



MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MINUTES

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**2101 Courage Drive, MultiPurpose Room,
Fairfield, CA 94533**

Mental Health Advisory Board Members Present:

Supervisor Monica Brown,
Tamuri Richardson
Alfred Sims (late)
Heather Theaux-Venezio (late)
Michael Wright

Behavioral Health Services Division Members Present:

Emery Cowan, BH Director
Brent Pottenger, BH Medical Director
Jennifer Mullane, BH Assistant Director
Leticia De La Cruz Salas, BH Children’s Administrator
Christina Stimmann, BH Adult Administrator

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Mental Health Advisory Board was called to order by Supervisor Monica Brown at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was attained.

2) ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

During public comments, the Board heard from several Solano County Mental Health Clinicians and Specialists relating to the high number of direct service vacancies and the need to review classifications, ensure salaries to remain competitive in the market, as well as the stress and gaps within BH. Union representatives were also present in support. They were encouraged to engage the union and invited by the Chair to send their comments in a written form to her to share with her fellow Supervisors.

3) APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2023 MINUTES

Monica Brown motioned to approve the August 15, 2023 Minutes. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 3 in favor and 0 against.

4) APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AGENDA

Monica Brown motioned to approve the September 19, 2023 Agenda. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 4 in favor and 0 against.

5) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT

Emery Cowan provided updates related to Behavioral Health Division. *Refer to the BH Report.*

6) UPDATES

a) LPS/PES MEETING

Next meeting taking place tomorrow, 9/20/23; no other updates.

b) LEGISLATION

SB326/MHSA Reform continues in the trajectory to be approved; there were no other updates during this meeting.

c) RECRUITMENT - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There will need to be discussion of recruitment for the new year, after bylaws are approved.

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) FIRST READING OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

The Board had their first reading of the Proposed Bylaws during this meeting. They were asked to provide feedback.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no items from the public on matters listed on the agenda.

9) MHAB BOARD DISCUSSIONS

a) MHAB GOALS

This was pushed out to the MHAB October Agenda.

10) ADJOURN

11) The Mental Health Advisory Board was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. by Monica Brown.

Next MHAB October 17, 2023, 3:30pm, 2101 Courage Drive, Multipurpose Room, Fairfield, CA 94533

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
Behavioral Health Services Division

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Memorandum

To: Local Behavioral Health Advisory Boards
From: Emery Cowan, LPCC, LMHC- Chief Deputy, BH Director
Date: September 2023
RE: Monthly report of significant issues

This report is shared across advisory boards on a monthly or at least quarterly frequency. Any questions can be sent to ecowan@solanocounty.com

MHSA Modernization Updates: BH will be offering a presentation to the BOS on 9/12/23 on the Three Year plan and SB326. See the updated DHCS website with the latest news here:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Modernizing-our-Behavioral-Health-Initiative.aspx>

- SB326 (reform) and AB531 (build/obligation bond) are two bills containing many of the variables that will support MHSA modernization – last updated 9/5/23
- Renaming “mental health services act” MHSA to “behavioral health services act” BHSA
- Serious substance use disorders would be included as standalone (at same moderate to severe level of care as Specialty MH Services”)
- Makes substantive changes to the mental health advisory boards, includes SUD integration and changes the name to “behavioral health advisory board”, as advisory to the BH Director (this is pertinent to the CalAIM MH/SUD integration and Partnership regional model impact)
- The ballot date will be in March 2024

Solano House Updates: Referrals continue to come in to the new MH Treatment Facility on Beck Campus. The facility has 16 beds in Endurance House (homeless definition requirement) and 16 beds in Foundation House (forensic involvement/history requirement) for a total of 32. Next week Y3C is moving three new residents into Foundation House. Move ins have taken some time due to a few issues like repairs that caused initial delays; the rest has been around eligibility (for example, coordinated entry identifying those on the list with homelessness and MH conditions, who then may or may not want to live in a 2-bed room), documentation readiness, licensing requirements needed that take longer to obtain for residents, etc.

Endurance House	1 referral pending	7 residents
Foundation House	5 referrals pending	5 Residents

Mobile Crisis Team- The community based Mobile Crisis Team is operating in Fairfield, Suisun, Dixon, and Vacaville Monday-Friday from 830am-9pm. The vendor, Pacific Clinics, continues to ramp up hiring and training to have sufficient teams. Mobile Crisis is currently operating with three teams and is onboarding two more. With a total of five teams, the program will be expanding its

response coverage to Rio Vista, Benicia, Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, and Travis AFB by September 25th. Pacific Clinics has also begun its recruitment and hiring process for weekend and overnight coverage to create a full complement of staff to provide a county-wide 24/7 Mobile Crisis response by the end of the year. For Vallejo, we are pending updates from their Integrated Health and Resource Team (IHART) mobile crisis plans- RFP here: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/42510/bo/bo-detail/106281> .

Meanwhile, we are working on the required Implementation Plan for DHCS with Pacific Clinics to meet the new requirements set forth in the BH Information Notice [draft](#) shared by the state that will require all counties to offer mobile crisis as a Medi-Cal entitlement benefit and 24/7 services.

Stigma & Discrimination Reduction RFP update: Solano BH released a request for proposals for Stigma & Discrimination Reduction Services for the African American, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), Latino/Hispanic, and Native Indigenous communities in Solano County. Only 3 submissions and BH is exploring current applicants and possibly reposting. Up to \$550k is available to support the 3 groups. One ore more providers can apply for one or all of these groups. This project is funded by Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) prevention and early intervention (PEI) fund and is projected to be, at minimum, a three-year effort: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/solanocounty/projects/49802>

Workforce Crisis- BH has 36 vacancies currently, 14 of those are clinicians. BH continues to need updated classifications, salary structures, and incentives to remain competitive in the field. We ask that our boards share our openings via the job posting link: <https://jobapscloud.com/solano/>

Newsletter- You can review past and current issues [here](#) and anyone in the community can go to our website and sign up to get future emails <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bh/default.asp>. Contractors who have MH/SUD related news, events, & trainings that they'd like to be shared, can contact us at bhinfo@solanocounty.com

Forensic Referrals:

August 2023 FORENSIC TRIAGE TEAM Referral Breakdown			
MH Diversion	MH Court	MH Services	AOT
20	0	7	1
Total: 28			