

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
July 1, 2021 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Monica Caffey, Lorrie Denson, Michael Grabhorn, Jennifer Silvestri, Victoria Ogunrinu, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Veatrice Jews, Gil Navarro, Samuel Shoup on behalf of Supervisor Col. Cook.

Excused Absence: May Farr, Akin Merino, Lynn Summers

Absent: Carol Kinzel, Catherine Inscore

Guests: Beverly Scott, Briceida Tompkins, Cass, DBH Office of Equity and Inclusion, Jeramy Sanquist, Kristen Mungcal, Maribel Gutierrez, Marlene Hernandez, Matthew Wong, Nicole Woodward, Oneta Wilson, Shavona Parker, Toni Harris, Edith Lockerman, Constance Fee, Julie Hale, Kevin Mahany, Lauren Valles, Michael Knight, Sonia Rubio, Tamara Weaver, Victoria Hall, Jessica Montecinos, Misty Harris, Patricia Moore, Sheena Felix, Gayle, Susan Achuff, Teri Morrell, Karen Cervantes, Dr. G, Valerie Dunn, Andre Bossieux, Laretta Ross, A5173, La Keisha Mosley, Melanie Porges, Jennifer Esparza, Vivian Bermudez, Cristi Guerra, Christina Entz, Erica Ochoa, Timothy Hougen, Joyce Harden, Gregory Nyx, Cheryl McAdam, DeMario Dunn, William Oglesby, Jennifer Pacheco, I4504, LeAnn Mast, Jackie Duenez, Judith Lux, Cassandra Searcy, Rachel Cierpich, Sharon Green, Marina Espinosa, G7808, Miriam Clark, Steve McNally, Steven Jackson, Allison Cunningham, Andrew Gruchy, Rene Keres, Paul Fournier, Liana Deroian, Cheryl McAdam, Martha Parra, Steven Jackson, DeAndrea Porch, Vanessa Esparza

Minutes recorded by Raquel Ramos, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC).

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLE CALL

Vice Chair Michael Grabhorn called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. and roll call followed. Commissioner Navarro led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Tab 6: Review Minutes of June 3, 2021.

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Jennifer Silvestri/ Gil Navarro

AYES: Michael Grabhorn, Lorrie Denson, Carol Kinzel, Victoria Ogunrinu, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Veatrice Jews

ASBSTAIN:

ABSENT: Monica Caffey, Akin Merino, Lynn Summers, May Farr, Catherine Inscore

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beverly Scott provided the following public comment via email: I have received a complaint about the TAY Center in Yucca Valley. This complaint dealt with a youth in need of critical, mental health services. The complaint came from a health service provider who was very unhappy about TAY's response.

Tab 7: SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTATION: Project Room Key

Presenter: Dr. Rene Keres, Program Manager II

- Project Roomkey was established in March 2020 as part of the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of Project Roomkey is to provide non-congregate shelter options for people experiencing homelessness, protect human life, and minimize strain on health care system capacity.
- Project Roomkey at Glen Helen included 20 trailers that were donated to the County to provide a place for those that were positive for COVID-19, homeless or unable to safely quarantine. Referrals came to the Department of Public Health (DPH) from hospitals, facilities, contract tracers and the community. DPH made the determination if the guest was able to safely isolate in the trailer and met the criteria.

- DBH provided the case management on site and linkage to services and potential housing once quarantine was completed. About 200 individuals were served from March 2020 – February 2021
- Project Roomkey at Hotels provided non-congregate isolation assistance for our County's homeless residents that were 65+ and/or had a chronic medical condition. This population was chosen due to their increased risk of developing the more severe form of COVID-19. The County contracted with two hotels; one in San Bernardino and one in Victorville. The County also contracts with a local restaurant to provide three meals a day. Referrals for the hotels go to the Sheriff's HOPE team. Referrals come from the coordinated entry system, Homeless Provider Network, outreach teams, etc.
- DBH provides the case management for these guests and delivers the food daily. In the beginning, many agencies within the Homeless Provider Network were able to use funds to provide this same assistance other alternate hotels.
- This effort continues today. There is a total of 30 rooms in San Bernardino and 17 rooms in Victorville that are being utilized for this purpose. The sunset of this program is determined by future funding.
- For additional questions, please contact Dr. Rene Keres at rene.keres@dbh.sbcounty.gov.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

First District:

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn shared he is helping Prevention and Early Intervention conduct smoke shop surveys in an effort to get legislation to prevent meth pipes from being sold at smoke shops. He participated in the First District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting, which included a presentation on the Crisis Walk-In Center. He is continuing his work with food giveaways.

Commissioner Lorrie Denson shared that the June DAC Meeting include a presentation from Brittany Hardy, Clinic Supervisor at the Victorville Crisis Walk-In Center. This clinic operates 24/7 and requires no appointments or insurance. The presentation included information on the community the clinic serves and staffing. She plans to conduct a site visit in the future. She is continuing her work with COVID testing at Burning Bush Church. Burning Bush works with Rite Aid who has previously sent out staff to administer vaccines such as the flu shot and hepatitis, she is coordinating for this to be offered in the future.

Second District:

Commissioner Jennifer Silvestri attended the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CalBHBC) quarterly meeting which included information on intersectionality and AB32. It was very informational. She coordinated the Second DAC Meeting, which included representatives from agencies all over the mountain including Rim Family, Mountain Counseling and Training. She also spoke with Claire Karp regarding Department of Behavioral Health presence in the mountain communities. She is coordinating for Claire Karp, Dr. Keres and a representative from Public Relations and Outreach to attend the next DAC.

Third District:

Commissioner Victoria Ogunrinu shared she attended the National Innovative Communities two-day virtual conference. It was very informative and shared information on healing the communities. She enjoyed breakout sessions focusing on race and equity and how equity is built by community involvement. This only highlights the importance of the DACs. She also participated in a seminar on racism and mental health with her church.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter shared she also attended the National Innovative Communities two-day virtual conference and the CalBHBC quarterly meeting. She is continuing her work with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) board of directors meeting and connecting services with the county and continuing online addiction courses.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Veatrice Jews shared that the Fifth DAC Meeting took place. Michelle Dusick presented on the homeless strategic plan. She attended the African American Mental Health Coalition meeting which included a presentation on the perspective of a black man. She is continuing to work with the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches on the ongoing project with DBH. A project coordinator has been hired and information for the public is forthcoming. She also attended the two-day National Innovative Communities conference which included a wealth of information and concepts on equity.

Commissioner Gil Navarro stated he also attended the National Innovative Communities two-day conference. He opted to attend one of the days in person. The keynote speaker was Van Jones. This agency promotes social justice it was a very informative. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is campaigning for a bill that promotes awareness in providing mental health services in the military. He is continuing his work in linking students and the school system to resources available within DBH. He encouraged meeting attendees research AB552.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Monica Caffey thanked everyone for moving the meeting along, while she dealt with technological and accessibility issues when trying to log into the meeting. The Fourth DAC meeting is taking place July 21. Please see the calendar for information on how to access the meeting. She would like to see more public participation at this meeting, she encouraged everyone even those not residing in the Fourth District to join whenever they can.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Identify Commissioner to Prepare Presentation Findings:

- Commissioner Lorrie Denson volunteered to prepare today's presentation memo of findings.

Officer Vacancy – Election of 2021 Secretary

- Due to Vickie Mack's resignation, the Secretary Officer position is vacant. The floor was open for nominations. No nominations were received. Dr. Caffey opted to table the item for the remainder of the year and leave this position vacant until 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director, Michael Knight provided the following report on behalf of Director Dr. Veronica Kelley:

- He thanked Commissioners for allowing him to step in on behalf of Dr. Kelley.
- He acknowledged that the Public Comment regarding TAY will be addressed with Ms. Scott offline. He thanked Ms. Scott for her advocacy and feedback.
- There have been some significant changes at the County Administrative Office (CAO), CaSonya Thomas, former director for DBH, has transitioned from her role the Assistant Executive Officer for Health and Human Services to overseeing all homeless services for the entire county. Assistant Executive Officer Diana Alexander has now taken on the role of overseeing Health and Human Services.
- The State has opened up for business, as a result various county office are now opening. DBH never closed clinics. At this time the Governor is working with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to rescind moratoriums, this will impact how DBH provides services and levels of documentation and signatures that DBH has to collect. As a result DBH will decrease telecommuting schedules.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

- Edith Lockerman with Public Relations and Outreach shared DBH has partnered with the Consumer Evaluation Council to develop a new website. The redesigned website will be launched at the beginning of this month.
- Maribel Gutierrez announced the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee (CCAC) will hold their virtual summit July 28-29. Keynote speakers include Candice Rose Valenzuela and Royleen Ross. Registration will be open next week. The summit will be available in English and Spanish.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Monica Caffey, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Raquel Ramos
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission