

Behavioral Health Board Minutes
San Luis Obispo County
March 15, 2023
3:00p.m.

Members Present:

Barbara Levenson
James Sofranko (for Supervisor Paulding)
Andres Pille (CenCal)
Eulalia Apolinar
Melissa Cummins
Josh Pintor (Sheriff Parkinson)
Joseph Kurtzman
Robert Reyes
Dana Hunt

Health Agency Staff Present:

Anne Robin
Christy Haney

Members Absent:

Rose Fowler Plummer
Johnny Rodriguez
Pam Zweifel
Mary Bianchi
Joseph Kurtzman
Amber Gallagher
Dana Hunt
Marshall Hamilton

Guests:

Leslie Brown
Donna Klein
Frank Warren
Morgan Torell
Barry Johnson
Jill Bolster-White

1. **Barbara Levenson called meeting to order @ 3:10 pm.**
2. **Introductions and Announcements:**
 - Round table introductions.
3. **Public Comments:**
 - The Wall That Heals is being set up at Madonna Inn. This free event is 24-hours and will take place March 16th-19th at The Madonna Meadows. SLO County Veteran Outreach is participating in an outside way, but SLO County Veteran Services will have staff there.
 - Eulalia is an Assistant Director at the Regional Center and oversees San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County. There is one other Assistant Director in Ventura County. They will be introducing a third Assistant Director position; the job has been posted.
 - Transitions Mental Health Association is having their Journey of Hope again this year in a live setting at New Life Church in Pismo Beach. This event will take place May 1. The focus will be on stories from teens and youth regarding mental health challenges and focusing on resilience and hope. The first hour will include a resource fair followed by a 2-hour event. Flyers will be coming out soon.
4. **Approval on Minutes:** Minutes from February 15, 2023.

Did not meet quorum, will be voting at our April 19 meeting.

5. Ongoing Business:

- Next BHB meeting will be held on April 19th at 3:00PM in the AG Auditorium at 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo. This will be the new meeting location going forward, with the exception of the May 17th meeting. The venue is unavailable for May, alternative location will be established and announced at the April 19th meeting.
- Bi-annual bylaw review update: Melissa, Pam and Anne made revision. No major changes were made. Christy will be sending out the draft for board review. We will be voting on these revisions during the April 19th meeting. Once it has been voted on and approved, it will then go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

6. New Business:

- Annual report: Barbara will be sending out the draft prior to the April 19th meeting for review.
- Health Agency Human Resources has asked for participation in meeting with the candidates for the BH Director position. This will be held at the New Government Center, 1055 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo. This will give members the chance to review candidates and provide feedback. Christy will be sending out a poll to find out if Thursday, April 6 or Friday, April 7 works better for members.

7. Membership Committee - Update:

- Vote on recommendation to renew membership: Did not meet quorum, unable to vote. We will be voting on membership renewals at the April 19th meeting. If you do not wish to renew, please reach out to Christy.

8. Committee Representatives – Update:

- Jail BHU Visit: Everyone is welcome to come to the jail for a tour to ask any and all questions. Middle to end of April between 10:00am-1:00pm works best for Josh, specifically Monday the 17th, Wednesday the 19th, Monday the 24th, and Tuesday the 25th. The number of participants will be between 5-10.
- MHET Visit: We are looking at May for this site visit. Those who have showed interest in the site visit are Rose, Melissa, Mary and Pam. We will have an update during our April 19th meeting.
- Other committee reports: none to report.

9. Member Current Subject of Interest: Andres Pille- CenCal Representative

- Andres was previously working for Kaiser Permanente and has now been with the Behavioral Health Department for CenCal Health since September of last year. He acts as a liaison between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors. He received his undergrad at UC San Diego, continued with grad school at UC Santa Clara and is now working towards his RN license. When he is not working, he enjoys running, soccer, traveling and hiking in national parks.

10. Administrator's Report

- Health Agency did a joint presentation with CenCal on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 for the Board of Supervisors. The presentation covered the managed care plan for CenCal and CalAIM's responsibilities and goals.
- BHB members have been invited to participate in the interviews for the new Behavioral Health Board will be taking place the first week of April. There has not been a lot of candidates for Dr. Ilano's role as the Medical Director who is leaving April 14, 2023.
- CARE court is still scheduled for San Luis Obispo County is still scheduled for late 2024.
- Health Agency met with the Mental Wellness Group and are looking to expand the Mobile Crisis Unit under the new benefit. This will not include law enforcement. In order to be paid Medical, no law enforcement can be associated.
- The contract with Crestwood regarding the PHF is still moving along. Transition is on schedule for July 31st, 2023.
- The way we currently bill Medical in Mental Health is by the minute and Drug and Alcohol has been 15-minute increments. We are moving to a fee for service starting July 1, 2023. Health Agency has been working on calculating these rates. We have a weighted rate and then are working with our contractors to determine the rate of service. We will also be transitioning to the new electronic health record on July 1, 2023. Training for contractors and Health Agency staff will start in June.

11. Presentation: Behavioral Health Bridge House Program- Frank Warren and Morgan Torell

- We have been waiting for information and detail on the Behavioral Health Bridge House Program for almost a year and it has now been received. This information came with an application due date of April 28, 2023.
- This is request for application is from the Department of Health Care Services. The program focuses on funding to operate housing to address the immediate sustainable needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious health conditions. Bridge housing refers to short-term housing, less than 90 days or mid-term housing which is between 90 days and two years with possible extension for a year. Access to services is prioritized and we expect that this population needs extensive support initially as they get stabilized. Once the CARE program is implemented in San Luis Obispo County, CARE program participants are prioritized. We have about a year and a half to implement the four-year program with up to \$7.5 million to spend for the initial allocation. This first round is not competitive, Behavioral Health Agencies are the only eligible entities that can apply. We will also be able to apply for two competitive rounds as well in the summer and fiscal year 24-25.
- The four main categories of eligibility are program implementation, outreach and engagement, bridge housing (min 75% funding), and start-up infrastructure. Implementation is focused on the county implementing the program, working with local Continuum of Care, and documenting clients' services in the Homeless Management Information System. Outreach and engagement is not a standalone service and focuses on getting people that we think would be eligible, working with other community action teams, and trying to engage people. A minimum of 75% must be used for

shelter/interim housing, rental assistance, auxiliary funding in assisted living facilities and housing navigation. Possible settings include, but not limited to, tiny homes, hotels and motels, and modular buildings. Up to 25% of funds can be used for start-up infrastructures with a limit of \$75,000 per bed. All beds must be available within a year and there is a competitive priority if they are all align within six months.

- This grant is meant to help address diverse cultural needs and also advance racial equity. This plan fits into the Board of Supervisors first two lines of efforts; to increase and expand housing and shelter options and to provide the services for new interim housing. Since this program is intended to queue up for the CARE act program, we anticipate that intensive services and mid-term bridge housing is needed. The focus may be more on transitional housing with intensive services available. There are a lot of unhoused population, more short-term or mid-term shelter/interim housing may be considered. We have our first pallet community in Grover Beach behind our Drug and Alcohol clinic. These shelters accommodate two beds with a heater and air conditioner. There is also a centralized community area with a kitchen, showers, and restrooms.
- One of the main concerns that was brought up during the HSOC meeting was that people with physical health conditions, as well as serious substance abuse or mental health conditions are sometimes not eligible for programs due to their high need for all three. We do not think that this funding allows for the medical provision of services, but the coordination does. There are people in our community that are homeless who have serious behavioral health needs and chronic disorders which makes it harder for housing providers to have them in independent living. Limitations for this funding leaves a small population that will be eligible. A second Adult Treatment Program has been looked at as well.
- We have three shelters located in the county, South County, San Luis Obispo, and North County. After meeting with the Department of Social Services, they are trying to address the encampment issues in both San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles. The question that arises is, how many people in these encampments meet the eligibility of this grant. It also provides for housing navigation but not funding for additional treatment. We will still need to build up the treatment outreach. Our goal is to ensure there is a behavioral health specialist who would work with the existing homeless outreach programs.
- HMIS, Homeless Management Information System, captures and coordinates the system that homeless services providers enter data for those who are served. County clients go into a different system than this. The state is trying to implement the use of HMIS so that the data being entered can be accessed by all entities, a single data base.
- It will not reduce the time it takes for building permits. The homeless division is working on encampment resolutions for each city. If it is a city planning issue and they have agreed to this resolution, that may help speed up these processes. We do have a list of 35-50 people who fall into the category of chronically homeless and frequent law enforcement involvement who may be eligible for this program.
- We will be taking this opportunity to the Board of Supervisors to request permission to apply on April 4th, 2023. The next step will be to submit the grant and if we are approved, we will go back to the Board of Supervisors for permission to accept the grant.

- Next steps & implementation timeline:
 - Input on program design- March/ April (current step)
 - Application approval and submittal- Beginning in June
 - Conditional awards announced- Beginning in June
 - Release Request for Proposal(s) (where applicable)- 2023
 - Key milestones developed, regular reporting, learning collaboratives.
- Please send any information, comments or concerns to Frank Warren or Morgan Torell regarding this matter.

12. Adjourn at 4:30PM: Eulalia Apolinar/ Melissa Cummins