

Behavioral Health Board Minutes
San Luis Obispo County
April 15, 2020
3:00p.m.
2180 Johnson Ave, 2nd Floor, Library Conference Room
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Riester
Clint Weirick
Eulalia Apolinar
Barbara Levenson
Mary Bianchi
Robert Reyes (for Jim Salio)
Marshall Hamilton
Melissa Cummins
Nicole Bennett
Pamela Zweifel
Liz Smith
Marcella Paric
Rose Fowler Plummer
Joyce Heddleson
Amber Gallagher
Nicole Nix (for Supervisor Adam Hill)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

TeaEster Higgins
John Armstrong (for Sheriff Parkinson)
Joseph Kurtzman

HEALTH AGENCY STAFF PRESENT:

Anne Robin
Laura Zarate

GUESTS:

Jim Roberts
Linda Coughman

1. **Clint Weirick called meeting to order @ 3:02 pm.**
2. **Introductions and Announcements:**
Round-table introductions.
3. **Public Comments-**
Nicole Bennett: Cen-Cal Health created Covid 19 Webpage where there is a resource link to resources. Anyone interested in being added to the resource link, please contact Nicole Bennett. Also, Cencal will be publishing a monthly newsletter to the Community with Covid-19 updates.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from February 19, 2020 approved.

M/S/C: Heddleson/Smith Abstain: None.
5. **Ongoing Business:**
 - **Membership Committee Report-Update: We have two resignations:**

- Bill McQuilkin resignation notice as of April 6, 2020
 - TeaEaster Higgins resignation notice as of April 15, 2020
- Currently have 17 active members. Will work on advertising that we have three vacancies.

- Membership Renewals Due for Re-Appointment for 06/30/2020:

- Pam Zweifel
- Marshall Hamilton PH.D.
- Mary Bianchi
- Marcella Paric
- Ian Parkinson
- David Riester

Folks coming up for reappointment will begin July 1st, 2020. All agree to renew.
M/S/C: Bennett/Smith

6. New Business:

- Present Board Slate of Office Nominations 2020-2021, Membership Committee

Slate of Officers:

Clint Weirick -Chair
Barbara Levenson- 1st Vice Chair
Eulalia Apolinar – 2nd Vice Chair

Nominations may be taken at this and next meeting. No additional nominations.

*If appointments happen at a later date due to the pandemic, approvals by BOS will be retroactive to the appointment date.

7. Director's Report: Behavioral Health Department Operations and Continuing of Services and Programs – Anne Robin

An overview of what is going on with our Behavioral Health Department:

- Received notice of schools shutting as we were having a Manager's Planning meeting. many our employees have school-aged kids which accelerated our process to reduce the number of staff in the clinics. We closed our doors, put up signs, started calling clients to schedule appointments over the phone. Med appointments still happening face to face if needed.
- Our IT department are very responsive setting everyone up with Zoom licensing and working from home. We have about 115 Zoom licenses.
- We are seeing clients in the office as needed taking the necessary precautions: wearing masks, taking temperature as they come in etc.
- We continue to work with IT as several of our adult clients have no computer or phone. Might have them come to the office/clinic to do their telehealth.
- DAS testing was suspended for a few days until we had PPE. We do prioritize Court-ordered and CWS cases testing. Conducting about 45 tests per day.
- Mobile Crisis: Have not seen an increase in crisis calls, there has been a decrease.
- No increase in hotline calls
- PHF has stayed at 10-12 occupants per day
- Crisis Stabilization Unit: Two to three people daily- no increase yet

- Have been doing FNL Zoom groups
- Participating at EOC with large efforts: Alternative Care Site
- Volunteers opportunity thru Volunteer Corp doing telehealth coming soon
- Will have our own EAP program for our First Responders ran by THMAs Hotline
- All County Employees are Disaster Service Workers: Health Information Techs are supporting at the Alternative Care Site, some AAs are at shelters, Folks providing help at the Safe Parking Spots etc.
- Laura Zarate has been translating documents, media briefings for the Emergency Operations Center, and social media postings.

Family Care Network- Jim Roberts:

- All staff have cell phones or laptops and have maintained client's connections well. Have not seen lots of crisis. Have provided Personal Protective Equipment, working with youth who do not want to follow rules. Have placed 7 families at this time. Have been strengthening staff using tele media and using Google chatrooms. So much appreciate working collaboratively with Behavioral Health, all working together very responsive and problem-solving.

Probation- Robert:

Probation like all other County departments have been shifted over as Disaster Emergency Workers at the Emergency Operation Center, at the Food Bank.

- Working with Food Bank, packing/delivering food and medications
- JV: Taking kids as needed. Have not seen many bookings
- Continue to write Court reports
- Probation Officers that supervise youth now are supervising /checking on clients that have been quarantining

Started to resume some normal responsibilities this week and will go back out to the Community to make sure they have everything they need. Would like to thank Family Care Network and Behavioral Health for working great together.

Psynergy- Lynda Kaufmann:

Psynergy, Intensive Boarding Care. Have four campuses. Have no positive COVID-19 cases in any of our centers. Have been taking all precautions. Have an isolation area at each facility. Have no visitors, no vendors, no food deliveries etc. We set-up an i-Pad to communicate with family. Have hand washing stations outside and clean every 30 minutes. We are still admitting. The only challenging thing we are dealing with is staff because of their own childcare but have been alternating schedules.

Special Education:

Liz: Schools have seen tremendous change by suddenly staying home. Still offering services, therapy, anything identified in their IEP, etc., just offered a little differently. Most parents and student's life continue.

Amber: Have done lots of work in ensuring the Mental Health providers and school psychologists are collaborating and calibrating in service delivery in the last couple of weeks. Have

been making every effort to connect with families and Special Education students' multiple times per week just to check up on them, doing well checks online using Zoom.

8. Questions & Answers

Q. Mary: Checking in with Anne on programs for 0-5 kids and child abuse during shelter in place

A. Anne: We have not heard evidence of increased child abuse reports here in SLO. Martha's Place is supporting families, working through families to help on supporting what they need.

Q. David: Anne and Nicole, do you anticipate an increase in Medi-Cal population?

A. Anne: We will, most likely.

A. Nicole: There has already been an increase in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County. We expect an influx within the next few months.

Q. Barbara: Not a question, just Kudos to Behavioral Health Department and the Suicide Prevention group. Very impressed with the content and messaging on social media.

Q. Anne: Eulalia, have you seen an increase in needs or issues in your population?

A. Eulalia: Yes, we had several directives from Department of Developmental Services come down that relaxed some of our requirements and allowed us to provide services remotely for our 0-3 and 3 and above. Been calling every client that we serve which is over 15,000 people and checking in and offering extra support they need.

Q. Clint: Pam, any updates?

A. Pam: NAMI expected an increase in phone calls. Suspended Family to Family practices. Our leaders are in contact with our support members. The longer we are held in place, I suspect we will have more problems. Our Beautiful Minds walk has been canceled. We will think of other ways to raise funds.

Q. Marshall: Anne, wondering what is happening with masks with staff and consumers. Will they be used in the future?

A. Anne: We do have masks for clients who are being seen face-to-face. We have masks for staff who are in close contact with clients giving injections. It has been very difficult trying to get Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PH and CDC recommendations have changed over time. We have taped-off 6 feet away from counters and in offices, have provided the Health Screenings at the front door. Laura ordered 55 thermometers and took over a month to arrive. Staff have been taking temperature to clients and other staff. We run out constantly of masks and staff want to wear cloth masks. They can do that, but they will not protect the person wearing it, they will help prevent the wearer from spreading viruses. We have not received complaints from clients because they can't see the staff face, I believe they understand. We continue to give guidance based on guidelines from CDC and that keeps changing.

Q. Clint: Rose, any updates?

A. Rose: No questions here just appreciate the TSA messages and the Ready SLO updates of how many people have recovered not just those who have died. That is more helpful.

Q. Nicole: I know there is an early release for jail inmates. There was a concern on the release of the jail inmates affecting the impact on Mental Health services and the capacity at the shelter. Wondering how is that going and is the County working on a discharge plan with the jail?

A. Anne: Working very closely with Dr. Mulkerin at the jail and got a list of jail inmates being released and those who might need our services or medications upon release. There were 77-80 and about a third of them had had services with DAS or Mental Health previously. We made sure they had an appointment scheduled and meds ready. Housing was a challenge, but only 6 had no housing. We tried to find housing for those who needed it. Not all those on the list were released.

A. Robert: The State Court Emergency Order that several inmates have zero bail if they qualify and be released. We have 19 inmates that will be supervised by Probation that will be released. Housing will be an ongoing challenge.

Q. Clint: Once the shelter in place order is lifted, what other major impacts do you foresee, or we should be aware of?

A. Anne: Yes, we are anticipating a reduction on realignment funds. MHSA will be hit as well. By working remotely, our billable services have gone down. Our County General Fund resources are generous in this County. Nevertheless, the County has had to spend quite a bit of money COVID related services: The alternative care site, the food and shelter initiatives. We have worked hard on setting up on the deliveries of medication and food. As of 4/14 they had 947 requests for food and medication deliveries. 511 was for food deliveries, 65 medication deliveries and 14 are the narcotics deliveries of which Wilshire takes care of. As you can imagine the number of staff working on this project is great. That funding will hopefully be reimbursed by FEMA at a 75% rate. We will need to look at our essential services and continue adjusting moving forward.

Q. Mary: One of the questions on reopening is the issue of testing. What are the discussions relative to reopening County programs in terms on testing not only County staff but in general?

A. We are going to test the more vulnerable people who have no access to medical. We are not going to be testing those who have no symptoms or been in contact with those infected. We will be ready to be back at work before we have immunity tests or tracking. The distancing and hygiene techniques have really helped our County stats compared to other Counties. We have not seen spikes and are grateful for that. Right now, we have no plans to open clinics. I will inform you more as I know more.

9. Adjourn the BHB Meeting at 4:40pm.