

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
September 01, 2022 - 12:00-2:00 pm

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

**Excused Absence:** Gil Navarro, Akin Merino. Pastor Mark Graham

**Absent:** Catherine Inscore, Lynn Summers

**Guests:** Raquel Ramos, Karina Urena, Jeremy Sanquist, Linda Hart, Bethanne Fishell, Jennifer Pacheco, Metra Jaber, Team House, Dr. Rene Keres, Jamal Johnson, Lindsey Drake, Serenity Clubhouse, Sheena Felix, DBH-OEI, La Keisha Mosley, Sonia Rubio, Cheryl McAdam, Cristi Guerra, Derrick Cannon, Marybel Valadez, Sekeia West, Valerie Dunn, Amazing Place, Ashley Patterson, Erin Zamora, Jessica Montecinos, LeAnn Mast, Misty Harris, Oneta Wilson, Wendy Johansen, Erica Ochoa, Jennifer Esparza, Kristen Mungcal, Maribel Gutierrez, Christian Romero, Lauretta Ross, Zakiya Otis, Allison Cunningham, Bryant Vargas, Nathan Trujillo, Nicole Rice, Paola D'Aloia-Pascuzzo, Dr. Timothy Hougen, Michael Knight, Tristin Alfred, Karen Cervantes, Diana Alexander, Heather Porter, Rachael Sweitzer, Michelle McDonald, Vivian Bermudez, Asia Hayes, Jose Avila, Jose Orrostieta, Karen Garcia, Susan Achuff, Liz Maldonado, Jakob McCarthy, Pathways Clubhouse, Arthur Shaw III, Julie Hale, Michelle Smith, Miriam Clark, Robyn Gantsweg, Marina Espinosa, Lileana Lopez, Steven Jackson, Dr. Joshua Taylor, Kimberly Morrow, Lashawnda Wyatt, Tricia Navarro

Minutes recorded by Sheena Felix, Interim Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC).

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

Commissioner Denson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and roll call followed. Commissioner Denson led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Senior Program Manager, Maribel Gutierrez presented the Cultural Competence Award of Excellence to Program Manager II of Adult Forensics Services, Valerie Dunn. Valerie was awarded for her work in Forensics Services, the Department Diversity Committee, and in the community. Maribel shared what cultural competence means to Valerie in her own words, Valerie expressed her thanks for being acknowledged and the opportunity to work in a diverse workforce and with a diverse population. Maribel stated the Cultural Competence Award of Excellence is through the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee, to acknowledge individuals within the department who are promoting equity and inclusion while serving our diverse population.

Clerk Ramos suggested a schedule change to the agenda, Tina Entz was scheduled to present however, she was unable to attend this meeting. Jennifer Pacheco presented along with Bethanne Fishell and they requested the presentation be moved to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Spence stated the presentation can take place after Public Comment. Linda Hart asked if they are approving the minutes from the last meeting or just approving the minutes for today's meeting. Commissioner Spence explained that the agenda was being reviewed for today's meeting and that is why they discussed the presentation being changed to earlier in the meeting on the agenda. Linda asked at what point will they be bringing up the minutes from the last meeting, Commissioner Spence stated they will review minutes next. Linda Hart stated that she wanted to speak on the minutes from the last meeting, she wanted to go on record that she wanted to speak on the minutes from last meeting. Commissioner Spence stated the minutes were being reviewed and asked Linda to speak. Linda objected and stated her statement was incomplete, which impacts the fidelity of her statement, and she does not know if its legal to do that. She stated that her second statement in her public comment is a cut and paste from her comment at the last of the presentation. She stated that she is not sure if that is legal if you can do that under the Brown Act, but she wanted to go on record to object due to the infidelity the fidelity of her statement being incomplete. Commissioner Spence asked Linda what she would like it to say under her public comment, Linda stated that it was supposed to say that yes, we were in opposition to the new promoters due to the 1% penetration rate in the black community, she explained that the sentence just stops there like an incomplete sentence, but the sentence needs to be complete so that there will be some

understanding to the statement itself. Linda also explained that a statement that she made after the presentation by the contractors, so she doesn't know how it ended up at public comment that part, and she doesn't know that you can do that, but she wanted to go on record to state that. Clerk Ramos stated that she received feedback from Chair Caffey for an edit to be made to the minutes. The edit is on page one under Linda Hart's public comment it reads "Linda Hart CEO and Founder of the African American Coalition stated she is openly opposing the newly elected provider serving the African American community and will be campaigning to ensure that the community is correctly and appropriately being represented". Chair Caffey echoed that this statement was incomplete, Clerk Ramos reviewed the recording and Chair Caffey requested the following be added to the statement, "when it comes to presentations and not just handing out brochures Linda Hart mentioned looking at the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) African American black participant data and stated 1% outreach is unacceptable". Chair Caffey is requesting that this revision be made to the minutes. Clerk Ramos explained that in reviewing and approving the minutes as Commissioners they would either approve or deny. Linda Hart stated her next question during public comment was is it legal and can you do that, she is looking into that she has a couple of people looking into that. She stated it leaves a false impression so at what point you know or what legal entity do you have to make such edits, it should not be edited and should be clearly what the public individual says during a public comment. She stated she doesn't understand so if someone can help her understand how you can edit copy paste a person's statement. Commissioner Spence stated that she does not do the minutes and if someone else could speak to that, and regarding her second statement where she commented after the presenter was on page five of the minutes. Linda Hart stated that it wasn't during public comment though and she thinks that whatever is said during public comment for fidelity reasons and why it should state facts that comment should have stayed where it was if that's the case people can cut and paste and move and manipulate comments which she thinks is illegal. She stated again, her question was whose authority is it to cut and paste during public comment that is what she wanted to know. Commissioner Spence stated that she is not aware of that information and asked if someone can speak to that. Clerk Ramos stated the minutes are taken and the Commissioners review and approve them, a revision has been requested and now it is appropriate for the Commission to approve or deny these minutes. Linda Hart asked if the Commission approves them what recourse does she have because if they are approved as is which is definitely a violation what recourse does she have to make sure that those recommendations by Chair Dr. Caffey is suggesting she would approve of that but to approve them the way they are today she would disapprove. Clerk Ramos stated that Linda's objections and comments will be documented, and she will have another opportunity during the public comments portion of the agenda within the three-minute time limit. Commissioner Ogunrinu asked to make a comment, she thanked Linda, she also stated that the purpose of bringing the minutes her here is to validate and make corrections to whatever is not correct. She does not believe it is malicious in any form. When minutes are written they bring it here for approval, there have been many times where she has had to correct statements she has made because she was misunderstood or they did not hear her clearly, but that is the whole purpose of the minutes to review and make corrections. Linda stated that is why she is here today to reject the minutes. Commissioner Spence proceeded to ask the Commissioners to review and approve the minutes.

**Tab 8: Review Minutes of July 7, 2022.**

**APPROVED w/ REVISIONS**

Motion/Second: Lorrie Denson, Michael Grabhorn

AYES: Veatrice Jews, Jennifer Spence,

ASBSTAIN: Jennifer Silvestri, Victoria Ogunrinu

ABSENT: Pastor Mark Graham, Lynn Summers, Gil Navarro, Akin Merino, Catherine Inscore, Monica Caffey, May Farr

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Clerk Ramos stated she received an email from Linda Hart to provide a public comment, she asked if Linda would like to proceed with her three-minute public comment, Linda stated yes. Linda thanked Commissioners for taking that bold step, she stated she wanted to share that the community needs to feel that they can trust the department so that anytime anyone wants to make a public comment it must be clear so that the community can entrust bringing their concerns to the Commissioners body that it definitely entails what the concerns are and not to project another different side of what their intentions were. She thanked the Commissioners again for the corrections and stated that it is very important that when they come to you and share with you it is correct.

Clerk Ramos stated there were two Public Comments that were submitted during the month the Commission was dark, she will read those comments then offer public comment in real time.

The first comment was received via US Postal Mail on July 18 and the comment read, "I attended your meeting on Thursday, July 7th, 2022 and would like some clarity. What is the public comment process? There is a line and time for it on the agenda, but it is

clear that this is not followed. Can individuals unmute and ask questions or comment at any moment in your meeting. Also, when a presenter is presenting? What I witnessed in today's meeting was very disruptive. The presenter was interrupted by who I assume was a community person but may have also been a commissioner? Unclear. While I as a family member and individual from an underserved community I understand and know the system is not easy to navigate, there is a lot of mistrust, but I felt that the way the presenters were addressed by the community member/ commissioner was very disrespectful. We should treat everyone with respect and dignity. I learn a lot from the presentations and would like to continue attending but today's meeting facilitation was poor and full of bias. The presenter had really good information to share but I was disconnected and distracted by the community comments and the lack of facilitation by the facilitators. I will be reaching out to the CHW program to support their work and hope learn more from them directly. The way the meeting was run today did not feel like a safe space. For that reason, I am mailing this letter and not providing any contact information. 4th district resident and family member".

The next comment was received Monday, August 1 it was submitted through Dr. Monica Caffey, "To: San Bernardino County Mental Health commissioners and Department of Behavioral Health, From: Concern Black Community Members, This July Mental Health Commissioners Meeting I was interrupted by not having the opportunity to have a explanation as to why only 1% percent of the Black community were served along with not having much time for follow-up questions due to the long presentation by DBH (PEI). Black community members understood this meeting was going to be an opportunity to hear from the provider who held the contract to provide AA outreach services. That did not happen the meeting was high jack while DBH presentation took over 1 1/2 hours in a 2-hour meeting. We would like DBH to be transparent and better host by allowing community members having time and opportunity to address concerns and not be rush because of DBH presentations where providers are supposed to present. Respectfully Submitted".

### **SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTATION:**

#### **Tab 9: Adult Residential Continuum of Care**

Presenters: Jennifer Pacheco, Program Manager I, Centralized Hospital Aftercare Services (CHAS), Bethanne Fishell, Program Manager I, CHAS - Long Term Care

- Centralized Hospital Aftercare Services (CHAS) is a division with various adult specialty mental health programs, they provide the full array of behavioral health services such as case management, medication, therapy, etc. with the overall goal to assist consumers and improve their functionality in the community.
- Adult Continuing Care Program (ACCP) has three sub-programs: The Patch Program for those who are placed in enhanced board and care services are provided with case management, therapy in groups to successfully transition into that community level of care, assistance with getting connected to various resources and outpatient clinics for medications and provides a wraparound community service to assist consumers in the community. The Portals Program is a smaller medication clinic for those consumers coming out of state hospitals level of care, medication is provided and assistance with linking consumers to various programs. The third is the Premier Program which is for consumers between the ages of 18-25 who are experiencing their first episode with a mental health condition, staff provides education, connection and linkage to various behavioral health services.
- Community Reintegration Services (CRS) is a full-service partnership program for consumers being discharged from state hospital levels of care into the community. What CRS does is provide wraparound 24- hour services to assist with that transition back into the community.
- Triage Transitional Services (TTS) is a co-located program within Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) Behavioral Health Triage Unit, for those consumers who walk in voluntarily an evaluation is provided to see if the consumer meets the criteria for hospitalization. If they don't, they will assist consumers to be served in a lower level of care. In addition to voluntary walk-ins, reassessments are provided to those who may have stabilized in the triage unit, case management and linkage to lower levels of care is also provided to consumers.
- Long Term Care (LTC) is a team that works closely with the hospitals for those consumers that do need a higher level of care, they will assist the hospitals in locating appropriate placement options and transitioning consumers to higher levels of care. Once the consumer is in the higher level of care this team will work alongside the various facilities and the consumer to work on transitioning to lower levels of care.

- Conservatorship Investigation Unit (CIU) is a team that evaluates for grave disability, when a consumer is in a Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) conservatorship designated hospital or a detention center and their treating psychiatrist feels they may meet the gravely disabled criteria, the consumer is referred to the CIU team to go and evaluate for grave disability, then a recommendation is made to the court. The court ultimately makes the final decision.
- Recovery Based Engagement Support Team (RBEST) This team goes out into the field and assists those who are having trouble accessing the system of care for various reasons or having trouble continuing to access the levels of care. This is a linkage and engagement program to help a consumer obtain the most appropriate services.
- Adult Residential System of Continuum of Care – Least to Most Restrictive Residential Setting Levels of care:
  - Room and Board
  - Enhanced Board and Care
  - Skilled Nursing Facility
  - Institution for Mental Disease
  - Board and Care
  - Enhanced Assisted Living
  - Mental Health Rehabilitation Center
  - State Hospital
- Presenter Bethanne Fishell detailed the levels of care via the presentation on Adult Residential System of Continuum of Care.
- Goals of the Adult Residential System of Continuum of Care is timely access to appropriate levels of care based on the consumer's current level of functioning.
- Results for fiscal year 2021-22 – Expand beds to meet capacity needs. Enhanced board and care increased 10 beds, Enhanced assisted living, increased 5 beds, Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD), increased 20 beds and added new vendor site, Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), increased 10 beds, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), increased 10 beds and added new vendor site.
- Fiscal year 2022/23 – Expansion plans to meet capacity needs, SNF's for consumers living with dementia-related conditions, increase to 5 beds, enhanced board and care, increase by 24 beds and new vendor sites.
- Some strengths are partnership and collaboration, communication and relationships. Challenges are lack of adult residential facilities in San Bernardino County who are willing to serve the Behavioral Health population. Solutions are grants from the state to encourage and assist current providers as well as new providers to build new facilities.

**Q & A:**

- Commissioner Denson asked how much space is available at these facilities or are they just filled, she runs into people daily who need these services and it seems there are more people than there is room. Bethanne stated that they do try to accommodate the level of need as quickly as possible and the capacity varies, taking in consideration the capacity of the facility as well. Space available at the contracted site and how many contracted beds are available must be considered. Commissioner Denson asked if there are any beds available at this time, Bethanne stated they actively work on placing people and referrals are always coming in. When a facility is on quarantine, they are restricted from admitting additional clients which can cause delay. Commissioner Denson asked if she had someone to refer whom would she reach out to, Bethanne stated there is a specialized email and checklist of required documents that would need to be submitted. Information was put into the chat for reference.
- Commissioner Ogunrinu stated this was an amazing presentation, there are a lot of beds yet there are still not enough beds, she asked how many patients/clients they have on their waiting list that they can project for 23/24 they would be adding X number of beds. Bethanne stated they are currently expanding and increasing beds, she did not have a number for the waitlist as it does fluctuate, and the wait time and needs fluctuate which makes it difficult to project a wait time for services. Some consumers stabilize while waiting and will need a different lower level of care.

- Commissioner Spence asked if there is a certain time they are assessed or is it as they progress while the wait for services. Bethanne explained that if the treatment team determines the client is no longer in need of a higher level of care, then the team will provide lower level of care referrals, it is a collaborative effort.
- Linda Hart asked as a consumer/family member, if families are engaged in these conversations as well during this time, Bethanne explained that it depends on the individual client needs as some clients do not have families involved, if there is family involvement and the Office of Public Guardian allows engagement with families they do engage with the family but there are a number of factors and whether the Public Guardian will allow certain engagement and bring families into the engagement process. They also try to place clients near family however, they want to ensure it is appropriate placement based on needs rather than how close they are to the family.

### **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEM(S)**

Identify Commissioner to Prepare Presentation Findings:

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

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report was provided from the Chair.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

#### **First District:**

First District Commissioner Lorrie Denson explained that she will provide an overview of the Southern Region Student Wellness Conference (SRSWC) as requested by Chair Caffey. She shared that on July 11-13 she attended the SRSWC and loved the theme, which was The Strength in our Stars, Let's Go Explore the Galaxy. They had something about the galaxy daily to inspire and discover the value of you. She heard the keynote speakers and attended several of the workshop, the main one that came to mind was a sound workshop. It was a place of relaxation on the mats, and they were able to listen to the sounds and get the bad energy out of you. She shared that she left feeling strengthened, more flexible and at peace. She also stated it was great to connect with people in the field of education and behavioral health, it was a nice time in Palm Desert. She stated on the 30<sup>th</sup> she partnered with IEHP and Burning Bush for a virtual webinar on COVID-19 in the black and brown community and post long term affects. The panel consisted of hospital supervisors and physicians from Community Hospital of San Bernardino, Dr. Ross Nolan, Dr. Ruby Skinner, Dr. Melara Alexis, and Tracy Coates. They discussed post covid symptoms and were able talk about symptoms they were having and find out the source, there were about 40 people in attendance. She did not record it however she has the notes from the questions and answers. She stated they followed that with a partnership with Color Health, Burning Bush partnered with them, and they had a vaccination clinic and 19 people were vaccinated, they started with 6 months and older so there were a lot of little ones that were going back to school who wanted to be vaccinated. Many of them attended the virtual seminar so some of their questions were answered from the webinar which allowed them to make a more fact-based decision about getting vaccinated.

First District Commissioner Michael Grabhorn stated he is an addict and welcomed everyone to Recovery Happens Month, He went to National Night Out and passed out surveys to the community and received about 30 responses back. They asked what their interests are as far as crime prevention, drugs and alcohol, and any issues that they are seeing in the community. He met with Scott Webb who is a city planner in Victorville, the planning department and code enforcement. They are all working on revamping the city ordinances as they apply to smoke shops and liquor stores and what they sell. He stated they also got the San Bernardino Tobacco Coalition to work with them on selling cigarettes to underage kids and where they place them in the stores. He also met with Sophie Smith who is the Deputy City Manager of Victorville for affordable housing in downtown Victorville, this is where we can get people to transition from homelessness and into affordable housing. They are going to put things up to bid in 2 months, there are over 700 investors that they will notify. He is hopeful someone will take up the bid and build housing. He began attending the Co-Occurring Disorder Subcommittee he shared that it is interesting, and he is learning something already. Something that the Coalition is working on which is the prevention and early intervention of drugs and alcohol is harm reduction, he knows some people do not agree with harm reduction but with his past and family members who are addicts, he agrees with it greatly. If someone can administer Narcan to someone and save their life, he expressed it is a great thing. He stated what he has found out speaking with Inland Empire Harm Reduction in Riverside is there is no harm reduction center in the entire County of San Bernardino, if there are he asked that someone please let him know, he has talked to pharmacies and the do not give out Narcan freely as Public Health states they are supposed to, there are no needles exchanges either so there is no harm reduction in San Bernardino County that

he knows of. He is trying to find out if DBH still stocks Narcan in the clinics, he is awaiting an answer on that. He shared that he also did a webinar on the use of methamphetamine, the sale of the methamphetamine pipes in smoke shops, and fentanyl is becoming prevalent in a lot of existing drugs. They were happy to have Matty Landa from DBH participate in the webinar, it will eventually be on YouTube. He thanked Regina Waters, Jonathan Wilson with the Sheriff's Subcommittee and also Julie Hale and the TEST program is people who work in the Sheriff's department and answer mental health calls, the captains from Hesperia and Apple Valley could not say enough about how good the TEST program is. Commissioner Grabhorn stated he shared this information with Supervisor Cook's Office.

### **Second District:**

Second District Commissioner Jennifer Sylvestri shared that 2<sup>nd</sup> District held is District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting on July 14, Kristen Mungcal and Maribel Gutierrez presented on Peer Support, Clubhouses, and Community Connect. She stated that one of the takeaways for her was that Medi-Cal has recognized peer support providers and their services are reimbursable. She also viewed the Hiding in Plain Sight documentary; it was very profound and very much moved her and her husband by some of the brave people who have encountered their lived experience. She was unable to attend as planned the August 20 California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CalBHBC) Training however, she has been going over the handouts and presentations. They have their DAC scheduled for September and the presenter will be Quinton Page from Doves of Big Bear Valley domestic Violence shelter in Big Bear.

### **Third District:**

Third District Commissioner Victoria Ogunrinu shared that the next Third District DAC meeting in September will take place next week Wednesday, they have talked a lot about representation and getting the community involved, so she asked for people to please come and support District Three. The presentation will be on trauma services, 3pm Wednesday. For the month of August, she attended the CalBHBC Training while she was on a flight from Chicago to California, so the information was disrupted but good to go back and review the seminar and handouts as well. One thing that really stood out for her was the training on how to be an effective commissioner. We are doing all these good things in San Bernardino County, and they want us to focus on performance outcomes, site visits, meetings, and best practices. She stated there was the Hmong Community Services from Fresno, they presented on Trauma and PTSD. For the Hmong community she likes the cultural approach, the Hmong people talked about their trauma but do not seek services, she was listening to the speaker and thinking that in San Bernardino County the reason they have dismal numbers amongst these types of groups is because they do not trust the providers or services for them because maybe they feel inferior due to their refugee status or afraid of immigration coming after them. A lot of them suffer from anxiety and depression but their program has been effective because they started wraparound services, parenting and how to raise children, and invested a lot in their youth programs and they are beginning to see a very good result. She shared that CalBHBC talked about youth support, they provide oversight and accountability, the presenter stated there is a grant of \$277 million dollars for people who like to partner with the school district. She also wanted to report on the seminar they had at her church which Francis Ave, it was on Youth Mental Wellness on Zoom, they are reaching out to youth to let them know they have support and resources are available. Commissioner Ogunrinu also shared that their Grief Share program is ongoing and every six weeks, it is open to the public and anyone who would like more information can email and she will get them connected.

Commissioner Spence informed Commissioner Grabhorn that his question regarding Narcan was answered in the chat, all DBH staff are required to complete Narcan training annually and DBH has inventory at all outpatient clinics for emergency use.

### **Fourth District:**

Commissioner Jennifer Spence stated that she attended the SRSWC, she mentioned receiving an email to do a write up on their sessions, which she will do. There was one that stood out to her on those presentations, and one was on grief. Usually you will think of losing a loved one or someone close to us, the presenter went over grief happening in a lot of forms, a lot of people will go through the grieving process if they have lost their mental or physical capacity to be as they once were or due to a change in circumstances, then the grieving process applies to that as well and a lot of times we don't think of that. Commissioner Spence also shared that the keynote speaker Astronaut Jose Hernandez, has a book out and was a migrant worker, she would have loved to have his story when she was a counselor in a migrant area for 17 years. He was in a family where he had to translate English for his parents and the teacher would come to the house, long story short he told them he was going to become an astronaut. He tried 11 times; he was ready to quit after 10 times, but his wife called him a quitter, so he tried an 11<sup>th</sup> time and was accepted, he eventually went onto do a mission. She shared she believes there may be a Netflix documentary coming out as well. She attended the National Night Out with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Pomona to get services out as well as activity for National

Overdose Awareness Day yesterday, and as we know it is Recovery Month and a lot of that coincides with each other and talking about mental wellness and drug use and overdose to get it out in the open so that it isn't something that we hush for feel guilty about.

#### **Fifth District:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews shared that she attended the SRSWC, she will do her report as requested. She concentrated on the wellness center, school district, and the workshops that had to do with that. In August she attended the African American Subcommittee, the Behavioral Health Ministerial Program was presented by the Program Coordinator, there was a great discussion that followed to review what is being done now and then what kind of improvements and recommendations task force members and DBH staff had. She also attended the August 25 special meeting that the African American Subcommittee had, Zakiya Otis from DBH presented on Resilience and Promotion of African American Children's Program and gave a great review of that, then review of PEI regulations, goals, and then a SWOT analysis was done. She is also part of the Data Notebook Committee, and they had their first draft meeting, this is important because it is a requirement of DBH, this year the committee gives the questions, and it is questions about Licensed Adult Residential Care Facilities and how the County handles having an institution for mental disease. So, they went through the first draft and will have a second follow meeting. She also attended the CalBHBC on August 20, she was a reviewer of the MHSA programs, they talked about the peer certification program, funding, and how to be an effective commissioner. Commissioner Jews also referenced the Hmong Community did a presentation that was very interesting, it was relevant to them, it wasn't working for that community, and they had to figure out how to make it work for them. She has also been involved in the Behavioral Health Ministerial Program task force, they do a lot of outreach and education in the various churches. They had their DAC meeting in July and presented on Peer Certification with Kristen Mungcal. The next DAC meeting will take place September 27 at 5pm. She attended the first Community Program Planning meetings that PEI has given, the Stakeholder Engagement meetings and that was this week. The first was about culturally specific programming, and it went over the BH Ministerial Program, the Community Health Workers, Opioid Awareness Coalition, and the Native American Resource center, they will look into doing a SWOT analysis on that. She also attended the virtual meeting on COVID-19 that Commissioner Denson mentioned, it was informative with IEHP and the physicians that were on. She attended a town hall to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on the community.

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

Assistant Director, Michael Knight stated that he wanted to talk about the staff of Behavioral Health and the work they do, he stated the team here is a group of extremely dedicated individuals, we are all just people that show up everyday and do a very challenging job. These people do it with all their heart and give everything they possibly can to this department and to this community. Mistakes do happen we are all human and we have error, it is what it is and we do what we can to fix them and then move on and he appreciates all the work of everyone that works for DBH and for the Commissioners willingly giving their time to be apart of behavioral health in our community and behavioral health services, it is a challenging job no matter what your role is. A prime example of that is the Cultural Competency Award winner Valerie Dunn, again just shining examples of people who willingly give of themselves every single day and do very hard jobs.

Assistant Director Michael Knight provided the following report on behalf of the Interim Director Dr. Georgina Yoshioka:

- Dr. Yoshioka and Dr. Caffey meeting monthly.
  - Working on BH Commission Executive Session calendar - draft timeline and schedule for the upcoming CPP process for the Three-Year Plan. – Met August 18 (Community Policy Advisory Committee Meeting).
  - DBH intends to take a deeper dive into both the PEI and Innovation programs in this upcoming year and are exploring opportunities for expanding housing and support for our homeless consumers.
    - Assistant Director, Michael Knight asked Senior Program Manager, Maribel Gutierrez to speak more on these items. Maribel stated in regards to addressing outreach and engagement concerns for the African American and black community Maribel met with Dr. Caffey, Dr. Yoshioka, Michael Knight, and Gil Navarro, they had action items to meet which they did August 1. They next step was to collaborate with the African American Awareness Subcommittee from the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee to start addressing some of these issues and concerns. They collaborated with PEI Program to look at the resiliency promotion in African American Children Program and do a SWOT analysis. Maribel provided background on the

program, it was developed through the African American Awareness Subcommittee many years ago, it is going up for a request for proposal, so they are looking for opportunities to expand and areas to improve, strengths and ensuring the community knew of the program. She stated it was well attended and thanked those Commissioners who were in attendance. This is a practice they want to begin moving forward. They also made sure that in the last round of community planning process for the MHSA that invitations are sent directly to the Behavioral Health Commission. They partnered with Commissioners to be reviewers for the request for qualifications and some Commissioners have requested to be trained so that they can be a part of that process. They are also working with the Commissioners on upcoming procurements.

- Meetings Scheduled: August 29 12-2pm or 4-6pm, September 8 12-2pm or 4-6pm, September 13 12-2pm or 4-6pm, September 20 12-2pm or 4-6pm

### **Behavioral Health Commission to Review (Reminder)**

- Vendors are encouraged to register in ePro to be notified of all possible bid opportunities. For more information on this process and how to register: <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/purchasing/vendor-registration/>.
  - Reminder to Commissioners if you participate on a review panel, the importance of confidentiality during the review process. Reviewers remain confidential. Attendees are not confidential, if requested during the Q & A portion, the Agency attendees are listed publicly.
- Reminder public comments are not to be responded to directly, however will be documented in the minutes for the official record.
- Reminder public inquiries including requests for data are to be made: [DBH-PublicRealtions@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:DBH-PublicRealtions@dbh.sbcounty.gov).
  - Public Records Act Request Policy: <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BOP3007.pdf>

### **Legislation Updates**

**AB2754 Psychology Supervision** - This bill authorizes the supervision of an applicant for licensure as a psychologist, and of a registered psychological associate, to be provided in real time, which is defined as through in-person or synchronous audiovisual means, in compliance with federal and state laws related to patient health confidentiality.

**AB1929 Medical Benefits: Violence Prevention Services** - The bill authorizes the department to implement, interpret, or make specific that provision by means of all-county letters, plan letters, or plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions until regulations are adopted. The bill would require the department to post on its internet website the date upon which violence prevention services may be provided and billed.

**SB1165 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services: Advertising and Marketing** - This bill would also prohibit a certified alcohol or other drug program, or a licensed psychiatric or mental health facility operators from making or providing false or misleading statements or information, respectively, about medical treatments or services offered in their marketing, advertising material, media, or social media presence or on internet websites, as specified.

### **DBH Updates**

- RFPs Currently Posted
  - Military Services and Family Support Program Fort Irwin/ Barstow Region, Closing 9/29/22 – DBHE22-ADMIN-4675
  - Mandatory Bidders Conference 9/1/22, 10am
- State of the County, October 5, 3-8:30pm
  - Commissioners scheduled to attend: Lynn Brown Summers, Akin Merino, Victoria Ogunrinu, Mark Graham, Gil Navarro, Lorrie Denson, Veatrice Jews
- 988 Update – Information posted on social media.
- Public Relations and Outreach Update – Ashley Patterson
  - Ashley stated that September is National Recovery Month, it's also National Suicide Prevention Month, then September 15-October 15 we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, then September 28 is National Women's Health and Fitness Day. Ashley shared her screen to highlight the National Recovery Month Webpage on the DBH website where it lists the various activities and events scheduled for Recovery Month.



**Public Comment:** Linda Hart asked Ashley for the information, for individuals who have a disability or are hard of hearing how do they get this information or how is it going out into the community for them because often times people say they don't know all of this information so she wanted to find out even for herself to be able to tell them if they are hard of hearing do they have access to this information in some kind of way, a portal or some kind of platform. Ashley explained that all events are promoted on social media and web blast, DBH does follow ADA compliance rules, there is a number they can contact for information, and it be provided over the phone. Ashley offered to put that information into the chat.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

Chair Caffey stated the City of Rancho Cucamonga is having several events with the Mental Health Steering Committee for the city starting today, they have four virtual suicide prevention videos and a panel of clinicians that will provide facilitation and presenting information on resources that our county has for each city, Chair Caffey encouraged everyone to go to rhealthycities.gov to get their information.

Commissioner Grabhorn wanted to recognize all his brothers and sisters from the Clubhouses, he stated he was appreciative for them being there and joining the meeting.

Sonia Rubio stated PEI is hosting a series of Community Program Planning meetings, the first was this week. The next one is on September 8 and they will discuss the Children and Youth Services so the Child and Youth Connection Student Assistance Program, Preschool PEI Program, LIFT Program, and the Resilience Promotion in African American Children Program. Times are from 12pm-2pm and 4pm-6pm. She explained that she will post the information in the chat.

**Public Comment:** Chair Caffey thanked Commissioner Spence for stepping in, she expressed the same sentiment that Michael shared about all the work that everyone does at DBH, the advocacy, the support services, and the purpose of their why. She stated that Commissioners feel the same way, they are passionate about the areas to be able to help and have services for people in need who are suffering. One of the most challenging things is to transition to technology and having big meeting like this and follow Robert's Rules of Order as the Chair, it is exactly what we must do in professional settings like this, allowing for community members to be heard and feedback from Commissioners and the questions they have, it is coming from a place of love and true compassion for the work being done at DBH, wanting to help and support the constituents we represent and to keep our own selves strong in mental health. As clinicians we are taught to do no harm and if she feels she can be safe in any space it should be this space, that everyone in attendance recognizes they are really about health, healing, and wellness for everyone. She thanked everyone for being open to challenging conversations, difference of opinion, the passion is coming from the heart because they truly care about what happens in the community. She stated she appreciates everyone coming to the Commission meetings every month. She acknowledged Maribel's report, and she is appreciative of the effort to work collaboratively, for the Commission and Clubhouses, and everyone in the audience they value you and want to hear your feedback and if she messes up, hold it to her head not to her heart, this is a labor of love, and we are all in training mode. Before ending she stated that her grandma always said to leave it sweet and asked participants to leave a heart emoji for support.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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*Monica Caffey- Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Sheena Felix, Interim Clerk of the Commission*  
Department of Behavioral Health