

## Minutes

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**Present:** Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Supervisor Lor; Vince Ramos; Mary Ellis; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Mickie Archuleta; Emil Erreca

**Absent:** Virginia Vega; Darrell Hall; Keng Cha; Vicki Humble

**Others Present:** Yvonnia Brown; Trechann Barber-Jacinto; Lanetta Smyth; Jacqui Coulter; Sharon Mendonca; Chris Kraushar; Barbara Richy; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

### **Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call**

Chair Sally Ragonut called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Flag salute was done. Roll call was taken. Sally informed the Board that item #7 – Brown Act Training – will have to be removed from today's agenda. Janinda Gunawardene was not able to be present today. Sally welcomed a new Board member – Emil Erreca. Sally questioned Brian Pena's application; Carol stated that he was approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) today and now he just needs to be sworn in.

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read by Bruce Metcalf.

### **Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)**

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Mason / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the September 3, 2019 minutes.

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

**Discussion/Conclusion:** No one wished to speak.

**Recommendation/Action:** None

### **Getting to Know You**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sally stated that most present today had an opportunity to talk last month. The only one present today that was not present last month was Micki. She asked Micki to talk a little about herself; Micki went on to say why she is on this Board.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### **Data Notebook Presentation**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Trechann was present today to give a presentation on the Data Notebook. She is the Quality and Performance Management Director. Members all had copies of the Data Notebook; this Notebook will be submitted to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council. It is Federal and State mandate to have this information from all the counties. Much of the information in this Notebook has been developed by the Behavioral Health Planning Council. The Council sends this to all the counties. This Department then extrapolates our data and addresses the items being inquired about from the actual Planning Council.

A lot of this information is then presented to the State Legislatures for policy reform or regulation change. The preparation was with BHRS all leadership (Division Directors) as it pertains to their program oversight. The County responded on several areas being inquired about. Those were: adult residential facilities and homelessness as well as Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) and trauma informed services. The Planning Council has noted that community care licensing and State statistical data is not readily available or as transparent. They are requesting the different counties to respond to this. Their goal is to address legislation to make it more transparent with regards to having this information on adult residential facilities or institutes for the mentally diseased (known as IMDs) more readily available. According to the community care licensing, there are thirteen licensed, adult residential care facilities in Merced County. BHRS served fifty-three individuals and paid for them to be in these adult care residential facilities. There are two IMDs within the County (County Villa and California Psychiatric Transitions). They also asked how many individuals in this county did the County pay for the cost of an IMD stay. Those placed in IMDs are conserved and receive Social Security benefits and monitoring and assistance with the Public Guardian's office. Regarding homelessness data – an 18.1% increase was noted over a one year period. The efforts by BHRS and other agencies in the community are shown to help combat this concern for Merced County. There are three new respite homes on the Westside through the Rescue Mission to house homeless individuals coming out of hospitals. There is a current transitional house that is being remodeled with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding. There is an outreach van that is being purchased and designed. There is also the Navigation Outreach Center. The data shows there are 607 individuals in Merced County that are experiencing homelessness. The Data Notebook also inquired about foster children and STRTP programs. The State of California had noticed that with foster youth being placed in group home settings were being housed for long periods of time so there was reform to move away from long-term group home settings. There was a motion to try and unify back with either the family or a significant person in the child's life. Assembly Bill 1299 (also called Presumptive Transfer) is for foster youth as well as wards of the court (probation). This legislation is removing high level group homes and instead using STRTPs. This allows for a full scope of services – staff that are fully trained and delivering trauma-informed services around the clock. Merced County has 295 presumptive transfer youth (county of origin not Merced) receiving behavioral health services. Merced County youth being sent to other counties – 152 foster youth and 17 probation youth. With AB 1299 there is regulation that Probation, Child Welfare, and Behavioral Health must work together and communicate in the treatment of these minors. Routine meetings take place to ensure that foster and probation youth are being served that fall under AB 1299. This Data Notebook is due back to the Commission on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Next year the topics will change. Trechann was asked what counties the 295 presumptive transfer youth come from; Trechann responded that they come from all over throughout the State. The youth may be coming to Merced because of a foster family agency or there could be a family member here. They try to exhaust all options before removing the child from that county and placing them out of county.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Metcalf / Archuleta) to approve the 2019 Data Notebook

### **Brown Act Training**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** This item was removed from the agenda due to the presenter not being able to attend today.

**Recommendation/Action:** Will be put on the November agenda.

### **Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports**

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) – No Report Needed This Month
- b. Board Development (Roles and Responsibilities)
- c. Membership Committee – No Report Needed This Month
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report
- f. Executive Committee
  - 1) Agenda / Possible Action Items for Next Board Meeting

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Paula stated she had nothing to report today. b. Bruce passed out two documents. One was on Board Orientation and Development. He started putting down the months that these items will be covered. In November he would like everyone to bring their binder. For Board Orientation he would like Carol to take a few minutes and walk the Board through the binder she put updated. Sally commented that she and Carol already had this discussion and Sally would be going through the binder with the Board. Bruce continued that he would like this binder to be a more useful tool. He continued with Board Development and did not have dates for some of these topics. The Board will have to decide which months these areas could be discussed. If there are other ideas Board members would like to add, please let him know. The second document he handed out was the Roles and Responsibilities of the Behavioral Health Board. This document is already in the Board binders, but it is good to look at occasionally and be reminded what their goals and responsibilities are. Sally questioned if new members could take a tour of the building where services are taking place; the tour could take place immediately following a Board meeting. Yvonna stated that if the Board wanted to do this after the Board meeting is over at 5:00pm (the consumers would be gone), this could probably be set up. Yvonna will follow up with County Counsel on this. c. Mary had nothing to report this month. d. Everyone had copies of the minutes from the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) meeting; Mary briefly went over them. e. Board members were given copies of the Annual Report. f.(1) Sally commented that the November agenda now has the Brown Act training. Yvonna stated that another item for November is the QIC Performance Indicators Report. Sally would also like to put the Board binder training on the agenda as well. Micki stated that the Wellness Center does do a good job serving clients, but it serves a very small constituency. There are people who have used the Wellness Center and have not returned for various reasons. She would like to know if these individuals can be surveyed and ask why they are not using the services. Sally felt this would be an ad-hoc committee and she will put this on the agenda and the Board can then approve this new committee. Iris would like Family Advocate to be put on the agenda for discussion. The Department used to have a contract with someone who had lived experience as a family member and they were available 24/7 to talk to family members that were new to the system of having a loved one with mental illness. This individual helped them navigate the system. As an advisory committee – how do they advise? She feels this should be part of the Annual Report in terms of what advice they give the Director and Board of Supervisors on moving forward; how is this being documented? Yvonna stated this could be looked at but the ISN (Innovative Strategist Network) program was designed to have this component - to incorporate peer support and have an advocate. They did not call them Family Advocates but Peer Support Specialists. Another item Iris would like on the agenda is discussion on Marie Green placements – specifically the clients on “admin days” who are only waiting for placement but are taking up a bed space. Those that are coming in on a crisis can’t be admitted because there is not any space and are sent to another county. The family members don’t understand what is happening. Yvonna stated this could also be put on a future agenda.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

### **Chair’s Report**

#### **a. Strategic Planning Timeline**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Sally asked everyone to look at the Strategic Timeline attached to today’s packet. The Timeline has been updated with dates. Sally briefly went over the dates.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### **Supervisor’s Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Lor stated that Carol already reported her news – that Brian Pena was approved by the BOS.

**Recommendation/Action:** None

### **Director’s Report**



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Behavioral Health Board Meeting**

**301 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Merced, CA 95341**

**October 1, 2019**

**a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. The City is still moving forward with the 120 bed affordable housing complex with 36 beds designated for permanent, supportive housing. Hopefully they will break ground by Spring or Summer 2020. She has regular meetings regarding the Navigation Center and the work to take place there. Department of Public Works (DPW) has already solicited a contractor to begin the design work. They are working with consultants to fine tune the process. A consultant called Focus Strategists is onboard and doing a cost analysis; they are also helping with No Place Like Home to help develop a plan. A Regional Housing Committee has been established to develop a regional homeless plan.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**Announcements**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Yvonna announced that on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) moved from their temporary location to their new, permanent location next to Marie Green. They are in the area that used to be the Wellness Center. The Children's CSU will hopefully be open by December or shortly thereafter. The adult CSU has 8 beds but is currently being kept to 4 beds because staff is still needed to meet the ratio. As staff are hired, the ratio will increase.

Sally announced that on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Mental Health Board Training in Stockton. An email was sent to everyone by Carol. The training will run from 9:30 to 4:30.

Yvonna passed out a letter from the Governor regarding the Regional Homeless Advisory Council that was developed. It is informational.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.

Submitted by:     *Signed*      
Carol Hulsizer  
Recording Secretary

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

Date:     11/6/19    

Date:     11/5/19