



**San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
General Session Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm**

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by: *John Granado, Clerk of the Commission*

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
A. Call to Order	Acting Chair, Allie Mink, Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed all attendees to Recovery Month and welcomed/introduced our new Commissioners Jonathan Cahow 1st District, Amanda Uptergrove 1st District, and Eloisa Contreras 5th District.
B. Pledge of Allegiance	Acting Chair, Allie Mink, Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
C. Roll Call – BH Commission/ Introductions	Acting Chair, Allie Mink, Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted roll call and attendees introduced themselves. It was determined there is a quorum.
INFORMATION ITEM(S)		
D. Review and Approve Minutes from 7/18/2024	Members of Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were reviewed. Although there is a quorum, minutes were not voted on as the three new commissioners were not present at last month's meeting. Vote was tabled to the October session.
E. Public Comment	Garth Pezant, Sr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a major portion of the county budget is toward criminal justice, the mentally challenged may be subject to arrest and found incompetent to stand trial. The State of California has joined San Bernardino County to take in potential felons to be subject to the jail-based trial competency program to prepare them for court Using Liberty Health Care Corporation for correctional mental health services. In his critique of the curriculum, it is inadequate for criminal defense. If given the opportunity his unique experience and knowledge can provide insight into these inadequacies and work towards a solution. The Public Defender must adequately protect the mentally challenged. This departments historic abuse of the criminal defense allows them to do so. Therefore, DBH and team houses developed a class-based peer group setting to successfully address these issues on Friday's. Commissioner Mink thanks Mr. Pezant for his comments.
F. Chairman's Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to technical difficulties, there were no public comments from the satellite locations. Report was tabled to the October session as Dr. Caffey is not in attendance.
G. Commissioners Report	Eloisa Contreras Jonathan Cahow Amanda Uptergrove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Contreras introduced herself as the new commissioner representing the Fifth District. Commissioner Cahow introduced himself as the new commissioner for the First District. He is a Lieutenant in the San Bernardino County Sherriff's Department having served 19 years. Before becoming a cop, he would bring kids from group homes to this building for counseling. He appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to learning and working with the commissioners. Commissioner Uptergrove introduced herself as the new commissioner representing the First District. She is a pastor in the City



<p>H. Subject Matter Presentation</p>	<p>Jennifer Spence</p> <p>Dr. Akin Merino</p> <p>Allie Mink, Treasurer</p> <p>Alexander Friedman and Dr. Alyce Belford</p> <p>Q&A Session</p>	<p>take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm, remotely. Dr. Merino also attended mindfulness training with clinicians in training. She attended a finance and mental health workshop for GenZ millennials in Rancho Cucamonga. As well as participated in introducing a new and unique trauma model that has an African global perspective to clinicians, she will be sending out flyers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Spence attended a meeting with the National Overdose Awareness Day committee. The committee discussed things that can be done for recovery and to stop the stigma. She also attended the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) board meeting stating there will be a NAMI day at an upcoming Ontario Reign game if anyone is interested, she will provide additional information. • Commissioner Dr. Merino shared that her daughter has begun working for San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health. • Commissioner Mink announced her son has started his first job after completing grad school. <p>• Presentation on Mental Health Diversion, Mental Disorder Diversion. The power point can be found here Mental Disorder Diversion Presentation.pptx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Dr. Merino thanked the presenters for their advocacy of mental health and asked that while the program looks successful, are there any challenges or limitations. • Dr. Belford replied that they try to balance their staff ethnicity, ages and race with the clients they serve. With staff shortages it has been difficult as they need more men and more people of color in the field of psychology. It is important and people tend to work well with like individuals. The other piece is education in the community and understanding that individuals who have been diagnosed with mental illness make mistakes and recovery takes a long time and there never is a full recovery as people have their own personal opinions, but it is a lifelong process. When someone stumbles, it does not mean it's over as we encourage them to keep going and every day is a new day. Alex Friedman added that there are so many issues they encounter when doing the Mental Health Diversion program. One common issue is they often get clients who suffer from schizophrenia and are resistant to taking any medication because either they believe they are not sick or various other reasons but one benefit of the program is that it allows you to use the , "Carrot on a Stick", approach where you can empathize with the individual and tell them that if they agree to treatment and medication they can not only get out of jail and be placed in the community based treatments it allows them to get their criminal case dismissed. Often the clients are faced with serious charges looking at years and maybe decades in prison. • Commissioner Mink asked when Mental Health Diversion must be requested. Alex Friedman replied pretrial only. There are no days or
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		<p>years but must be before a jury trial. She then asked who requests the program. Can it be the family?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex replied that it must come from the defendant although many times the family is involved. It was noted the defendant must be in the mental capacity to make this decision. If the client is currently in jail, they have a good working relationship with correctional mental health services so presumably they have been seen and are receiving the appropriate treatment. But there are situations where they may need their medications adjusted if it's early on, they may be coming down off drugs and not in the right mind set. But they can meet with correctional mental health services and share any concerns. Dr. Belford added that we may go out to see them for placement in the community, but it is difficult to get to them as they may not be stable. The public defender will highly encourage us to go back out until they can be seen. After multiple attempts with no progress, there is not much to be done. • Commissioner Mink then asked if there are people who come back and over how many years. Alex replied he does not have numbers, but he does handle all the mental health diversion cases and is familiar with the process and noted that it is rare. Dr. Belford added if they complete the time through diversion, they may end up at an outpatient clinic or involved in some other service. The state is asking for the department to track the lifetime numbers, which is not realistic. • Commissioner Mink then asked if the program included housing. Dr. Belford replied there are multiple housing options attached to the programs through the forensics division including shelters, adult residential facilities, social rehab and a board and care while some individuals go back home with their families. She added that 100% of the people are housed. • Commissioner Uptergrove asked if there is as program designed maybe on a smaller scale for juveniles to help them before becoming an adult. Dr. Belford replied there is restoration competency in the programs but does not include mental health diversion at this time. They also have mental health courts that allow individuals in the community on probation to report to the courts under supervision. In the children's programs there is TBS wrap around services and other multiple programs. • Commissioner Cahow asked if there is a specific judge who oversees these court cases. Alex replied that it depends on the division. In Rancho Cucamonga, since the inception of the program there is a single judge who statistically speaking, has the best results with clients. In the central division of San Bernardino, it is split up by departments with more than one judge presiding over these cases. In Victorville there is one judge, but it rotates annually. • Commissioner Cahow asked Alex if he handles all the cases in which he replied he works on them mostly behind the scenes with the experts and receiving the reports but is in communication with all the attorneys who appear in court. • Commissioner Cahow asked if the District Attorney is familiar with these kinds of cases. Alex replied that although there is no direct
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<p>I. Directors Report</p>	<p>Marina Espinosa, Assistant Director</p>	<p>counterpart, in Rancho Cucamonga he thinks there is one attorney who is familiar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendee Garth Pezant, Sr. asked if this program is strictly outpatient, which was confirmed by Dr. Belford. He then asked if there is any clergy associated with the program. Dr. Belford answered no. He noted that there are aspects of human behavior that the clergy may be more informed than the psychiatrists. He asked if there can be research done on the impact clergy can have on the program. He then asked for the definition of anti-social behavior. Dr. Belford replied, there are clusters of behavior that follow their anti-social behavior. An example is someone who does not show remorse for their harming of another. Going back to Garth’s comment about clergy, she also wanted to address that if a client has a religious or spiritual preference to get the support needed to allow the affordability of practicing said religion of preference. She concluded by inviting Garth to speak later. A female attendee who did not make an introduction, asked if the client only required to pass through first and second rounds, does the department keep an eye on that individual while in prison. Dr. Belford answered they do try to keep in touch with individuals, even not in the program, to re-connect either with them or other divisions who have access to the justice system. She added the jail system is very supportive of the mental health services. Attendee Garth Pezant, Sr. asked if a dependent has a right to an explanation and description of treatment. Dr. Belford answered absolutely. She added that anyone can make a request from the department as they are assessing suitability to the program as the client must agree to the services. Attendee Jubilee Vega, Chief Executive Officer at Heart-to-Heart Behavioral Health, stated that they are a new intensive outpatient program and asked how they can be a part of the diversion program. Dr. Belford asked if they are a Medi-Cal provider which Jubilee answered yes. Dr. Belford will get with her afterwards to discuss. Legislation: AB 2835, Motels and Hotels – Publicly Funded Shelter Programs; Seeks to make several modifications to the existing legal framework governing shelter programs operating in motels and hotels. The following provisions are as follows. First, the bill broadens the definition of motels and hotels to include all types of transient lodging, including bed and breakfast inns. Additionally, physical violence against hotel guests is added as a valid reason for terminating a shelter program participant's enrollment. Next, if a participant leaves the program voluntarily, shelter operators no longer need to provide a 30-day termination notice. And lastly, the bill allows pre-negotiated policies between shelter programs and hotels to be approved and shared with participants, even if they include special rules for shelter residents. AB 1948, Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams; Expands on AB 210 (2017/2018) by allowing counties to include individuals at risk of homelessness in their homeless multidisciplinary personnel teams, which previously focused only on those currently homeless. It also removes the January 1, 2025, expiration date, making these services indefinite in the counties of Los Angeles,
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<p>J. Outside Agency and Reports</p>		<p>Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, Ventura, and now adds San Mateo County. The bill is effective January 1, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBH: Laura’s Law – DBH has fully implemented Laura’s Law into the county and is working in coordination with county departments, community stakeholders, residents, family members and individuals who may meet the criteria. The sheriff’s department and DBH have partnered up on outreach to engage individuals into voluntary treatment who are homeless. If the individual continues to decline treatment, the program allows for a petition to the court to recommend the individual receive mandatory outpatient treatment. Currently DBH reviews referrals and assigns a team who will engage and link individuals to appropriate treatment options. Care Court – Working with the state and county departments who will be involved in the upcoming civil court process specific to developing an implementation plan for the operation of Care Court in our county on December 1, 2024. Training will be coming out November 2024 on the referral and treatment process on the care plan for the individual. Senate Bill 43 – The county will be implementing legislation by January 1, 2025. The workgroup consists of county departments and the Hospital Association of Southern California working on addressing the integration of the new gravely disabled to include substance use disorders in the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act). The meetings will be held monthly. San Bernardino County along with two other counties will be implementing SB 43 before January 1, 2026, which is required in the legislation. Currently San Luis Obispo and San Francisco Counties implemented on January 1, 2024. Proposition 1 – Includes two parts, a \$6.4 billion-dollar behavioral health bond for treatment, settings, services, housing, and historic reform of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) to focus on the people with the most serious illnesses, substance disorder and housing needs. The California Department of Health Care Services has an extension of its bond, Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) requests for applications where it will be awarded up to \$3.3 billion dollars statewide. Eligible applicants for the bond will be BHCIP round one including counties, cities, tribal entities, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations whose projects reflect the states priorities and serve the targeted population. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is prioritizing regional models with public/private partnerships aimed at construction, renovating and/or expanding community-based services as well as projects using a campus type model that collates multiple levels of care on the continuum with the focus on residential treatment facilities. The applications are due 5:00pm on December 15, 2024. • PRO: Upcoming events include Recovery Happens on September 14, 2024, 3:00pm-8:00pm at the Inland Empire 66ers Stadium located at 280 South E Street in San Bernardino. • Resilient & Real Summit on September 18, 2024, 8:00am-12:00pm at the Epic Events Center located at 12469 Foothill Boulevard in Rancho Cucamonga.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds of Recovery on September 26, 2024, 7:00pm-9:00pm at San Bernardino Valley College located at 701 South Mount Vernon Avenue in San Bernardino. • Behavioral Health Commission Tea on December 5, 2024, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Fox Theatre located 123 Cajon Street in Redlands. Flyers are available outside for the first three events. • OEI: Training: safeTALK is an awareness training intended for the community as a whole scheduled for September 10, 2024, 9:00am-12:00pm at the WET training center in San Bernardino; September 14, 2024, 10:00am-1:00pm at Mt. Zion Church in Ontario; September 16, 2024, 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Yucaipa Community Center in Yucaipa; September 19, 2024, 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Flipside Church in Rancho Cucamonga; September 24, 2024, 9:00am-12:00pm at Abundant Living Family Church in Hesperia. • ASIST training is an intervention training and intended for those looking for more than gatekeeper training scheduled for September 27, 2024, 8:00am-5:00pm at One Stop Tay Center located at 780 East Gilbert Street in San Bernardino. • Karen Guillem, Chairwoman of the Woman's Awareness Subcommittee has invited all attendees to their first in-person training event, Domestic Violence 101, presented by the House of Ruth at Options House, who are their community providers. There will be a panel discussion where they are still looking for one more panelist willing to share their story. This will take place October 23, 2024, 1:00pm-3:00pm at DBH Training Institute in Downtown San Bernardino. Flyers are available outside.
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Adjournment	Acting Chair, Allie Mink, Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With no further business or discussion meeting was adjourned at 1:21pm.
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Next Meeting		<p>DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 3, 2024 12:00pm to 2:00pm LOCATION: 850 East Foothill Boulevard F120 Rialto, CA 92376</p>
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ATTENDANCE					
FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT	Board Representative Col. Paul Cook
Lorrie Denson <i>Absent - Extended Leave</i>	Dr. Valerie Samuel <i>Present</i>	Troy Mondragon <i>Excused Absence</i>	Dr. Monica Caffey <i>Excused Absence</i>	Veatrice Jews <i>Excused Absence</i>	Samuel Shoup <i>Present</i>
Amanda Uptergrove <i>Present</i>	Jennifer Oglesby <i>Excused Absence</i>	Allie Mink <i>Present</i>	Jennifer Spence <i>Present</i>	Lynn Summers <i>Excused Absence</i>	
Jonathan C. Cahow <i>Present</i>	VACANT	Timothy Brown <i>Excused Absence</i>	Dr. Akin Merino <i>Present</i>	Eloisa Contreras <i>Present</i>	

GUESTS



Behavioral Health

John Granado, Marybel Valadez, Marina Espinosa, Brittny Rodriguez, Dr. Alyce Belford, Jolena Grider, Patricia Parker, Satin Bernadette, Bryan Clark, LaKeisha Mosley, Lizette Vazquez, Sade DeLaEspriella, Jennifer Esparza, Mark Francis, Marizol Garcia, Tong Bates, Gerardo Gutierrez, Matthew Montana, Dr. Reginald Allen, Derrick Cannon, Kristen Mungcal, Vivian Bermudez, Alice Alvarez, Jennifer Weaver, Sally Mitchell, Scott Higa, Jeanine Wymer, Alisha Hendry, Robert Austria, Thomaso Castellano, Adrian Borja, Robert Lee, Ashley Aguilar, Alicia Trivison, Joshua Taylor, Maribel Gutierrez, Jennifer Pacheco, Andre Bossier, John Rue, Dr. Teresa Ethridge, Ernesto Gutierrez, Gustavo Cisneros, Lauretta Ross, Allison Cunningham, Nicole Hamrang, LeAnn Mast, DeMario Dunn, Miriam Clark, Gabriel Horne, Connie Morrison, Eloisa Contreras, Jose Marisal, Latana Powell, Sharonae Marsh, Catherine Dye, Denise Ybarra, Marlen Hernandez, Karen Urquia, Garth Pezant Sr., Melanie Porges, Miriam Aldaz, Kellie Bougard Jordan, Alex Friedman, Stephanie Hedrick-Harwell, Maria Aceves, Dr. Rebecca Scott-Young, Amber Carpenter, Jennifer Yang, Sonia Navarro, Jazzmin Onsell, Yaritza Feliz, Erica Banks, Joela Jimenez, Christopher Schreur, Michael Sweitzer, Aaron J., Jubilee Vega, Giovanni Urena, Erica Ochoa, Misty May