers. His main purpose for attending today was to read a statement from the Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance Board of Directors. The statement was in regards to the displeasure the LGBTQ+ Alliance has with the BHRS/MHSA funding.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Approve Updated Behavioral Health Board By-Laws

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally explained that the areas in blue font were added by Carol Hulsizer (per County Counsel's request); the area in red font was added directly by County Counsel. Iris stated that she has concern about the information added by County Counsel (page 3 - Section 4 – Advisory Capacity). Her concern is the statement, " The Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity only to the County Board of Supervisors. . . . ". She feels it may be in conflict with Item 7 (page 3 – Section 3 – Objectives), "Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Mental Health Planning Council." She sees what is being done in adding this statement; however, it does not refer back to the Welfare & Institutions Code 5604.2 which sets the parameters for what context the Advisory Board works. This also leads Iris to think that perhaps the Board Development Committee may want to focus a training (for new Board members) on what context the Advisory Board role is as opposed to the individual.

Recommendation/Action: Iris recommends the By-Laws be sent back to County Counsel for their consideration/review on whether there is a conflict with these two statements. She also recommends training on what 5604.2 really means – what does it mean to review a County agreement and advise the Board of Supervisors.

FY 2019/2020 Meeting Schedule

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally stated that the FY 19/20 Meeting Schedule was part of this month's packet.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mason / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the FY19/20 Meeting Schedule.

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Development
- c. Membership Committee
 - 1) Brian Pena
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report
- f. Executive Committee
 - 1) Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Darrell Hall was not present. Bruce and Vicki are part of this committee, they also were not present. b. Sally reported that Bruce Metcalf is the Chair and as of yet they have not been able to meet due to many reasons. They do have a meeting set for this coming Monday, July 8th at 3:00pm. The committee includes Bruce, Supervisor Lor and Sally. They plan on discussing the Board's role, authority and scope, Behavioral Health Roles 101, CALBHB/C (Calif. Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions), the Brown Act, and the Rosenberg's Rules of Order. Basically, they want to train the new Board members. They want constant development for this Board. c. Mary welcomed Virginia Vega to the Board. She also acknowledged Brian Pena's attendance today. Brian has already been interviewed by Paula and Mary. Mary then acknowledged Emil Erreca who was present today. Emil has also applied to join this Board. Paula continued that she and Mary have already met with Brian and interviewed him. They invited him to attend today's meeting. Paula continued that Brian's application will be discussed at the next meeting in August along with Brian's decision on whether to join this Board. Sally then recognized Mr. Rigo Robles who is with a company in Fresno called Maxim Healthcare. d. Mary apologized for not having a report this month but will have a report next month. e. Micki was not present today, but Sally gave an update. They are working on a report; there is still some information that needs to be added. She asked for updated bio summaries; both Virginia and Vicki need to provide one. f. 1) The Executive Committee had a good meeting with Yvonnia. In the future when a Board member has something they would like to briefly discuss or be put on a future agenda, please let her know so that it can be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting with the Director. Vince then discussed a recent newspaper article regarding the B Street development. There will be an area to accommodate the homeless, a rec room, a walk-in center, and have trainings. It will be a boom for Merced.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Chair's Report

- a. Chair's Expectations
 - 1) Strategic Plan
- b. Board Binder Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a.1) Sally expressed that she has always been a strong advocate for the consumer/client. She feels this needs to be their number one topic this year. This will be done by going out and finding out how things are in Behavior Health and Recovery Services. This will be accomplished by working in the committees. In the Roles and Responsibilities, there are several things they are supposed to be doing:

- 1) They are to be reviewing and evaluating the communities' mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems; they also need to add communities' needs for alcohol and drug;
 - 2) They need to be having presentations and have people come to this meeting and tell the Board how things are going. When Sally talked with Yvonnia about this, Yvonnia stated that this is not so much anymore. The Supervisors really want the Board to get out there in the community and finding out how things are going their selves – not just waiting for people to come to this meeting and talk about how things are going. This is done by having committees.
 - 3) It is also important to review facilities and services. The reviewing of facilities has somehow gone away, but Sally thinks this needs to be visited again and find out why they cannot visit facilities or find out how they can go about this.
 - 4) Hold public meetings – Sharon Jones does an awesome job with her public meetings.
 - 5) Establish committees to review issues. This will be one of the most important things that the Board does. It is shifting from presentations to committees. Last year they had five items on their Strategic Plan – a. annual report which is being worked on; b. Data Notebook was done by Sharon Jones; c. By-Laws have been done; d. Substance Use Disorder – this committee has met once. She is considering asking someone else to chair this committee in order to get this moving. e. Board Development Committee – hopefully this will be going soon and begin training. Sally continued by explaining why committees are so important. Lastly, Sally asked for someone to help Mary Ellis with the Quality Improvement Committee because Kim Carter was helping her and is no longer on the Board.
- b. Sally had previously asked all Board members to bring their Board binder to today's meeting. She asked that they all be turned into Carol at the end of the meeting for her to update them.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Lor had nothing new to report.

Recommendation/Action: None

Director's Report

- a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)
- b. Financial Report FY 18/19

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon Mendonca was covering for Yvonnia today. a. Sharon reported that the area across from Marie Green, where Juvenile Hall used to be, has now been cleared and a new Navigation Center will be built there (this is what is now located over at the B Street facility). The homeless can go to B Street and get linked to services. They will find out what their difficulties are - whether they need a birth certificate or a driver's license, etc., whatever barriers they may have to finding housing. Currently, the Navigation Center is being designed; they are waiting for the Dept. of Public Works to finalize it. The B Street Housing



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

**Behavioral Health Board Meeting
301 E. 13th Street
Merced, CA 95341
July 2, 2019**

Project is moving forward. They have secured \$13+M in order to build this project. Hopefully, by the end of this calendar year, you will be able to see progress taking place on the corner of Childs and B Street. Behavioral Health will be reimbursed for the cost of the land; it will go back into Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) because it was their funding that initially purchased that property. It is a city project. Iris asked what funding will be used to pay Behavioral Health back for the B Street location; Sharon did not know. b. Sharon passed out copies of the draft budget for FY 18/19; it is still in draft because they have not yet closed the financial year. The fiscal year ended on June 30th and there are still a lot of bills and revenue to account for. She then went over the spreadsheet. Chris Kraushar commented that it would be helpful if the salaries and benefits for Mental Health and Substance Use were separated instead of lumped together. Sharon commented that this was done for the ease of this meeting and paper size. Anyway they track this, it is usually separated out. Chris then commented that it looks like there will be money left over; Sharon explained how you have to wait until you can determine the true actual cost of each program before knowing if there will be money left over. Vince questioned the Medi-Cal revenue; Sharon responded that this is what was anticipated they would be getting and was how much they budgeted. The amount collected was not what was anticipated and did not meet the full amount that was budgeted. She reminded everyone that they are waiting for several million dollars from the State and are just now finishing the June billing which hasn't been billed to the State. Vince then asked about the .50 cents on the dollar; Sharon stated that if the State is billed \$1, the Department gets .50 cents back and the Federal dollar makes it about .70 cents depending on who was seen. But, if it's a child, Realignment and Medi-Cal can be used and they get 100% reimbursement. It depends on the services, what they bill to the State and how it costs to provide the services. Next year's rates for service are based on the true costs. Iris asked if the Board can get a report once everything is reconciled; Sharon stated they could.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon Jones announced that the Spiritual Wellness & Recovery Conference is scheduled for July 20th, she passed out flyers. The event will take place at the Christian Life Center. The keynote speaker is Ruste Parker, a local chiropractor.

Iris announced that as of May she was appointed to the California Planning Council. They meet quarterly at different places. You cannot serve on their Board until you have gone through training/orientation. This is something this Board should consider. The reason she wanted to do this was to figure out how they come to the decision they do. She sees her role as advocating for Merced County.

Vince asked if there could be some information on whether waiting time has improved at the hospital, how the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) is going and something on the Wellness Center and are consumers still paying \$25 to go on a trip.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 4:35 pm.

Submitted by: Signed
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Signed
Bruce Metcalf, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: 8/7/19

Date: 8/6/19