

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
November 4, 2021 - 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Monica Caffey, Lorrie Denson, Michael Grabhorn, Carol Kinzel, Victoria Ogunrinu, Akin Merino, Veatrice Jews, Gil Navarro, Lynn Summers Samuel Shoup on behalf of Supervisor Col. Cook.

**Excused Absence:** May Farr, Jennifer Silvestri, Catherine Inscore, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Michael Knight, Cristi Guerra, Jamal Johnson, Jeremy Sandquist, Maribel Gutierrez, Roxanna Sanchez, Toni Harris, Lourdes Avila, Matthew Wong, George Toruno, Jennifer Esparza, Kristen Mungcal, Sean Colony, Michelle Dusick, Kethura Solano, Lauren Valles, Monica Algarin, Nicole Woodward, Gayle Morrow, Joyce Montgomery, Miriam Clark, Amazing Place Clubhouse, Liz Maldonado, Tricia Navarro, Susan Achuff, Robyn Gantsweg, Laurence Gonzaga, Deborah Courtney-Taylor, Sarah Hayes, Derrick Cannon, Jennifer Alsina, Don Craw, Merida Saracho, Anna Blum, Oliver Habel, Dr. Georgina Yoshioka, Karen Cervantes, Fabiola Yanez, Allison Cunningham, Cheryl McAdam, Christina Entz, DBH-PIO, Lileana Lopez, Kelli Ensmann, Andre Bossieux, Jennifer Pacheco, Steven Jackson, Valerie Dunn, LaAnn Mast, Gerald, Marina Espinosa, Dr. Rene Keres, Julie Hale, Priyana Taneja, Tristin Alfred, Laretta Ross, Sondra Savage, Erin Zamora, Jessica Montecinos, Tristin Alfred, Edith Lockerman, Lynn Summers, Priyanka Taneja.

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLE CALL**

Chair Dr. Monica Caffey called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and roll call followed. Commissioner Gil Navarro led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**Tab 5:** Review Minutes of September 2, 2021.

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Lynn Summers/Lorrie Denson

AYES: Michael Grabhorn Carol Kinzel, Veatrice Jews, Victoria Ogunrinu, Monica Caffey, Gil Navarro, Akin Merino

ASBSTAIN:

ABSENT: May Farr, Jennifer Silvestri, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Catherine Inscore,

**Tab 6:** Review Minutes of October 7, 2021.

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Lynn Summers/Lorrie Denson

AYES: Michael Grabhorn Carol Kinzel, Veatrice Jews, Victoria Ogunrinu, Monica Caffey, Gil Navarro, Akin Merino

ASBSTAIN:

ABSENT: May Farr, Jennifer Silvestri, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Catherine Inscore,

**Tab 7: DATA NOTEBOOK PRESENTATION: Racial Ethnic Inequities in Behavioral Health**

Presenter: Maribel Gutierrez, Cultural Competency Officer, Office of Equity and Inclusion

- The Data Notebook is designed to assist local boards to meet their legal mandates to review the local county mental health services and report on performance every year, function as an educational resource about behavioral health data, obtain opinion and thoughts of local board members on specific topics and identify unmet needs and make recommendations.
- This year's notebook focuses on racial/ethnic inequities in behavioral health.

- There are questions from prior years to help detect trends. Monitoring trends will assist in the identification of unmet needs or gaps in services, which may occur due to changes in population, resources available or public policy on Adult Residential Care, Homelessness and Child Welfare Services.
- There are at least 250 licensed Adult Residential Care Facilities (ARF) in San Bernardino County, according to the CA Department of Social Services website. There are different types of ARFs throughout San Bernardino County, but many do not serve the behavioral health population. Only a few serve DBH consumers. In Fiscal Year 2020-21, the County assisted 272 consumers with some or all of the costs to reside in a licensed ARF.
- In Fiscal Year 2020-21, DBH paid for 45,074 ARF bed days. Currently, thirty-eight (38) consumers need ARF housing but are not living in an ARF as they are awaiting placement. There are significant delays due to COVID-19 and temporary regulations.
- Within San Bernardino County, there are four (4) facilities that are classified as IMDs: Two (2) of these facilities are licensed as Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and certified as Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs). These SNF-IMDs are considered non-acute psychiatric inpatient facilities. Two (2) of these facilities are Fee-For-Service (FFS) Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APH), which provide acute inpatient psychiatric care. San Bernardino County provides payment for consumers at SNF-IMDs, Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRCs) and FFS APHs. Of these facilities, San Bernardino County maintains contracts with: Two (2) in-county SNF-IMDs; One (1) out-of-county SNF-IMD; Two (2) out-of-county MHRCs; Two (2) in-county FFS APHs; Two (2) out-of-county FFS APHs. San Bernardino County also provides payment for consumers treated in out-of-county FFS APHs with whom the county does not have a contract.
- DBH paid some or all of the cost of IMD treatment in Fiscal Year 2020-21. A total of 134 individuals were served through contracted SNF-IMDs and Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (MHRC). A total of 1,006 individuals were served through FFS Acute Psychiatric Hospitals. Grand total of 1,140 unique individuals.
- In Fiscal Year 2020-21, San Bernardino County provided payment for a total of: 29,250 bed days were provided through contracted SNF-IMDs and MHRCs, 7,109 bed days at in-county, contracted SNF-IMDs, 22,141 bed days at out-of-county, contracted SNF-IMDs and MHRCs, A total of 7,125 bed days were provided through FFS APHs, 4,949 bed days at in-county, contracted FFS APHs, 1,176 bed days at out-of-county, contracted FFS APHs, 1,000 bed days at out-of-county, non-contracted FFS APHs for a grand total of 36,375 bed days.
- In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, San Bernardino County expanded or implemented programs to serve persons who are both homeless and have severe mental illness.
- DBH has committed tremendous resources to serving children and youth in group home care. This past fiscal year, the Children's Residential Intensive Services (ChRIS) program provided treatment to approx. 680 unduplicated youth. These youth were provided approx. 49,080 discrete mental health services. The services were a total annual cost of about \$8,859,495.
- DBH has received many children and youth requiring a group home level of care from another county. DBH received notices for approximately 117 unduplicated youth for group home placement in FY 20-21. Note: DBH recognizes the method of accounting for this population is difficult and may not be completely accurate if another county does not notify San Bernardino County, as required by the CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Improved identification in the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) may assist with better tracking in the coming fiscal year. DBH placing agencies have placed about 862 unique children needing group home level of care in another county during Fiscal Year 20-21. The total number of placements in another county is 922 over the same period, counting multiple placements for the same youth.
- California is one of the most culturally diverse states in the nation regarding race, ethnicity, and language. This diversity is one of the state's greatest assets, but it also comes with a need to provide services in ways that are culturally relevant and respectful of these diverse communities.
- DBH tailors recruitment efforts, utilizes behavioral health workforce pipeline programs that value cultural/linguistic diversity among applicants, actively cultivates a culturally inclusive workplace environment in which racial/ethnic minority staff are engaged, conducts listening sessions or other methods for staff to provide feedback on workplace environment and hiring/promoting practices, provides professional development opportunities such as mentorship or continued education and training for behavioral health staff and providers and conducts targeted outreach to develop a culturally diverse workforce.
- San Bernardino County also provides cultural proficiency training to staff and providers.
- San Bernardino County has difficulties employing culturally diverse staff and providers, specifically for remote Mountain and Desert areas of the County.
- COVID-19 has increased behavioral health disparities for Alaskan Native / American Indians, Asian or Pacific Islanders, Black, Hispanic, White, older adults (65+), Transition-age youth (16-21) and Children (under 16).

- San Bernardino County suggests an increase public/private partnerships, focus efforts on re-engaging the community and stakeholders by having more representation at local events or even hosting local events in hard to reach remote/ rural areas of the county (e.g. Mountain and Desert) and offering additional community-based programs where underserved communities feel more comfortable receiving services.
- To complete the Data Notebook, the following processes were utilized: MH Board reviewed W.I.C. 5604.2 regarding the reporting roles of mental health boards and commissions, MH Board completed majority of the Data Notebook, Data Notebook placed on Agenda and discussed at Board meeting, MH board work group or temporary ad hoc committee worked on it, MH board partnered with county staff or director, and the MH board submitted a copy of the Data Notebook to the County Board of Supervisors or other designated body as part of their reporting function.
- Behavioral Health Commissioners that participated in this year's workgroup: Dr. Monica Caffey, Michael Grabhorn, Dr. Akin Merino and Carol Kinzel.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Dr. Monica Caffey shared her appreciation for the opportunity to meet virtually. District Four is hosting a DAC meeting to focus on youth and school-based services. A Transitional Age Youth Rep is also discussing the eating disorder program at this month's meeting. She encouraged public participation. She is also on the Data Notebook Workgroup, she is very pleased San Bernardino County is one of the counties that get this done. The emphasis on school based mental services is needed now more than ever. Students have been faced with crisis after crisis the past years. Commissioner Navarro is a huge advocate for this effort. Dr. Caffey shared she is a certified trainer for mental health first aid with an additional certification for youth mental health first aid. She was just recertified and will continue to provide training to School Districts in the Fourth District.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

### **First District:**

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn shared he has continued his efforts with the High Desert Community Coalition on getting an ordinance passed to remove meth pipes from smoke shops. He was recently interviewed on a Spanish speaking station regarding this effort and made videos for social media. Commissioner Denson will provide information on the upcoming First District DAC.

Commissioner Lorrie Denson shared she has been attending the High Desert Community Coalition meetings as well in an effort to educate herself on their efforts. She informed attendees of the First DAC Meeting taking place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month 11-12pm. There is a new dental clinic opening up in the high desert representatives from this clinic are coming to the DAC meeting in December. This past October Pastor Ray with Women of Noble Character presented at the DAC meeting. Burning Bush is still hosting COVID testing three days a week. She shared she is partnering with the county on hosting vaccination clinics. Walk Ins are welcome.

### **Second District:**

Commissioner Carol Kinzel shared her appreciation for the Public Relations and Outreach group. They are providing her with marketing material for Behavioral Health. She shared she attended the Student Wellness Conference, Homeless Provider Network Meeting and Governmental Affairs meeting. She plans to attend a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training through Rim Family Services in November.

### **Third District:**

Victoria Ogunrinu reported that District 3 had a DAC meeting yesterday. The speaker presented on Mental Health Systems. The program is a Full-Service Partnership (FSP) program, which provides services to Severely Mentally ill (SMI) clients within the County of San Bernardino. The program also provides full wraparound services with the goal of reducing hospitalization, incarceration and supporting clients to achieve their highest level of functioning within the community. The program was established in 2018 and has continued to expand and build relationships within the community. Victoria Ogunrinu also reported

that she attended the Annual report meeting. She reported that District 3 will be dark in December, but will be back in January 2022.

#### **Fourth District:**

Commissioner Akin Merino shared she is coordinating the November DAC meeting for the Fourth and is continuing her training on Trauma Informed Care. We have to think about how things are developed from childhood and remember some of what we are experiencing is preventable.

#### **Fifth District:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews shared she participated in the Annual Report workgroup. She thanked Commissioner Navarro for presenting at the October DAC and the valuable information be provided on school mandates. She is continuing her work with the churches on the DBH pilot program. The next DAC meeting is November 23 at 5pm. She is continuing to attend virtual meetings.

Commissioner Gil Navarro shared that he is presenting at some of the DACs on Child Find also known as search and serve. All school districts are supposed to set up a process for early intervention if a student is experiencing academic or behavioral failures. It is called the Student Study Team process. This is to assist the student; the law says if these are not working we have to rule out a suspected disability. Its free, the parent has to give permission, however it is required by law, unfortunately this is not happening. He is available to present at any community meetings and can bring a translator if needed.

Commissioner Lynn Summers shared she is continuing her student and family advocacy work. She followed the steps Commissioner Navarro outlined and was amazed at how we were able to get the student more help to assist him in developing. She also helped a lady living in a tent. She is helping an older adult in crisis and assisting him with available resources.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS**

Identify Commissioner to Prepare Presentation Findings:

- Commissioner Akin Merino volunteered to complete this month's memo of findings.

#### **Tab 9: Present 2022 Slate of Officers**

Clerk Ramos presented the 2021 slate of prospective officers:

- Chair – Monica Caffey, Jennifer Silvestri
- Vice Chair – Veatrice Jews, Lynn Brown Summers, Gil Navarro
- Secretary – Michael Grabhorn. Lorrie Denson, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter
- Treasurer - Lorrie Denson, Michael Grabhorn

Commissioner Navarro requested to be removed from consideration for Chair. Commissioner Lynn Brown Summers requested to be removed from consideration for Vice Chair. Commissioners received duties of each position to assist commissioners with their voting selection at the next meeting.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Case rates for COVID continue to decline and vaccination numbers have inclined.
- There are executive orders requiring larger businesses to require employees be vaccinated.
- Last week our newest Deputy Director, Jennifer Alsina led DBH in our External Quality Review of the Organized Delivery System. It was a positive review, we should get a formal report in approximately 30-45 days or maybe longer.
- November is Native American Heritage month. The Office of Equity and Inclusion is doing a great job in pursuing various methods to advertise, honor and educate.

## OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

- Public Relations Manager Aimara Freeman shared information on DBH pod cast Resilient and Real. In honor of Native American Heritage month Cultural Competency Officer Maribel Gutierrez and Marcelina Shackelford are featured in this month's podcast. Link to access will be posted in the chat.
- Michelle Dusick shared information on stakeholder process. The amendment to the MHSA plan posted at last meeting. This is for the modification of the technology piece of the program. This is increasing funding for the Electronic Health Record. No public comment was received. The document will be finalized and included in the Annual Update so it will be posted for another 30-day period during that time.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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*Dr. Monica Caffey, Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Raquel Ramos*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission