



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**

1601 I Street, Ste. 200, Second Floor  
Modesto, CA 95350  
Phone: 209.525-6225 Fax: 209.558-4326

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) February 22, 2024**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting convened at 5:06 p.m. and called to order by Kathy Rupe, Vice-Chair. Jack Griffith led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Peter Dean, Olivia Esquivel Gonzalez, Daljit Grewal, Jack Griffith, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Patricia Davis, Gloria Vallin, Keryn Whitlow, Terry Withrow

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Tony Vartan, Kevin Panyanouvong, Cynthia Bocage, Pam Esparza, Alma Torres, Olivia Jimenez

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Kym Barber, Daniel Wendall, Chaz Whitsell, Miles Martinez, Emily Maeyama, Andrew Jaso, Charlotte Lockard, Juanita Chavarria, Roman Scanlon

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Kathy Rupe welcomed Patricia Davis recently appointed as a new BHB member representing District 4.

Cynthia Bocage reported Captain Frank Martinez is resigning and will request a replacement from the Sheriff's department.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action: Loren Mannard made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of January 25, 2024, Keryn Whitlow seconded the motion.

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT**

Supervisor Terry Withrow reported the following highlights:

- On February 13, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the implementation of Senate Bill 43 by January 1, 2025, see [Board Agenda Item 8](#).
- Briefly shared the outcome of the Turlock City Council meeting regarding the A and A facility located on Colorado Ave., in Turlock.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY**

A family member expressed concern with an issue that developed from a 911 call made to the Modesto Police Department. BHRS will follow-up to address family member's concern.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported the committee finalized the BHB agenda for the February 22, 2024, meeting. The committee discussed resuming BHB site visits and current vacancies in District 1 and 3. Members were reminded of the training by the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CalBHB/C) on Saturday, February 22, 2024, at the Harvest Hall, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto.

### Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None Reported.

### Hospitalization Committee

None Reported.

### Mental Health Committee

Peter Dean reported the committee received a presentation from Telecare program.

### Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Margie Johnson reported the committee received a presentation regarding Substance Use Disorder (SUD) from Tabitha Sprague, Chief of SUD and Robert Weston, SUD Manager.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Tony Vartan, BHRS Director reported the following highlights:

- Due to the outcome of the Turlock City Council meeting, Tony expressed the importance of increasing treatment outreach and education to the community.
- 24/7 Mobile Crisis contract provider has requested a delay in providing services until April 1, 2024. Statistics were provided for services by the 24/7 Mobile Crisis Unit.
- BHRS received feedback from Stakeholders and created a timeline to implement SB43 by January 1, 2025. Monthly Stakeholder's meeting will continue and BHRS will hold weekly meetings to look at internal process and procedures to implement SB43.
- On February 5, 2024, CARE Act received a visit from the State. Also present was a representative from Governor Newsom's office and the Department of State Hospitals who also toured the program and treatment sites. BHRS received positive feedback from the State. CARE Act data was also reported.
- AB 2242 states individuals will have a collaborative treatment plan and a follow-up appointment before being discharged from a hospital.
- BHRS is working to expand full-service partnership teams, expand Respite beds and an outreach team in Turlock.
- Pilot project funded by a State grant, placing SUD navigators in hospital emergency rooms to navigate patients into outpatient treatment will be ending. Options are to extend funding for a few more months, also State will send a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hospitals. BHRS is committed to pay for 3 months until hospitals respond to RFP.

- CalAIM initiative of 30-day jail initiative: Wellpath will ensure patients are linked to outpatient services and send a readiness report to the State by April 1, 2024, outlining the counties' process.
- BHRS Administration office will be moving first week in March 2024.
- Promotoras: BHRS is working on a contract solution to continue services without interruption.

**PRESENTATION: Garden Gate Respite, Turning Point Community Programs**

Chad Whitsell, Program Director, provided a presentation from Garden Gate Respite located at 609 and 605 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Modesto. Garden Gate Respite provides short-term shelter for Stanislaus County residents suffering from mental illness and at risk of homelessness. Pam Esparza, Chief, Supportive Services Division added that Garden Gate Respite is a valuable tool to engage individuals who are not completely engaged in services. A copy of the PowerPoint along with outcomes evaluation report tool was distributed to the members.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Board members expressed interest in conducting an outreach project to educate the community about BHRS services. Tony Vartan suggested the idea of holding BHB meetings at different locations as part of outreach efforts and reminded members recommendations would need to be brought to the Executive Committee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be March 28, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd. Ste.15, Modesto, CA, 95357.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III