



Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board **(Minutes of the meeting of September 1, 2021)** **FINAL**

<u>2021 MHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaron Brandon - BOS	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓			
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt	A	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			
Cynthia Halman	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Mary Anne Schmidt	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Valerie Shuemaker	E	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	E			
Chris Daly	L	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓			
Emily Valentine	L			✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓			
Heather Farris	E								E			
Jenn Salazar	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E			
Jennifer Pastorini				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Elizabeth Marum					✓	A	E	✓	✓			
Maureen Woods					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Penny Ablin				✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓			
Sherry Bradley			✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓			
Susie DeMassey					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

14 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Michael Wilson, Director – BH
Tami Mariscal, Deputy Director - BH
Lindsey Lujan, Agency Manager – BH
Amanda Lawrance, Staff Services Analyst - BH
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant - BH
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Theresa Comstock, Executive Director – CA Assoc. of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions
Other community members were in attendance who declined to introduce themselves

I. CALL TO ORDER

Advisory Board Chair, Cynthia Halman, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. Ten of the fourteen members were present and accounted for through roll call to complete a quorum for the Board. Present at that time were Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Jennifer Pastorini, Elizabeth Marum, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley, and Susie DeMassey. Jaron Brandon, Valerie Shuemaker, Jenn Salazar, and Heather Farris were not in attendance.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by Tuolumne County staff: Michael Wilson- Behavioral Health Director, Tami Mariscal - Behavioral Health Deputy Director, Lindsey Lujan - Quality Improvement Agency Manager, Amanda Lawrance - Quality Improvement Staff Analyst and Pandora Armbruster – Quality Improvement Administrative Assistant. Other attendees introduced: Theresa Comstock - Executive Director, CA Association of Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

After reviewing and discussing published agenda items, the board decided that no changes were deemed necessary.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

After discussion by board members, a few typos were identified in the August 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes under review.

Mary Anne Schmidt, Advisory Board Vice Chairperson, requested that the July 2021 Meeting Minutes be updated to reflect the clarification regarding board member communications outside of Advisory Board meetings which was shared in the August 2021 Minutes. After discussion, it was determined that the clarification shared in the August Meeting Minutes was sufficient to address the concern. For the record, the clarification is as noted, “Individual board members are not restricted in communicating with community members to gain information or knowledge to be shared during meetings or through Ad-Hoc Committees.”

A motion was made by Sherry Bradley to approve the minutes with the noted corrections and clarification. Maureen Woods seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Ayes: 10 – Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Jennifer Pastorini, M. Elizabeth Marum, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley, and Susie DeMassey. Nays: 0 Members Absent: 4 – Jaron Brandon, Valerie Shuemaker, Jenn Salazar, and Heather Farris)

VI. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT: Board of Supervisors Representative – Jaron Brandon

Supervisor Brandon reported that the Board of Supervisors has been dealing with the after-effects of the Washington Fire, Airola Fire and Tulloch Fire with Health and Human Services Agency, Community Development Department, and County Fire Agencies. There were several structures lost and many community members displaced. Jaron asked the Behavioral Health Director to work with Rebecca Espino, HHSA Director to provide counseling services to those affected wherever possible.

Jaron has been working on proposed changes to the Tuolumne County Ordinance Code, Title 17-Building, Planning and Land Use section. He shared that it is a huge piece of regulation and solicited help from others to review and provide public comment. This code is available through the following online platform: <https://zoningtitle17.konveio.com/>

He also reported that collective bargaining continues with county labor organizations representing Behavioral Health.

Supervisor Brandon shared that Pandora is currently providing administrative support to the Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness (TCCoH) while recruitment for a new Homelessness Outreach Coordinator is underway and relayed his appreciation of her assistance during this time.

Jaron reported that there are currently two things that the TCCoH is focusing on as a committee. The first is an emergency shelter proposal and they have identified four sites, a safe parking site and a last-ditch emergency service site which would provide very limited services. Supervisor Haff is working on the exploration of a local navigation center geared to the homeless population and inspired by the work being done in Merced County. We are looking at available funding sources and potential sites. These are ongoing efforts to mitigate the housing issues experienced here in Tuolumne County.

We are looking at reviewing and updating the bylaws for the Housing Policy Committee and would love to see the committees have a more cross-functional relationship supporting each other.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) recommendation passed. There is currently \$2.7 M dedicated to different causes such as fire and cyber security investments. Jaron is happy with \$500,000 reserved for a community non-profit and organization investment. This is a micro-grant program for anything from Chambers of Commerce to local non-profits and organizations for capital investments that will pay dividends to community businesses for the next 10-20 years or will help them recover and get back on their feet from any losses incurred because of the Covid pandemic.

Michael Wilson requested that advisory board members, their friends and family use the public comment period at the Board of Supervisors meetings to show support for increased wages for our county mental health service providers. The Behavioral Health difficulties in recruiting staff has created staff shortage concerns which are impacting the department. The community's feedback and input to the Board of Supervisors may make a positive difference in labor negotiations for county healthcare workers.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michael Wilson, LMFT - BH Director

Director Wilson informed the board that Tuolumne County Behavioral Health is now under enhanced monitoring by Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS). The department has a large Corrective Action Plan (CAP) of which 12 out of 22 identified items are left to address. Staff are working hard to meet the heightened demand for information and reports, which may result in delayed responses to outside requests.

Cathy Parker, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools (TCSOS) partnered with Behavioral Health and received a grant for \$2.5 Million for student mental health. This joint grant is very similar to the Behavioral Health Innovation project which will no longer be pursued. The stakeholder process will be relaunched to pursue other Innovation project ideas for the future.

Michael shared that Donna Fone, Mental Health Services Act Coordinator, has given the department notice that she has the intention of leaving. She is moving to the east coast to be closer to her kids. Michael shared his appreciation and admiration for Donna Fone, as a manager and a clinician, who gives time to our sister department, Public Health, assisting them in a de-stressing program.

Mary Anne inquired what role Behavioral Health would play in the implementation of the TCSOS Mental Health grant. Michael explained that the department would have some administrative oversight. The money must flow through Tuolumne County and Behavioral Health, who will be assisting with Medi-Cal billing. The department will be reimbursed

for any costs which they incur. The grant was written to provide behavioral health services in all schools. Cynthia shared that Cathy Parker, TCSOS, was featured on KVML Newsmaker a couple of weeks ago. Cathy talked about this grant in detail. These interviews are archived so if interested you can access them for more information on this topic.

Penny asked why Behavioral Health was under more scrutiny from the state. Tami Mariscal, Deputy Director, explained that the state was not pleased with the timeline in Behavioral Health's responsiveness to the CAP. Michael stated that short staffing and the limited resources of a small county can sometimes impact our abilities to respond quickly. Staff are currently working hard with the state to assure forward momentum in addressing concerns.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members of the Advisory Board may share announcements and/or comment on matters not on the agenda. Advisory Board Members' comments/announcements will be limited to five minutes.

- Mary Anne Schmidt relayed to the group that she attended the recent Community Mental Health Forum on August 12th. Though there weren't a lot of people in attendance, she appreciated the topic. She felt more educated about mental health service providers in our county, especially for children and the tribes. She really enjoyed this event and would like to see them happen more often with increased attendance. Michael thanked her for the kind words and shared that he plans to do forums every quarter.

Mary Anne attended the Quality Improvement Council meeting recently and expressed concerns surrounding the Performance Outcomes & Quality Improvement (POQI) survey as only 50 clients participated. She felt that number may not be enough to gain an accurate depiction of clients' views.

Mary Anne still needs biographies for Heather Farris and Valerie Shuemake. She has also delivered Heather's New Member Orientation binder to her for her review.

Mary Anne met with Tracie Riggs, County Administrator, and Rebecca Espino, Health and Human Services Director, to discuss a budget for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

- Sherry Bradley would like to clarify that on page 3 of the August 4, 2021, Minutes it was suggested that an agenda item be created to provide potential topics for future mental health forums. She would like to see that item added to the October 6th Meeting agenda.

She suggested that a time frame be added to agenda items to assure that all topics are addressed whenever possible. This would also assist presenters in preparing their reports. Cynthia asked that both items be added to next month's agenda for discussion and possible action.

Sherry reported that she completed the Ethics Course and forwarded her certificate to Pandora for filing and processing. She attended several other board member trainings through the CALBHB/C website.

- Cynthia reminded everyone that September is National Suicide Prevention month. There are several great articles in the September TCBH Newsletter. It contains some great ideas on Suicide Prevention and mentions an upcoming 2-day Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST). Cynthia is one of the trainers. It was noted

that Pandora will be attending. There are still a few seats left if anyone is interested. Information is shared on the Behavioral Health Newsletter. If you do not already receive the newsletter, please let Pandora know and she will add you to the email recipient list.

- Michael wanted to share that in honor of Suicide Prevention Month, he, Cynthia Halman and Bob White would be requesting a proclamation and presenting about Suicide Awareness next Tuesday before the Board of Supervisors. All are invited to attend or watch the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTES PER PERSON): 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 five 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.

Cynthia Halman invited members of the public to comment on any items not already on the agenda. No public attendees wished to comment.

IX. BUSINESS

New Business:

1. Report on AB 988 Mental Health Crisis Hotline – Michael Wilson, Behavioral Health Director

Michael reported that this bill does not clearly define certain elements, such as billing, our role in crisis supports, or local planning, etc. and requests the boards feedback. Theresa Comstock commented that CALBHB/C leadership had originally supported the bill, but once Michelle Cabrera at CA Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) learned about the issues, that support has been put on hold. Some of the concerns raised have been addressed in an amended bill but has not yet been published online. Mary Anne requested that Michael send her the list of reasons why support for AB 988 has been put on hold. Michael will send out the information to all advisory Board members. Cynthia will take this topic to the "Call to Action" Ad-Hoc Committee for future discussion.

2. Rules & Tools for an Effective Behavioral Health Advisory Board – Theresa Comstock, Executive Director – CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C)

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director, CALBHB/C explained that her organization is in place to support CA Mental Health Advisory Boards in their roles. She opened her presentation and shared relevant information for each slide.

Theresa shared that upon review of the Advisory Board's Bylaws, the Executive Committee, as listed, could be a problem as it could be construed as a standing committee. This could be remedied easily by eliminating the executive committee language surrounding the setting of agenda items. Cynthia requested that the concern surrounding "Executive Committee Meetings" language in the bylaws be added to next month's agenda.

Also noted, emails to all board members should be masked by utilizing the blind copy feature to eliminate members inadvertently "replying all" in response. This will lessen the potential for inadvertently creating serial meetings which should be avoided.

She suggested that Advisory Boards annually review and approve their goals and decide priority topics. Theresa discussed potential budget expenses that could be related to childcare, training, conference fees and the associated travel costs.

She shared additional slides describing board member duties mandated through the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). Speakers, panels, and community forums bring stakeholders together which promotes collaboration across programs. Advisory Board meetings are a great venue to bring those groups together to encourage those connections.

Theresa briefly reviewed the CALBHB/C website highlighting Tuolumne County's Performance Outcome Data and External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) data. She also shared additional effective strategies by utilizing staff presentations and reports to educate members, the public and assist in identifying problems or concerns for local mental health consumers.

It is the board's responsibility to advise the Board of Supervisors and the local mental health director on any aspect of the local mental health program. This is accomplished by identifying and researching issues and working with the Behavioral Health Director.

It is also the Board's role to provide a public forum for the community planning process. They must submit an annual report and when necessary, participate in the hiring of a mental health director, as well as review and comment on the Performance Outcome Data, and the Data Notebook. Realignment money is also an important piece of fiscal requirements and the mental health budget that the Advisory Board should understand to be most effective in their role. Theresa shared links and trainings specific to these areas on her website.

Mary Anne asked why Behavioral Health Boards were created. Theresa explained that the Boards were created to assure that the services and programs provided to the mental health community are in the consumer's best interests.

Jaron Brandon asks for examples of the "best practices" of other effective advisory boards to promote important bills and legislation specific to mental health issues. Theresa pointed out the Best Practices link on the CALBHB/C website.

A copy of Theresa's presentation will be attached to these minutes as "Attachment 1."

3. Discuss Speakers/Presenters for Advisory Board - Cynthia Halman

Cynthia reminded the group of the last meeting's options for speakers, such as Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, Juvenile Hall, Probation, Community Cultural Collaborative, DA's Office, ATCAA, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office, Resiliency Village and requested the board's input in topics and speakers.

The group felt the identified list seemed appropriate and a suggestion was made to add Mi-Wuk, Mathiesen Clinics and Center for a Non-Violent Community (CNVC) to it.

This topic and proposed list will be taken back to the "Call to Action" Ad-Hoc Committee for review and a follow-up item on next month's agenda.

4. Discussion & Request of Final Report on Mobile Triage Grant – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne requested a final report from Behavioral Health on the Mobile Triage Services Grant. Michael informed Mary Anne that the grant ends in November of 2021 and a final report will be produced after that date. She explained that her interest in the grant report stems from information received from Supervisor Brandon of a national conference being held virtually on October 20-21, 2021. The conference is sponsored by the Justice Center Council of State Governments. This “Taking the Call” national conference focuses on redefining who answers calls for service involving mental health or substance use crises, homelessness, “quality of life” issues, and other low-level situations. She would like the information gained through the final grant report to assist the board in determining what could best benefit our community next.

Michael shared that Behavioral Health has recently applied for a Crisis Care Mobile Unit Program in the amount of \$990,000 which may be used for infrastructure, staffing, and to expand crisis and triage reach. He is hopeful that more money will be coming to address this need.

Cynthia requested that the “Taking the Call” conference be added to the October agenda for more discussion and possible action.

5. Reminder to All Advisory Board Members to Complete CALBHB/C online Ethics class by Oct. 1, 2021 & forward Certificate to Behavioral Health Administrative Support – Cynthia Halman

Cynthia requested that if possible, all members complete their Ethics training and forward their completion certificate to Pandora for filing and processing.

Ad-Hoc Committees Progress Reports:

6. Bylaws Review Ad-Hoc Committee: Review & Approve County Council Edits, if completed, and Possible Action to move forward to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance – Mary Anne Schmidt

This item is postponed until a response is received from County Counsel regarding their review.

7. Social Media & Communication & Calendar Ad-Hoc Committee: Update & Possible Action – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne relayed that the committee met with Lindsey and the website refresh is underway. The new pages will not be completed until January 2022. The committee would like to see this brought forward to the Advisory Board for their review prior to launch. Jennifer reported that she has now built out the Facebook page with basic information regarding the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. She is looking for more information to share with the public with links to resources and education about current mental health issues and services.

8. Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors Ad-Hoc Workgroup Committee: Update & Possible Action - Cynthia Halman

Cynthia requested permission to access the member biographies for inclusion in the Board of Supervisors Annual Report. Mary Anne agreed to share them with her along with some pictures that she had available. Cynthia explained that she is still working on the many parts of the report but still needs feedback from the group before it is completed, so will bring this back at the next meeting.

Items Tabled for Future Meetings:

9. Social Get-Together Discussion – Proposed Date, Place and Associated Costs -
Cynthia Halman

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Halman at 6:02 PM. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021, at 4:00 pm via videoconference through Zoom, teleconference and in person following any public health restrictions. Meeting information will be posted on the October 2021 Agenda.