

**Sacramento County  
Mental Health Board (MHB) General Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2024**

**Meeting Location**  
700 H Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>Attendance</b>			
<b>MHB Members</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Corrine McIntosh Sako, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Kesha Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Maria Padilla-Castro, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Evan Minton, <i>Secretary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Laura Asay-Bemis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Melinda Avey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Mallika Walsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mykel Gayent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Patricia Wentzel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<b>County Staff to MHB</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jason Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Chris Costa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was declared, introductions were made, and the Conduct Agreement was acknowledged.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Board Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Asay Bemis announced that October 5<sup>th</sup> is the opening date for the Journey of Hope art show. Free bus passes and light rail transportation are available for the opening event between 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Journey of Hope will feature 33 art pieces with accompanying stories regarding mental health.</li> <li>Ms. Padilla-Castro reminded members that September is drug and alcohol recovery month, and Mr. Gayent celebrated 11 successful years of recovery.</li> </ul>
<b>II. Public Comment</b>	<p>Public Comment 1: Community member shared the experiences of a family member in mental health treatment for 35 years, advocated for board and care options in Sacramento County, and discussed the importance of Prop 1 integration planning.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: Community member discussed challenges with accountability in room and board step down facilities, and advocated for on site supervisors to facilitate stability in these environments.</p>
<b>III. Consent Matters: Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Ms. Harris moved to approve the August General Meeting minutes and Chair McIntosh Sako seconded the motion. (Mr. Lueth and Ms. Riviera abstained. All other members voted Aye.) Motion carried.</p>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>IV. Discussion Item: County Counsel Brown Act Update</b></p>	<p>Mr. Christopher Costa, Deputy County Counsel, provided an update regarding the Brown Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recent opinion issued by the Office of the Attorney General (AG) found that the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that individuals with disabilities may participate in Brown Act meetings remotely, without the need to post the address of their remote meeting location. This decision could improve accessibility for individuals with permanent or temporary disabilities serving on Brown Act bodies such as the MHB. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Previously, in a 2001 opinion on the same topic, the AG’s office had declared that physical presence was an essential job function, thereby not requiring reasonable accommodation under the ADA. However, the new opinion reflects the significant shift in public meeting practices following the COVID-19 pandemic, where remote participation became more common. The AG now concludes that in-person attendance at Brown Act meetings is no longer an essential job function as defined in the ADA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The opinion imposes certain conditions for those participating remotely without opening their location to the public, as follows. Participants must identify any adults who are also present with them in the room from which they are participating, including their relationship to the participant. Additionally, no action can be taken on agenda items if the participant’s connection is disrupted.</li> <li>• This Disability exception is in addition to existing Just Cause and Emergency exceptions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>V. Division of Behavioral Health Services Director’s Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director, provided a written report on the status of Behavioral Health Services (BHS). He also provided verbal updates and answered questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Quist highlighted that September is National Recovery Month as well as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.</li> <li>• September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup> is Hispanic Heritage Month, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September being Latino Behavioral Health Week.</li> <li>• 24 conditional employment offers were accepted as a result of the recent Behavioral Health Services hiring fair! This recruitment focused on licensed and unlicensed mental health counselors, as well as mental health workers at the Mental Health Treatment Center.</li> </ul>
<p><b>VI. System Partner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Association of Behavioral Health Contractors</b> Ms. Christie Gonzalez thanked BHS for helping with challenges with the Electronic Health Record, which have since been resolved. September 8th is being recognized nationally as “988 Day,” bringing awareness to suicide prevention with the tagline of “Help, No Judgement”.</p>
<p><b>VII. Mental Health Board Business</b></p>	<p><b>Liaison Reports</b></p>

Agenda Item	Discussion
	<p>Written liaison reports were provided for the Human Services Coordinating Council and the Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee.</p> <p><b>Committee Reports</b>  Members were referred to the Mental Health Board Meetings webpage for MHB Committee Meeting minutes:  <a href="https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Advisory-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Board/BC-Mental-Health-Board-Meetings-2024.aspx">https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Advisory-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Board/BC-Mental-Health-Board-Meetings-2024.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>VIII. Discussion/Action Item: Consider Approval of Ad Hoc Committee Dedicated to Establishment of a Behavioral Health Commission</b></p>	<p>Under Prop 1, the County is required to have a commission that has both mental health and substance use issues as its focus. MHB members discussed approval of an Ad Hoc Committee to partner with members of the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (ADAB) to discuss and propose solutions with a facilitator regarding the establishment of a Behavioral Health Commission (BHC), in compliance with Prop 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Asay Bemis asked if there should be alternate members appointed in case a member is unable to attend. County Counsel recommended against alternate members for this ad hoc committee, to avoid the potential of too many members accidentally showing up and creating a Brown Act issue.</li> <li>• Ms. Riviera asked if the new BHC would replace the existing MHB and ADAB, which Chair McIntosh Sako confirmed.</li> </ul> <p>No public comments were made.</p> <p>Mr. Minton moved to approve the BHC Ad Hoc Committee and Ms. Padilla-Castro seconded the motion. (Ms. Avey and Ms. Harris abstained. All other members voted Aye.) Motion carried.</p> <p>Chair McIntosh Sako appointed Ms. Wentzel and Ms. Harris to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, and they accepted.</p>
<p><b>IX. Presentation – Behavioral Health Services for Individuals Detained in Sacramento County Jails</b></p>	<p>Dr. Jason Roof, Medical Director of Sacramento County Adult Correctional Mental Health (ACMH), Ms. Andrea Javist, Program Director of ACMH, and Ms. Tianna Hammock, Health Services Administrator of ACMH, provided a presentation on behavioral health services for individuals detained in Sacramento County jails. Highlights included the high number of incarcerated Americans compared to elsewhere in the world, the high percentage of detained individuals with behavioral health needs, and an overview of mental health care in jails with a focus on Sacramento County ACMH. A copy of the full presentation was sent to MHB members and is available upon request.</p>
<p><b>X. Presentation – Patients’ Rights Advocates in Sacramento County</b></p>	<p>Ms. Kristy Lunardelli, Director of Consumers Self-Help Center, offered to present at a later date to allow for more time for the presentation above.</p>
<p><b>XI. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.</p>