



Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (Minutes of the meeting of September 4, 2024) **FINAL**

<u>2024 BHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ryan Campbell - BOS	Meeting Cancelled	✓	✓	✓	Meeting Cancelled	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt		E	E	E		E	E	E	E			
Cathie Peacock		E	✓	E		✓	✓	✓	E			
Elizabeth Marum		E	✓	E		E	E	✓	✓			
Jenn Salazar		✓	E	✓		✓	✓	✓	E			
Maureen Woods		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Marshall Romeo		---	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sherry Bradley		✓	E	✓		✓	✓	✓	E			
Terry Ann Garcia		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	E	✓			
Valerie Shuemake		✓	E	✓		E	✓	E	✓			

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E Virtual Attendance = V 9 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Tami Mariscal, Director – Behavioral Health Department
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Technician – Behavioral Health Department
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Mystery Bradford, community member
Katrina Olvera, Executive Director – CalPride Sierras
Marisa Caratachea, Behavioral Health Director - Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Center
One other community member was also in attendance who chose not to introduce themselves

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Behavioral Health Advisory Board Chair, Ryan Campbell, called the meeting to order at 4:19 pm. Six members were present and accounted for at the time of roll call, completing a quorum for the Board. Those present were Ryan Campbell-District 2 Supervisor, Elizabeth Marum, Marshall Romeo, Maureen Woods, Terry Ann Garcia, and Valerie Shuemake. Cathie Peacock, Jenn Salazar, and Sherry Bradley were not in attendance.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board members in attendance introduced themselves to all present.

Introductions were made by Tuolumne County staff in attendance, as follows: Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director; and Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Support to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to **three minutes**. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

Mystery Bradford commented on the current sweep of the homeless camp that started at 9 am today and should be complete by 3 pm. She expressed concern that RV placements are given priority to be placed in shaded areas vs. those housed in tents. She would also like to see more behavioral health outreach efforts at community events such as the local Farmer's Markets.

A community member shared concern regarding the Board of Supervisors proclamation for Suicide Prevention Month being scheduled for the end of the month. She feels that the proclamation should be in place at the beginning of the month to improve awareness.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Maureen Woods and seconded by Valerie Shuemaker to accept the July 3, 2024, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as amended and to approve the August 7, 2024, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

(Ayes: 6 – Supervisor Campbell, Elizabeth Marum, Maureen Woods, Marshall Romeo, Terry Garcia, and Valerie Shuemaker. Nays: 0 Members Absent: 3 – Jenn Salazar, Cathie Peacock, and Sherry Bradley)

4. PUBLIC SPEAKER PRESENTATION – Marisa Caratachea, MSC, LMFT – Director of Behavioral Health for Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Center

After an introduction by Marshall Romeo, Behavioral Health Advisory Board member, Marisa Caratachea, Director of Behavioral Health for Tuolumne N\MeOWuk Indian Health Center, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the group that provided an overview of her department. A copy of that PowerPoint will be included within these minutes.

The group discussed the services and staff coverage at the clinic. Several questions were posed regarding timeliness of service delivery and acceptance of different types of insurance. It was noted that they are still pending Drug Medi-Cal certification.

The group thanked Marisa for her time and the information shared. She was invited to attend future meetings if interested.

5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, informed the group that September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, promoting resources, and fostering conversations to help prevent suicide. It's an opportunity to support those struggling with mental health challenges and to remind everyone that help is available, and hope is possible. To make the conversation about suicide less intimidating there are countless efforts underway through Behavioral Health and other community partners such as:

Columbia College Wellness Fair Sept. 10, 10-2pm; Hope and Honor Walk Sept. 14th 9-11am; Youth MH First Aid Sept. 26th 8-4:30pm; TCBH Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Event 27th 10-2pm; MH Coffee Talk, last Friday of each month 8-10am.

Since August 7th, Behavioral Health has conducted outreach at the homeless encampment near the Justice Center every Wednesday. So far, we have engaged with 9 individuals, providing them with information about available resources and our services. Along with the information, the Crisis Access Intervention Program (CAIP) team has distributed essential items like water, granola bars, and mandarin oranges. The individuals we encountered were generally welcoming, and staff felt appreciated. The outcomes of these outreach efforts vary—some individuals expressed interest in coming in for services soon, while others declined but shared their needs such as tarps and water. Additionally, some mentioned that Social Services visits weekly. The team noted the presence of several veterans, two of whom shared they are working to regain their benefits. Interestingly, we also encountered several people who are either Walmart employees or fast-food workers who live in the camp. In addition to outreach efforts, various Behavioral Health staff regularly visit the camp as they continue the delicate and often lengthy process of building engagement with individuals.

The Behavioral Health Department has regularly scheduled hours set at the Community Resilience Centers to increase outreach efforts. Those hours are as follows:

Tuolumne – Second Friday of each month 9-12pm

Groveland - Third Thursday of each month 1-4pm

The Behavioral Health dedicated office in Tuolumne will also be available for one on one meetings.

Leadership recently analyzed the no show rate compared to the Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Assessment calendar to ensure proper capacity to meet the rate of requested services. It was determined that there are 25 intake slots per week that can meet the current demand.

Tami provided the group a progress report on the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH). She noted that there is significant progress being made in preparing the property for occupancy. The housing team has completed the administrative infrastructure required to manage tenants, including drafting key documents such as tenant agreements, leases, housing rules, the Tenant House Manual, and policies and procedures. Additionally, a dedicated phone line for housing concerns has been established. At Parrots Ferry Property, House Two is nearly ready, pending a gas line inspection. Once approved, two tenants are prepared to move in. So far, 17 housing applications have been completed.

6. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF REPORT

No Staff Reports were received at this meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Marshall Romeo shared the Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Action Plan with the group. A copy of that plan is included within these minutes. The group discussed the Behavioral Health Department's compliance with this plan and the need for this information. It was noted that the department has been collecting this type of data for quite some time. The department relayed that what information that can be

shared is contained within the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) reports. As a small county, some numbers may not be revealed as the department cannot disclose them due to privacy concerns.

8. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

The group discussed potential dates for the next Site Visit scheduled at the Aegis Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center. A tentative date was proposed for Monday, September 23, 2024, at 1:00 pm to the Site Visit Team (Supervisor Campbell, Marshall Romeo, Elizabeth Marum, and alternates Cathie Peacock, and Maureen Woods) to determine their availability. Once an official date and time has been confirmed with the provider, Pandora will reach out to the team with directions, a copy of the contract, Site Visit forms and protocol instructions.

7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Valerie Shuemake provided an update on a concern raised by the public about security guards located at the Adventist Health Sonora Hospital. She informed the group that security is in place to assure the safety of the public and staff. Their presence is mostly a deterrent, they are not police. She also shared information of new grant funded positions for substance use disorder navigators and additional funding in place for a housing specialist.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Detailed meeting information will be provided on the October Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The September 4, 2024, Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.