



**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

**3:30 – 5:00 PM**

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

**Mental Health Advisory Board Members:**

Supervisor Monica Brown  
Jules D. Hatchett  
Anthony E. McDonald  
Tamuri Richardson  
Alfred Sims  
Heather Theaux-Venezio (late)  
Michael Wright

**Behavioral Health Services Division Members:**

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 3:33 p.m. A quorum was attained.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no items from the Public on matters listed on the Agenda.

3) APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MINUTES

Monica Brown motioned to approve the September 19, 2023 Minutes. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

4) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2023 AGENDA

5) Monica Brown motioned to approve the October 17, 2023 Agenda. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

6) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT

Emery Cowan provided updated related to Solano County Behavioral Health Division. *Please refer to attached Behavioral Health Report.*

7) UPDATES

a) LPS/PES MEETING

There were no updates during this meeting.

b) LEGISLATION

Supervisor Brown provided some updates related to mental health legislation that included the newly named Proposition 1 Housing Bond and SB43. For SB43, the group discussed the changes to LPS reform, grave disability, and addition of stand-alone SUD as an eligible population. The new law allows counties to defer implementation until 2026 to allow time for system planning, re-training 5150 certified personnel and peace officers, and to work towards finding additional beds and staff. There was consensus that Solano would need to request deferred implementation.

c) RECRUITMENT - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There were no updates during this meeting.

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) SECOND READING OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

Monica Brown motioned to approve the proposed bylaws with corrections provided by MHAB members. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 6 in favor and 0 against. The proposed bylaws will be forwarded to Solano County Board of Supervisors for their review and approval.

b) MOVE MHAB NOV & DEC AS FOLLOWS: 11/14/23 & 12/12/23

Monica Brown motioned to approve moving the November and December 2023 meeting from the second week of the month to the third week of the month to November 14, 2023 and December 12, 2023, respectively. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

9) ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were not items from the Public on matters listed on the Agenda.

10) MHAB BOARD DISCUSSIONS

a) MHAB GOALS

b) The MHAB members briefly discussed the following ideas for their 2024 Goals. To be discussed in more detail in 2024.

- Education:
  - (1) Solano County Behavioral Health can provide a training to all board members and the public on the Solano County Behavioral Health system of care- a “Behavioral Health 101”, as many new programs have started.
  - (2) Information on Behavioral Health reform; intersection with justice reform and other new mandates.
  - (3) Information on new laws, including Proposition 1 going on the March ballot.
- Membership recruitment per amended bylaws.
- Marketing campaign: “what we do in Solano County Behavioral Health” which supports with recruitment of board members, staff, and educates the community to seek help.

11) ADJOURN

The Mental Health Advisory Board was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

**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: October 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](mailto:ecowan@solanocounty.com)*

**MHSA Modernization Updates:** BH presented to the BOS on 9/12/23 on the Three-Year plan and SB326. SB326 (reform) and AB531 (build/obligation bond) are two bills containing many of the variables that will support MHSA modernization. The bills passed the assembly and should be signed by Governor. The bill will be placed before the voters on March 2024 as *Proposition 1, Behavioral Health Modernization Act*. Updates to SB326 are posted on the CalHHS website: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/behavioral-health-reform/>

**LPS Reform:** SB43 was signed by the governor on 10/10/23 which significantly changes LPS/5150 involuntary hold and conservatorship criteria. It expands the legal definition by which someone can be deemed “gravely disabled” and treated against their will. The new, expanded definition allows for consideration of whether a person fails to provide for their own medical care or personal safety. It includes not just mental illness, but also severe substance use disorder and chronic alcoholism. There are currently insufficient number of beds to support those with mental health and even fewer beds for those needing SUD residential or withdrawal management/detox. Read article from CalMatters: <https://calmatters.org/health/mental-health/2023/09/mental-health-bond-gavin-newsom-amendments/>

**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:

Endurance House (homeless requirement)	8 referrals	6 residents	14
Foundation House (forensic requirement)	3 referrals	10 residents	13
<b>Potential occupancy: 27 of 32</b>			

**Mobile Crisis Team-** The community-based Mobile Crisis Team is operating in Fairfield, Suisun, Dixon, Vacaville, Rio Vista, Benicia, Sheriff’s Office jurisdiction, and Travis AFB

Monday-Friday from 830am-9pm. A total of 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, a meeting was held with the City government officials to discuss next steps. Below is the data on number of calls since Relaunch:

As of 10/6/2023	Fairfield	Suisun	Vacaville	Dixon	CHP	Sheriff	Benicia	Rio Vista
# OF CALLS RECEIVED	Non 48/Contact 68/Total 116	Non 15/Contact 13/Total 28	Non 31/Contact 45/Total 76	Non 11/Contact 7/Total 18	Non 1/Contact 0/Total 1	Non 0/Contact 1/Total 1	Non 0/Contact 3/Total 3	Non 0/Contact 0/ Total 0

**Workforce Crisis-** BH has 41 total vacancies; 15 are clinicians (5 in onboarding and 4 admin/non-clinical roles). 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](mailto:bhinfo@solanocounty.com)

**Forensic Referrals:**

September 2023 FORENSIC TRIAGE TEAM Referral Breakdown			
MH Diversion	MH Court	MH Services	AOT
8	0	8	1
<b>Total: 17</b>			

