

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
April 6, 2023
12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Dr. Monica Caffey, Lynn Summers, Veatrice Jews, Gil Navarro, Pastor Mark Graham, Michael Grabhorn, Jennifer Spence

Excused Absence: Lorrie Denson, Dr. Akin Merino

Absent: None to report.

Guests: Aidery Hernandez, Alia Caldwell, Allie Mink, Alyce Belford, Andre Bossieux, Angela Harrington, Anja Jacobsen, Anna Thatje-City of Ontario, Arthur Shaw III, Bethanne Fishell, Blessing Chinedu-Obi, Candice Alvarado, Cheryl McAdam, Christina Entz, Cristina Avila, Derrick Cannon, Dr. Joshua Taylor, Dr. Rebecca Scott Young, Dr. Steves, Dylan Mckelroy, Erica Ochoa, Erik Johnson, Erin Zamora, Fabiola Yanez, Gayle Morrow, Gustavo Cisneros – SUDRS, Hannah Gillespie, Hector M Ramirez, Irvin Pratz, James Moses, Jennifer Esparza, Jennifer Pacheco, Jené Estrada, Jessica Montecinos, Jose Avila, K. Morrow, Karen Cervantes, Kathyah Gabriel Kaysarn, Kelly Morehouse-Smith, Kristen Mungcal, Kristen Mungcal, La Keisha Mosley, Laurette Ross, Linda Marie Griffey, Lindsey Drake, Liz Maldonado, Lizette Vazquez, Maribel Gutierrez, Marina Lopez, Marisol Reinhold, Martha Guzman-Hurtado, Marybel Valadez, Michael Knight, Michelle Reynoso, Miranda Canseco, Miriam Clark, Natalie Fagan, Nathan Trujillo, Nicole Rice, Nicole Woodward, Paola D'Aloia-Pascuzzo, Pathways Clubhouse, Prem Daniel, Renee Linares, Samuel Shoup- Supervisor Cook, Sarah Ikeda, Sheena Felix, Steven Jackson, Asia Hayes, Teresa Frausto, Teri Morrell, Theresa Comstock, Timothy E. Hougen, Ph.D., Tuyet Nguyen, Victor Allende, Victoria Hall, Wolfgang Hall, Anthony Hernandez/Transforming Treatable Tragedies Org., Jen Spence, Serenity Clubhouse, Pathways Clubhouse, Team House, Amazing Place, KTLA, Allie Mink, Ray Miller

Minutes recorded by Aidery Hernandez, Interim Secretary II to on behalf of Sheena Felix, Clerk of the Commission.

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLE CALL

Chair, Dr. Monica Caffey called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance, roll call followed and was conducted by Clerk Sheena Felix.

Tab 5: Review Minutes from February 2, 2023

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Gil Navarro/ Veatrice Jews

AYES: Dr. Monica Caffey, Lynn Summers, Pastor Mark Graham, Michael Grabhorn

ASBSTAIN: Jennifer Spence

ABSENT: Lorrie Denson, Dr. Akin Merino

Review Minutes from March 2, 2023

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Jennifer Spence/Lynn Summers

AYES: Dr. Monica Caffey, Veatrice Jews, Gil Navarro, Pastor Mark Graham, Michael Grabhorn,

ABSENT: Lorrie Denson, Dr. Akin Merino

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clerk Felix stated several comments were submitted via email. Attendees were reminded to email BHC-Contact@dbh.sbcounty.gov for any public comments. Clerk Felix proceeded to read the comments:

Public Comment #1

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment. It is much appreciated. I am a current DBH client who is a member of Team House and I get around the majority of my appointments in the city via the Omnitrans bus. In my former work life I was a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor who assisted persons with disabilities find what their needs were to return to work or in some cases, be made whole to function in their daily activities.

In the midst of my own healing journey at this time I recognize trends and patterns that occur around me in my day to day life, and one pattern I have been observing since the 7th of March 2023 when I returned to riding the bus is the difficulty discharged individuals from Windsor CSU have getting to the Downtown San Bernardino Transit Center to continue on their way to whatever destination they are attempting to reach. I recognize these individuals as having just been discharged from Windsor as I myself spent a night there when I first returned to San Bernardino back in October 2022. I recognize the clear bag of discharge paperwork and labeling that I myself had received after my stay there, and the clothing that some wore matches the clothing I was given while spending the night there.

Let me preface this by stating Windsor does a magnificent job caring for people in crisis. If my experience had been any less, I would say it. Those folks are good at what they do. My comment is more of a suggestion to improve what occurs to someone post discharge who needs to find their way to public transportation. Of the six instances during the month of March 2023 I observed on the route 1 bus that stops across the street from Windsor, four individuals had no bus pass but told the driver they were told they could get the bus to downtown San Bernardino from that stop, to which of course the bus driver informed the person, they needed a pass to ride the bus and were turned away. One person had a new day bus pass but it was for the bus to Beaumont. They did not have a pass to get to downtown San Bernardino. The driver allowed this person to ride downtown as the person was very anxious to get to their destination in Beaumont where a family member would pick them up. The last was an individual from up the hill in the high desert who was given a bus pass to downtown but had no clue how to get the Victor Valley bus with no money.

I see this as a small piece of the DBH service of care network that could use improvement for the better of the individuals who utilize the crisis center. It may be a simple case of the individual not being able to articulate their needs as to where they will be heading once they are discharged. Sometimes the address on the person's record is not a current address. I am not aware of any solutions that have been tried, forgive me if this has been tried and not worked. Suggestion 1) Have a designated van that could take discharged individuals to the downtown transit center with typed instructions directing them to a designated person at the information center to help them with the next leg of their travel, meaning a partnership between Omnitrans and DBH. Suggestion 2) Extend the duties of a Windsor employee to offer to walk the discharged individual across the street to the bus stop and wait with them to make sure they are able to board the bus and that person has a note reminding them of what they need to do once they get downtown.

As part of my training to become a counselor it was instilled in me that if you are not in a position to assist a client with their service needs, you do not release your duty of care to that individual until you have provided options for that person to help them on the next part of their journey, you don't just send them out the door with no guidance. I extend that definition to the completion of services of an individual. I maintain the conversation with that individual in case they have questions about someone or some entity they need but have no idea how to get there. In a perfect world most people can articulate this very readily, in the world of DBH, vulnerable individuals often do not yet know how to self advocate for themselves. All of the individuals I observed during these bus rides were of the latter. one person in particular that had been turned away just stood there in silence as the bus pulled away. That was the second time I had noticed. From then on, I started being more observant. Thank you again for the opportunity to express this concern to the commission.

Jo Ann Rangel – April 1, 2023

Public Comment #2

There was a guy on the commission who kept saying "I hate to say" or "I don't like to use the word" and then would go on and discuss very triggering things. He did this at least 3 times with 3 different topics. If he doesn't like to use a word or doesn't think he should talk about something, then he shouldn't.

Anonymous Consumer – March 2, 2023

Public Comment #3

This meeting one of the members said a lot of things that could have been very triggering for people. Why do we have to go into details of an individual situation to talk about the help that is out there. Abuse of any kind is a very delicate situation and so is suicide. I know we need to talk about it and provide resources, but it had nothing to do with the topics or reports. It would have been just as easy to have the discussion without those specific cases reviewed. Even without names, they may not want themselves talked about in a public meeting. If I were them, I would question if I trust anyone to help me if they are going to share my story at a public meeting as an example.

Consumer - March 6, 2023

Public Comment #4

You guys need to be more professional and keep a professional handle on the meeting. I heard one woman interrupt another woman in a very rude manner. The person was still presenting. Why didn't anyone ask her to wait until they opened it up for questions? It was rude. I don't see why anyone would want to present at these meetings. It wouldn't have hurt anyone to wait a few minutes. I try to attend these meetings to represent my fellow consumers, but it is getting harder and harder to sit through these types of meetings that seem to happen almost every month. What are we accomplishing by being rude and mean to each other?

Consumer - March 6, 2023

Public Comment #5

Disgusted with the County Department of Behavioral Health. Why would a County Council and Department Behavioral Health Director disrespect and bully the entire Commission and the public in attendance at the Executive Session. Just tacky. Those comments and going back and forth during a public meeting should have been done in PRIVATE. Talking about unprofessional!! The adversarial hostage take over is obvious. The BHC system that is breaking down in our County is failing to help those of us who suffer and do not receive services like we should. The avoidance of the leadership to correct what is failing to meet the mental health needs of those in the community is on their shoulders. All the department director and her staff do is make excuses and take no accountability for all the millions of dollars they receive why those with mental illness get worse. We need strong voices and advocates like those on the commission. As a public consumer and family member who has been attending BHC meetings for a long time. I always feel I learn from the information that is presented by them and receive good information and value the voices of the commissioners having to navigate a heavy load and manage critical voices that are not always heard. As a consumer I would like more presentations that include more community members, and the ones are supposed to help us.

Anonymous – April 6, 2023

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Dr. Caffey mentioned that She will have the flyer next week for a listening session hosted by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council. This is an opportunity to hear from State and local individual consumers who live in housing programs throughout the State of California. The Council is looking for community input. There will be a presentation and it will be insightful for others to attend. The session will be conducted virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, April 11 from 3:00-4:30pm. Clerk Felix shared the link in the chat. This is a statewide event and all the input for those who are wanting to have more information regarding housing programs and housing options. Dr. Caffey shared that she is a cohost of the event.

Chair Dr. Caffey added that District Advisory Committees (DAC) are the place for community residents to share personally some of the information that was received today. Meetings are also a venue to learn what specific services are provided directly in your community. She encourages everyone to attend the Behavioral Health website for information on dates and times for the district advisory meetings. All five (5) districts have monthly meetings. *"We do our best to provide subject matter presentations based on the community's needs and recommendations. Your input is invaluable. What you say, we hear. We thank you so much for giving us feedback on how to be our best selves."*

Chair Dr. Caffey, also shared, she has been doing parent wellness workshops for three (3) high schools in the Chaffey Joint Unified District. Fortunately, on Tuesday evening (April 4), there was the *Student State of Mind*, which is a student led, student advocacy space that is provided at Rancho Cucamonga High School, specifically for African American students to encourage college to career readiness, as well as to reduce the high suspension rate. She is grateful to honor 300 students who have been advocating for behavioral health wellness on the campus and have received 4.0 and above grade point average. Dr. Caffey mentioned she was so excited that the message is getting out there. The services and the students who are communicating what they desire for their mental health particularly after COVID. *"We are hoping to open up this pathway to other schools within the County. Thank you for the opportunity to share."*

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

First District:

Commissioner Pastor Mark Graham thanked everyone for joining, and shared that his father has had some health issues and he was traveling throughout the month of March. He was able to work on a couple of projects. Had the first planning meeting for a Town Hall Community Engagement on August 12, 2023. There will be a backpack giveaway to engage the parents and begin to get their feedback in the first district about the delivery of mental health services and the performance of the different organizations that are part of DBH.

The event will be hosted at the Abundant Living Family Church so the community can come and be a part of the event. He spoke on his advocacy mission, and his focus is on Re-entry population, where individuals that have mental health struggles are re-entering the community from incarceration or in the process of the legal system but have a mental health struggle. If their assessments come out correctly, they are assisted in receiving help in lieu of incarceration. Commissioner Pastor Graham added that there will be a meeting on Monday for Abundant Living Family Church to become a NARCAN distributor in the First District to get it delivered in the community. He also shared that Dr. Jonathan Avalos DBH presented on Fentanyl at the First District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. It was an amazing presentation on Fentanyl and all the different aspects of it going on in the County. Meetings are monthly, the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00am. The next DAC presentation will take place April 19th. Dr. Wesley Wilson will be presenting on different courses that Victor Valley College is hosting for individuals that are incarcerated or coming out of incarceration. There are currently over 312 students who are incarcerated in the federal prison but are beginning to better themselves and taking classes for when they get out, they can have a smoother transition and not be re-arrested or go back to that lifestyle.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn attended the Co-Occurring Subcommittee for several months and will try to keep up with meetings.

The coalition got the standing order with the State and have been going to the other non-profit organizations to supply them with some. They are also assisting in completing a standing order with the State of California, for as many needed and free of charge. Commissioner Grabhorn spoke to Walmart pharmacy, and they told him it would be over the counter and the price is unknown. He added that they are doing really good bringing everyone together and providing NARCAN to those who need it.

Second District:

No Commissioners present for the Second District.

Third District:

No Commissioners present for the Third District.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Jennifer Spence reported that she attended the DAC meeting and did some planning. This month should be more active for her.

Commissioner Dr. Akin Merino was not present, Clerk Felix read the following report on her behalf: Commissioner Merino attended the 4th District Advisory Committee, participated in the Annual Report Committee, Sexual Trafficking Podcast with CASE, hosted a virtual Women's Welding Program for the Community, hosted free Domestic Violence Training for local organizations, and hosted a Relational Trauma Summit for Communities.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Gil Navarro apologized for eating his fruit in front of the camera because he is a diabetic and must eat when taking his medication. Commissioner Navarro stated that the last 30 days have been very exciting for him. He has been focusing on two areas of concern: Low academic scores for African American students in the County and Promoting the wellness centers for school districts. Hoping that at the end of this effort, with the help of the Department of Behavioral Health and school district management, to have a wellness center at every school and in every district. There are 33 districts in the County. Vice Chair Navarro stated a meeting has been scheduled with Rialto Unified and San Bernardino City Unified and DBH Dr. Timothy Hougen. Dr. Hougen will share his PowerPoint that he presented to the Commission a while back regarding wellness centers. The PowerPoint offers free resources that DBH has available, and the school districts may not be aware of. He has been a great help in that respect. Commissioner Navarro added that he was able to facilitate with San Bernardino Unified, a tour of the wellness centers and their school district. He was unable to attend due to an IEP scheduled for the same day; however, Commissioner Jews will articulate on that visit. Lastly, he will be returning to the San Bernardino City School District and will be promoting the resources that the Department of Behavioral Health has in the cultural competency area. He feels that a lot of school district staff are not trained sufficiently to recognize different cultures and they need to be aware of those cultures in question. Commissioner Navarro gave the example that in San Bernardino City Unified, African American students represent fifty (50) percent of the student population and represent sixty (60) percent of the discipline that is being handed out to students, whether it is suspension, expulsion, or detention.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews apologized for wearing dark glasses since she recently had an eye procedure and must keep them on most of the time. Commissioner Jews reported that in the middle of March, Commissioner Navarro met with Dr. Sandra Rodriguez and her staff. They went over a PowerPoint based on the school-based health center to give us an idea of what they have now. They set up a walk through. The walk through was done on Tuesday and it was very enlightening. The school district is concentrating on "Welcome to Wellness" and "Wellness Matters to Us." They are focusing on mental and physical health. As part of the tour, Commissioner Jews visited five (5) sites. One of the sites was Hendry Elementary School. Elementary and middle schools are thinking about wellness and bringing in a portion of mental health. Sierra has complete wellness that includes physical and mental health. At Hendry Elementary School, she witnessed a dental event where the dentist was there, students had a movie to watch, and their teeth checked. That was good because the students learned that if they have pain or issues, it can affect their learning. She also visited Riley Elementary School where the school counselor went through their program. They have an intensive program, and they think of the student's mental wellness. She added it was a great experience. Commissioner Jews also visited Cajon High School where they have a wellness team that supports all the students. Their center is open throughout the day and students can drop in as needed. She also visited Pacific High which has a wellness center that is available during the day for students. Sierra High School has a complete wellness center with a physical and a mental component. It is like a template for this area. They have calming rooms for the students. A problem we noticed is that the centers need more space. Some locations had privacy issues. They are working on funding and thinking about the equity portion and accountability. They are really trying, and we need to support them. We need to ensure accountability is part of their system. We also discussed cultural competency and if it's included in their equity piece. Commissioner Jews shared about the 5th District DAC and had Dr. Jonathan Avalos present on Fentanyl. Dr. Avalos gave a great discussion. Attendees learned about how it started, what is going on in the community, and the importance of understanding the impact it is having on the kids and the community. Lastly, Commissioner

Jews shared that she is excited to work with Pastor Mark and Chair Caffey getting ready for the Town Hall and the community engagement. It is important to get out to the community, so they know the programs that are available to them. Looking forward to the kickoff event and the ones following.

Commissioner Lynn Summers explained that she is a farmer and has different groups that come to her community garden. Different groups visit the gardens including veterans who enjoy being outside. They try to create programs so the visitors can do something. At the end of March, Commissioner Summers was in Riverside and one of the things talked about was behavioral health in farming. There are a couple of farms in San Diego and back East that are incorporating behavioral health issues or clients into farming and the calming effects with goats or being out in nature and harvesting food. It was impactful. Even though she does this, she did not realize that people are doing this and incorporating it into their program. They were happy to know she was a commissioner. This is going to open up conversations and take other avenues to help our patients.

SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTATION:

Tab 6: Mental Health Services Act Three Year Integrated Plan Fiscal Years 2023/24 through 2025-26

Senior Program Manager, Maribel Gutierrez – Office of Equity and Inclusion:

Ms. Gutierrez introduced Dr. Rebecca Scott-Young who went over the Community Planning Process through this planning hearing. Dr. Scott-Young explained that she is presenting on the Mental Health Services Act Three Year Integrated Plan Fiscal Years 2023/24 through 2025-26. She explained what happens during the process, if there are any changes and the request for Commissioner affirmation to adhere to the new planning standards that are outlined in the plan in order to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Mental Health Services Act

- The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Prop 63, was passed by California voters in November 2004 and went into effect in January 2005.
- The MHSA provides increased funding for mental health programs across the state.
- The MHSA is funded by a 1% tax surcharge on personal income over \$1 million per year.
- Fluctuations in tax payments impact fiscal projections and available funding.

Purpose of MHSA

Per the California Department of Mental Health Vision Statement and Guiding Principles (2005):

- To create a culturally competent system that promotes recovery/wellness for adults and older adults
- with serious mental illness, resiliency for children with
- severe emotional disturbance, and their families.

MHSA Three-Year Plan Fiscal Years 2023/24-2025/26

The California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §5847 and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 9 Section 3310 state that a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, including subsequent updates, shall address each component:

- Community Services and Supports (CSS) (WIC §5800, 5850)
- Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) (WIC §5840)
- Innovation (INN) (WIC §5830)
- Workforce Education and Training (WET) (WIC §5820)
- Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) (WIC §5847)

In addition, the County must also update the MHSA Plan annually, address elements that have changed; and include estimated expenditure projections for each component per fiscal year. The MHSA Plan/Update shall be prepared and circulated for review and comment for at least 30 days to representatives of stakeholder interests. The Mental Health Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the Draft Three-Year Plan or Annual Update at the close of the 30-day comment period.

Each Three-Year Plan and Annual Update shall be developed with local stakeholders including consumers, families, service providers, law enforcement agencies, educators, social services agencies, veterans and veteran representatives, providers of alcohol and drug services, and health care organizations (WIC §5848). WIC §5848 states that counties shall demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes stakeholder involvement in:

- Mental Health Policy, Program Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Quality Improvement, Evaluation, Budget Allocations

Counties shall adopt the following standards in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs:

- Community collaboration, Cultural competence, Client-driven, Wellness, recovery, and resilience focused, Integrated service experiences for clients and their families.

Program Manager I, Karen Cervantes, discussed the Stakeholder Engagement Process as well as the Community Program Planning Process for MHSA Plan. Throughout the year, regular stakeholder meetings include:

- Behavioral Health Commission (BHC), District Advisory Committee (DAC), Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC), Cultural Competency Advisory Committee (CCAC), along with 14 Culturally Specific Subcommittees, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Executive Committee, Association of Community Based Organizations (ACBO), PEI Provider Network, Clubhouse Consumer Peer Support Groups, DBH Peer and Family Advocate Employee Meetings

A schedule of all CPP meetings was available on the DBH website. The CPP schedule was available in English and Spanish. DBH conducted outreach to promote the Three-Year Plan stakeholder process and reach diverse populations. Information was disseminated through:

- Press releases sent to 7,115 contacts; posting on DBH website and DBH social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; regular announcements in meetings
- Email and flyer distribution (English and Spanish) to:
 - Community partners, community and contracted organizations, county agencies, cultural subcommittees and coalitions, and regularly scheduled stakeholder meetings

Dr. Scott-Young mentioned that feedback is compiled throughout the year. The feedback is used to incorporate or update the plan accordingly. DBH wants to ensure we comprehensively and inclusively have voices heard.

Public Review Period

The 30-day Public Posting took place between February 13, 2023 through March 16, 2023.

Copies of the draft MHSA Three Year Plan Fiscal Years 2023/34 –2025/26 were available in the following formats:

- Online for electronic viewing
- Electronic copies were provided to each clubhouse
- Physical copies were available for distribution upon request
- Stakeholders were provided with several options for submission of comments including email, in-person, telephonic, live survey, and online survey
- Comment Forms and surveys were available in English and Spanish and hard copy versions were available upon request

What was learned from the Stakeholder Process?

582 stakeholders completed a stakeholder comment form as a result of attending the stakeholder sessions or responding to the 30-day Public Posting. Overall, 84% of respondents indicated they were very satisfied or satisfied with the MHSA Three Year Plan and stakeholder process.

MHSA Three Year Plan Stakeholder Demographics

- Age of Respondents
 - Age 16-25: 4%
 - Age 26-59: 75%
 - Age 60+: 15%
- Language
 - 83% English
 - 16% Spanish
 - <1% Arabic
 - <1% Gujarati
 - <1% Mandarin
 - <1% Vietnamese
- Gender Identity
 - Female: 72%
 - Male: 19%
 - Genderqueer: <1%
 - Nonbinary: <1%

- Transgender: <1%
- Race/Ethnicity
 - 13% African-American/Black
 - 2% American Indian or Alaska Native
 - 3% Asian
 - 26% Caucasian/White
 - 35% Hispanic/Latinx
 - 1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - 9% More than one race
- WIC §5848 Groups Represented
 - Nonprofit Organization: 19%
 - Law Enforcement: 1%
 - Education/Students: 18%
 - Social or Human Service Program/Agency: 19%
 - Federal, State, County, or City: 41%
 - Healthcare - Behavioral/Mental Health: 41%
 - Self-Employed: 4%
 - Retired/Unemployed: 8%
 - Community-Based Organization: 16%
 - Consumer of Mental Health Services: 41%
 - Consumer of Substance Use Disorder: 6%
 - Family Member or Loved One: 55%

MHSA received 582 comment forms during the 30-day posting and public comment period regarding the draft MHSA Three Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2023/24 - 2025/26.

Next Steps

- The next step is to ask the Behavioral Health Commission to affirm that the stakeholder process was conducted to meet the regulations.
- The MHSA Three Year Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in May/June 2023 for approval.
- The MHSA Three Year Plan will be submitted to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and Department of Healthcare Services within 30 days of BOS approval.

To submit comments related to Public Hearing, please submit comments by April 13 at 3pm to mhsa@dbh.sbcounty.gov.

To report any concerns related to MHSA Community Program Planning, please refer to the MHSA Issue Resolution Process located at: <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COM0947.pdf> For questions or comments, please contact Dr. Rebecca Scott Young, MHSA Administrative Manager at MHSAA@dbh.sbcounty.gov | (909) 252-4017.

Q & A:

- Vice Chair Navarro asked that of the 33 school districts has this plan been presented to?
Maribel Gutierrez responded that presentations have not been made at specific school districts, but announcements do go out to individuals that are part of school districts. Ms. Gutierrez asked the Commission if the recommendation can be taken back for future process. Vice Chair Navarro agreed it should be a recommendation to be taken.
- Commissioner Lynn Summers asked what were the challenges in the past and was the target met with this particular report? Are there any challenges now?
Maribel Gutierrez responded, in regard to the community planning process some of the challenges were due to COVID-19. As restrictions have been lifted, being able to do in-person events and had some where permitted, with precautions. We are hoping to do more in-person and also include more faith-based organizations per recommendations from the Commission. Another challenge has been consumer participation. Increasing the numbers and looking at different ways to caption the data. Our team is looking at opportunities from this year's plan and working alongside the Commission and stakeholders.
- Commissioner Lynn Summers asked what the Commission can do to make it better to get into the community?
Maribel Gutierrez responded that learning from each district and the distinct ways the information is received. Presenting the information throughout the year in specific sections and how you would like the Department to present the information to the

community, in a more visual way. Also, taking the Commission's recommendations such as Commissioner Navarro's suggesting the school districts. There was one (1) presentation to the Ontario-Montclair School District this year, but we can do better.

- Commissioner Veatrice Jews mentioned that many people in apartment complexes are not receiving the information. Many people in those communities are working and do not get the information. We need to get their feedback and they need to know what is available. Those locations might have meeting places where we can share information.
Maribel Gutierrez responded that the Department will work the clubhouses, consumers and families to support the Department in this effort and let us know if they have relationships with people in the complexes so we can get the information out to those locations.
- Luisa asked (in chat) what is considered in determining what is a serious mental illness?
Maribel Gutierrez deferred to Dr. Georgina Yoshioka for assignment of the question. Dr. Yoshioka determined that the question should be responded to in writing by a licensed professional at a later time due to most of the licensed staff being involved in the CAEQRO audit at the same time.
- Commissioner Lynn Summers asked is there a comprehensive plan to work with faith-based organizations with individuals needing services. Maribel Gutierrez responded that currently there is a pilot project ending this month that gave insight on how the Department can continue to build relationships. The results will be presented at the Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC) to look at how the project went and where to go from there to have a more comprehensive sustainable plan on continuing to build on the good work of the faith-based organizations. This work is infused in the Department through the Department's Spirituality Awareness Subcommittee.
- Chair Dr. Monica Caffey asked if there has been any thought in involving youth in this process to get the youth to understand their voice in this process?
We can do more with our youth. The Department does have a Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Awareness Subcommittee and Youth advisory Committees through the TAY program. We can improve communication with the youth population.
- Hector Ramirez (Chat): Commented great MHSA presentation on the CPP. In your stakeholder category, how many folks identify as having schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders participate in this stakeholder process?
- Maribel Gutierrez responded that individuals are not asked the specifics of their diagnosis, but 41% of the participants identified as consumers.
- Chair Dr. Monica Caffey commented that the community is not active in the subcommittees at the times they are held. Asking to please be open to considering ways that even Community Vital Signs can help and leverage these presentations to those that can benefit and learn from them.
- Patricia commented that as a member of the Consumer Evaluation Committee (CEC), she knows that many things go before them for opinions. They try to give their voice and consider opinions. Some of these questions can be brought to the CEC. Come join us at our meetings. We love to see new things and how we can help out. She invited Andre and the TAY center to join their meeting and share their opinions. Kristen Mungcal can provide the information for the meetings. Patricia gave a personal invitation to visit the Desert Stars Clubhouse.
- Theresa Comstock, Executive Director for California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions, mentioned she is a past coach of a community organizing group, and really understands some of the tools available to engage religious communities. On the CalHBC.org website, there is a page for tools on listening sessions that can help staff to understand how to reach out to leadership and engage to get the important feedback that you want. This will help with services and the workforce. Maribel Gutierrez mentioned her staff were writing the recommendations for the next plan.

Affirmation of the Plan

Chair Dr. Monica Caffey stated the Commission would move forward with affirming the plan, as DBH has followed the guidelines for the MHSA Plan. Affirmations were completed by roll call:

- Commissioner Lorrie Denson (absent)
- Commissioner Michael Grabhorn -Affirm
- Commissioner Pastor Mark Graham - Affirm
- Chair Dr. Monica Caffey- Affirm
- Commissioner Dr. Akin Merino (absent)
- Commissioner Jennifer Spence- Affirm
- Commissioner Veatrice Jews- Affirm without comments
- Vice Chair Gil Navarro- Affirm with additional statement on the basis that presentations will be made to the school districts within the County (noted)
- Lynn Summers- Affirm

The MHSA Plan was affirmed by the BHC.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEM(S)

Vice Chair, Gil Navarro, asked if as a commissioner he can recommend an item for New Business. Chair Dr. Monica Caffey agreed. Commissioner Navarro requested, specifically in detail how the Department is outreaching to the African American community, whether it's through faith-based organizations, schools, or PTA meetings? What components make up this outreach, in detail? Commissioner Navarro asked the Commission to support him on this item. There was a unanimous vote. Chair Dr. Monica Caffey requested to add this item to New Business at the next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Dr. Georgina Yoshioka announced that there are two (2) areas of update:

- Public Relations and Outreach (PRO), Miranda Canseco reported on Outreach and Programming. Next month is May Mental Health Month. The Department is working on a schedule of events. The kickoff will be with this meeting on May 4th. Everyone is encouraged to wear green. Green backgrounds will be available for those that are joining virtually. Additional events include:
 - May 11: Directing Change Screening and Awards Ceremony
 - May 17: Resilient and Real Summit
 - May 20: Meet the Artis Exhibition
- Office of Equity and Inclusion, Maribel Gutierrez, reported:
 - The Cultural Competency Advisory Committee (CCAC) meeting will be virtually on April 20th from 1:00-2:30pm.
 - The Office of Mental Health Services Act Administration will be sending emails. There are four (4) open procurements funded by the Mental Health Services Act. More information is available online on open bids on EPRO.

Patricia asked when the BHC meeting would take place in person again. The CEC meetings have been in person for quite a while now. Look forward to being in person so everyone can hear their opinions in person. Dr. Yoshioka will discuss with Kristen Mungcal and Maribel Gutierrez and will provide an update at a later date.

Dr. Anthony Hernandez asked to add a new business agenda item, he opened conversation about assisted outpatient treatment phases, Laura's Law phase, we want to know what SBC thinks of it. Discussion started six/seven years ago with Dr. Veronica Kelley and have not heard back from the County about the tool. Tragedies keep occurring for different reasons. When tragedies make it to public television, Dr. Hernandez does not understand how the County does not address these things and turn their back on the families that are experiencing an acute mental health crisis. How can we ignore these issues if they have been highly publicized and what can we do to address these things that are not in our favor?

Office of Innovation, Karen Cervantes, announced:

- The Department is working on an Innovation plan for a proposed project. The plan will be posted very shortly.
- Event hosted by Cracked Eggs- Mini exhibition at The Birdcage Café on Monday, April 10 from 1:00-3:00pm.

Commissioner Gil Navarro publicly thanked Clerk Sheena Felix for doing an amazing job. She has to multi-task with the Commissioners, and he appreciates her.

Dr. Anthony Hernandez added that there are programs like FACT (Sacramento) and GATEWAY (Los Angeles). How are these individuals being monitored and how are their programs that they are providing through our consumers? Whether they are advantages to these individuals transitioning into the community. The organization www.transformingtreatabletragedies.org receives calls from frustrated families. What kind of monitoring and accountability is being held and is it going to be public information?

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Dr. Monica Caffey, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Aidery Hernandez of behalf of Sheena Felix
Department of Behavioral Health