

Minutes

Present: Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Mary Ellis; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Keng Cha; Virginia Vega; Mickie Archuleta

Absent: Supervisor Lor; Vince Ramos; Darrell Hall; Vicki Humble

Others Present: Yvonnia Brown; Sharon Mendonca; Chris Kraushar; Marilyn Mochel; Emil Erreca; Steve Wilson; Liz Freitas; Norma Blackwood; Ashley Jones; Zamantha Garcia; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Sally Ragonut 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 Sally Ragonut.

Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: Sally informed the Board that item #9b under the Director's Report has an incorrect word. The agenda shows the word "State" Recruitment Update and it should read "Staff" Recruitment Update. M/S/C (Metcalf / Mason) to approve the July 2, 2019 minutes with the noted change to the agenda.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: A member of the public discussed her relative who is mentally ill. She has been in the system 20+ years, has been under conservatorship and currently lives on the streets. She is physically and verbally abusive with her family. She does receive SSI. The police have been called many times, along with Mental Health and nobody helps them. The family is told that she needs to want help but she doesn't know what she is doing. She was in jail for a while and they hoped she would get help. She ended up on probation but did not do what she was ordered to do. The family is frustrated and wants help. They have done everything they were told to do and nobody helps. Another member of the family spoke and explained their families' frustration. The Director, Yvonnia Brown, said she would follow-up with this.

Marilyn Mochel was present speaking on behalf of NAMI Merced. Several present did attend the meeting on July 23rd that NAMI worked with the Family Medicine Residency Program to highlight their Health Impact Assessment Report that looked at gathering community stakeholder's feedback to address a problem identified in Behavioral Health which is the lack of Behavioral Health providers for mild to moderate mental health diagnoses. They tried to work with the presenters to ensure that the information was presented at a level that was easily understood by the community. They are working on finalizing the report and the report will be put on the NAMI website. She will let everyone know when that happens. NAMI also has new programs and she passed out some information. One new program is called Mental Health 101 and it is NAMI California's attempt to diversify the programming to better meet the needs of the diverse population.

A consumer was present and a member of the Wellness Center. He reported that the Wellness Center has been promised some things which have not been addressed. One item is the internet service and it has been promised since the building opened. They

have no internet system and want it fixed. The internet allows them to do karaoke. Chris Kraushar, Patients' Rights Advocate, asked that there be some follow-up/feedback on this.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Approve Updated Behavioral Health Board By-Laws

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally discussed Iris's concern regarding a possible conflict of interest from last month's meeting; Iris stated that she received satisfactory clarification. *Later in the meeting there was discussion regarding the fact that the By-Laws state the Annual Report is due to the Governing Body each June. It was ultimately decided that the contents of the Annual Report should contain information from July 1st to June 30th of each year and the Annual Report should be submitted by the end of August instead.*

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Archuleta) to accept the By-Laws as submitted. *The initial Motion/Second/Carried was rescinded later in the meeting in order to change the due date of the Annual Report to August 31st. M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Archuleta) to accept the By-Laws with the amendment of the Annual Report being submitted by August 31st.*

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Development
- c. Membership Committee
 - 1) Brian Pena – District #2
 - 2) Emil Erreca – District #5
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report
- f. Executive Committee
 - 1) Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally commented that the SUD Committee was chaired by Darrell Hall and he has not been able to attend meetings for the last few months. She had asked Paula Mason to Chair this committee and has agreed. A document on SUD activities had been passed out to everyone and Paula then went over some of the highlights. b. Bruce reported that in the back of this month's packet was a copy of the Strategic Planning timeline. He referenced Objective #5 regarding Board Development. The plans listed there is what they will be working on. Bruce had previously passed out two documents – one the Roles & Responsibility of the Board and the other on Board Orientation and Development. Sally, Lee and he met about a month ago and went through these various areas. They feel it is important for new Board members to go through the Board Orientation, which they will be putting together. They also recognize that everyone needs updates to keep current. They would like to have staff from Behavioral Health come in and do some training. At each Board meeting they want to have "mini sessions/trainings" to help them in these different areas. For the new Board members he wants to do a Board Orientation before the September meeting. c. Mary stated that they will be taking Board action today for the two new potential applicants – Brian Pena (District #2) and Emil Erreca (District #5). Paula continued that the Membership Committee met with both Brian and Emil. Both have a strong interest in being on this Board. She and Mary both feel they will be a good fit and recommend approving their applications for possible consideration by the Board of Supervisors. d. Copies of the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) Meeting on July 23rd had been passed out. Mary went over some of the highlights from the report. Micki questioned the QIC meeting and how this Board improves quality if they only report on the meeting. Mary replied that this Board does not "improve"; the Board just goes to this QIC meeting and makes a report on how the Department is making improvements. A member from the public questioned if the contract services provider required by Medi-Cal protocol. The contract does state you have to have immediate 3-day (working days) response to someone coming in for service. Can nobody seek services unless they are referred by County Mental Health? Yvonnia responded that crisis services are not Specialty Mental Health; they are contract and based on the contract they do not do crisis assessments. The contractor does not see someone unless they are referred

by Behavioral Health. Behavioral Health has already done the State requirement of the immediate 3-day response. The question was then asked if there are independent contract providers from this process so that there is a contract provider out there that the public can go see. Yvonnia responded that in order to get Specialty Mental Health services, they have to be approved by Behavioral Health. Sally then asked for clarification on the Clinical Utilization Review (UR) and the percentage of services disallowed. Yvonnia responded that this is based on year-to-date and is a combination of crisis stabilization, outpatient services – everything; the complete report should be reviewed for total understanding. A question was then asked about the future trainings (attached to the QIC report) and if any are mandatory for all staff. Yvonnia responded that there are some mandatory trainings in the Department, but the ones on this list are not mandatory. Yvonnia suggested to Board members, especially new members, that the QIC meeting is a great platform to know what is happening from a system perspective within Behavioral Health. Iris suggested that Board members rotate their attendance. e. Sally reported that the report is basically done and there should be a draft copy of the Annual Report at the September meeting. Iris suggested that for the next Annual Report, there be an area where all the advisory recommendations to the Board be noted in the report. Someone from the public suggested that at the end of every meeting, it be asked if there is anything someone wants to advise the Board on, be noted in the meeting minutes and this can then be used in the Annual Report. As an example, that it is recommended that all staff must attend the Assaultive Behavior training, not just attend if they want to. Bruce stated that some suggestions be put on the next month's agenda in order to be discussed appropriately. f. Sally asked the Board if they had any items that they would like the Executive Committee to consider putting in a future agenda. Iris suggested the advisory to the agendas. Micki suggested discussion regarding Adam Lane's speech at the July meeting on LGBTQ alliance. Iris suggested follow-up on items brought up during the public's "Opportunity to Speak" with one being the protocol/process when consumers refuse services. Micki brought up systematically excluding people from trips/events/programs who do not attend the Wellness Center on a continual basis. She isn't sure if this is something that she should discuss with Jennifer Jones.

Recommendation/Action: c. M/S/C (Archuleta / Mojica de Tatum) to approve Brian Pena's appointment to this Board. M/S/C (Archuleta / Mojica de Tatum) to approve Emil Erreca's appointment to this Board. e. All advisory recommendations be included in next year's Annual Report.

Chair's Report

- a. Discussion on Committee Reports
- b. Questions on Strategic Planning Timeline
- c. Upcoming Board Trainings

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally thanked everyone who gave a report at today's meeting. Sally discussed the different ways that committee members can have meetings – they can be done by emails; a teleconference could be set up; have a meeting over coffee at Starbucks (or wherever everyone might want to meet); or even meeting in someone's home. Reporting back to this Board does not have to happen every month; oral reports are acceptable also – there doesn't always have to be a written report (like QIC does). Yvonnia suggested that reports can be rotated so that not everyone reports in the same month; reports could be given on a quarterly basis or every other month. b. Sally discussed Objective #1 – Annual Report – the due date for the Annual Report was discussed. The By-Laws state that the Annual Report shall be submitted to the Governing Body each June. After discussion it was decided to change the By-Laws and have it state that the Annual Report will be submitted by August 31st. There was discussion on whether the Annual Report needs to contain a financial report; it was decided to remove the financial report from the Annual Report because the Board of Supervisors is already aware of this information – it is redundant to them. The Annual Report should contain information on what the Behavioral Health Board has done in the past year. Sally continued discussing the objectives in the Strategic Timeline. Because of the time it would take to make all the updates needed to the Timeline for FY 19/20, it was suggested that this information be completed outside this meeting and then given to Carol to update electronically. c. Sally commented that Bruce will be doing Board training each month and invited staff will speak on occasion. Paula commented that she has spoken to Tabatha and she is willing to give a presentation to the Board. Yvonnia commented that this will need to happen soon because Tabatha will be leaving, but her staff will be available. Bruce would like Tabatha to attend the September meeting, if possible. Sally continued with discussion on the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 5604. Copies of this were passed out; she asked that everyone look this over. Lastly, she

mentioned a Family-to-Family training with NAMI in Merced starting September 4th; a copy of the flyer was passed out to everyone. Sally suggested the Board attend two of these trainings – Sept 11th and Sept 18th – both would help Board members learn a lot.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Lor was not present.

Recommendation/Action: None

Director's Report

- a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)
- b. Staff Recruitment Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonnia reported on No Place Like Home – the second round of funding. To make sure all the money will be used, they are going to partner with the Rescue Mission to provide permanent, supportive housing. The Rescue Mission will add additional beds to their facility. They are looking at putting five units of permanent, supportive housing at the complex. There is a consultant onboard for No Place Like Home technical assistance to assist in completing the application which is due to the State by the end of September. B Street project is moving forward. The City has been approved for additional funding through tax credit. They hope to break ground in Spring 2020. There will be 120 units and 30 units will be designated for permanent, supportive housing for the mentally ill. In the housing units, there will be supportive services. The units have to be mixed within the whole complex; there cannot be a certain unit just for the mentally ill. The Navigation Center – the County is working on this with other vendors and will be located at the old Juvenile Hall. It will house about 190 individuals. There is already a Board Action Item to begin the development. A consultant has been brought in to help the County develop the operating costs and figure out what vendor can manage this project. There should be action on this by the end of December, beginning of January. There is State funding that was secured through Senate Bill 2 to do the construction work. b. Recently there were questions about recruitment and vacancies within the Department. They are actively recruiting for the Psych Facility Manager position; the problem/concern is that there are not enough applicants coming in for that position. It is being covered by a clinical Assistant Director, Jacqui, and others who are trying to assist Dr. Manuel. There is an audit at Marie Green coming soon and staff have been very busy preparing for it. County and Statewide there are not enough clinicians, doctors or nurses. There is a lot of competition in this area with schools and hospitals also recruiting for these positions. There are about seven clinical positions vacant; three or four were just hired and should be coming onboard by the end of August or first of September. There are three vacant Program Manager positions and interviews will be taking place in the next few weeks. There are Peer Support Specialist interviews coming up. Extra-help Mental Health Workers – interviews are taking place Aug 8th. Program Assistant interviews are scheduled for Aug 9th. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner interviews are coming up on Aug 16th. Alcohol and Drug Counselor interviews are scheduled for Aug 19th. There are nursing shortages as well. Yvonnia was questioned if retention is an issue. She stated that it is because there are other entities out there that pay better and we have a hard time competing with some of the incentives that are being offered. At some point there is going to be a push for integrated behavioral health across all spectrums and in a few years the entire system will look entirely different. There was a question about the training that clinical staff receives, especially the younger ones just coming out of the schools. These trainings make them feel for professional and are getting what they need. Yvonnia stated that clinical staff are given trainings. The Assistant Director has a menu of different things that she wants her clinicians to have as part of their ongoing development. Sharon Jones helps facilitate a training curriculum and she has many mandatory trainings.

Recommendation/Action: Information only



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

301 E. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341

August 6, 2019

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: None

Recommendation/Action:

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 5:09 pm.

Submitted by: _____ *Signed* _____

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____ *Signed* _____

Bruce Metcalf, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: _____ *9/4/19* _____

Date: _____ *Signed* _____