Sacramento County Mental Health Board (MHB) General Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2020

Meeting Location

In compliance with County, State, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention directives related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this meeting was held remotely via Zoom and Conference Call.

Attendance MHB Members				
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
Ann Arneill, Chair	Present Absent	Bradley Lueth	Present Absent	
Bryan Richter, Vice-Chair	Present D Absent	Caroline Lucas	Present Absent	
Dan Niccum, Secretary	Present D Absent	Mike Nguy	Present 🛛 Absent	
Viva Asmelash	Present D Absent	Maria Padilla-Castro	Present Absent	
Laura Bemis	Present D Absent	Theresa Riviera	Present Absent	
Mark Hoover	Present D Absent	Silvia Rodriguez	Present Absent	
Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	Present Absent	Loran Sheley	Present Absent	
County Staff to MHB				
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance	
Jason Richards	Present 🗌 Absent	Janice Snyder	Present 🗌 Absent	

Ag	enda Item	la Item Discussion	
I.	Welcome and Introductions	Chair Ann Arneill called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and introductions were made.	
١١.	Comfort Agreement	Chair Arneill read the MHB Comfort Agreement.	
III.	Approval of Agenda	Mr. Dan Niccum moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Bryan Richter seconded the motion. Ms. Viva Asmelash abstained. Motion carried.	
IV.	Approval of Minutes	Chair Arneill moved to add the following language to Section VI of the March minutes: "MHB members discussed the scope of their duties. Janice Snyder, Supervising Deputy County Counsel, advised the Board that the MHB's duties include review and evaluation of the community's public mental health needs and services in any facility within the county; its duties are not restricted to just those services provided by BHS." Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro moved to approve the amended minutes and Mr. Mark Hoover seconded the motion. Ms. Caroline Lucas, Ms. Asmelash, Ms. Laura Bemis, and Ms. Theresa Riviera abstained. Motion carried.	
V.	System Partner Updates	 Advocacy Update Ms. Katherine Ferry and Ms. Robin Barney, Client Advocate Liaisons, announced the following: Advocacy programs are currently operating via Zoom. Consumers report that they are getting used to the new format and finding that services are becoming more accessible. 	

Agenda Item	Discussion
	 There has been an uptick in demand for Wrap services over Zoom. The June 19th Peer Empowerment Conference will now take place online. Attendees were asked to email Ms. Katherine Ferry at FerryK@saccounty.net for information regarding the Peer Empowerment Conference. Association of Behavioral Health Contractors Ms. Diane White announced that behavioral health providers have been meeting remotely on a weekly basis to strategize the best ways to provide services during this time. Behavioral health providers report concerns and anxiety about the availability of adequate funding and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Ms. White acknowledged Behavioral Health Director, Dr. Ryan Quist, for his efforts to revise the payment structure and weekly informational calls for behavioral health providers.
VI. Mental Health Board Business	 Mental Health Board Announcements Chair Arneill announced that there will not be a budget committee meeting in June, due to issues related to COVID-19 and its effect on revenues and expenditures. Chair Arneill announced the following committee meetings, to be held via Zoom with meeting information posted at a later date:
	 Standing Committee Updates Children's System of Care Committee: Ms. Silvia Rodriguez and Mr. Hoover reported that the Children's System of Care Committee met on April 23rd and accomplished the following: Elected Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Hoover as Co-Chairpersons. Discussed speakers for future Committee meetings. Decided to establish strategic and tactical goals before inviting speakers, to inform which topics would advance those goals. Adult System of Care Committee: Ms. Asmelash reported that the Adult System of Care Committee met on April 28th and accomplished the following: Elected Ms. Asmelash as Chairperson. Discussed homelessness, including a plan to request statistics from Dr. Quist for ongoing insight into the homeless situation during the COVID-19 crisis. Drafted and discussed the 2020 law enforcement goal, to be voted on by the MHB at a future general meeting.

Agenda Item	Discussion	
	 The proposed goal reads as follows: "Advise and collaborate with law enforcement first responder programs leading to better outcomes, particularly of at risk communities and marginalized individuals." 	
	 CalMHSA as Administrator for PEI Grants Jane Ann Zakhary, Administrative, Planning, and Outcomes Division Manager, provided an overview of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component funding, the current PEI grant process, and the role of CalMHSA in the administration of this program. Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Padilla-Castro, and Ms. Riviera requested a list of the grant awardees, which Ms. Zakhary linked in the Zoom chat. Dr. Quist shared that Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is excited to have \$9.7 million in funding for PEI programs, and looks forward to seeing what these PEI programs are going to do for our communities. 	
	Mr. Niccum asked how the results of PEI programs will be relayed to the MHB in the future. Ms. Zakhary discussed data collection strategies that BHS will employ to track outcomes from these programs, and clarified that the awards have been announced but the programs are not up and running yet.	
	Ms. Rodriguez asked about consumer and family member representation on the review teams. Ms. Asmelash asked about the racial and ethnic diversity of the review teams that decided who was awarded PEI grants. Ms. Zakhary shared that consumers and family member representatives were on the review teams, and racial and ethnic demographics were taken into account when choosing the teams.	
VII. Action Item: Review and Approve Sacramento County Mental Health Board Annual Report Calendar Year 2019	 Members of the MHB reviewed the 2019 Annual Report and provided feedback as follows: Ms. Asmelash asked for an overview of the report, which Chair Arneill provided. Ms. Rodriguez requested that the cooperation between the MHB and the Maternal Mental Health Collaborative be included as an accomplishment in the report. Dr. Quist affirmed that the collaboration between BHS and the Maternal Mental Health Collaborative was due in large part to the advocacy of the MHB. Mr. Niccum requested that advocacy efforts be included under Goal 2 on Page 8 of the report. Ms. Asmelash and Ms. Rodriguez highlighted the importance of recording the results of MHB recommendations, including contributions to ongoing policy discussions. Chair Arneill will meet with Dr. Quist to address the results of ongoing efforts for Goals 4, 5, and 6 in the report. The MHB will review and approve the amended report at the June 	
	meeting.	

Agenda Item		Discussion
	n of Behavioral Services	 Dr. Quist provided a written report on the status of BHS efforts during the COVID-19 situation. He also provided verbal updates and answered questions as follows: Providers have reported that individuals are experiencing symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders in response to the COVID-19 situation. The majority of outpatient services are available through telehealth, with several inpatient services available as well. PPE has been made available to providers to promote safety. More PPE is becoming available over time. Reminder that behavioral health funding is linked to taxes, so funding for BHS will be impacted as a result of the COVID-19 situation. The extent of the impact has yet to be determined, but is being monitored closely. Project Roomkey is currently serving 333 consumers in motels and 5 consumers in trailers. The trailers are for individuals who are either COVID-positive, but the overall demand has been low. Public Health has proactively tested individuals at these sites and results have largely been coming back negative. Another motel specifically for behavioral health consumers who are homeless is in development, with plans to open next week. Calls to Mental Health Access are trending down and crisis services are trending up at this time. Dr. Quist participated in a series of interviews to let people know that behavioral health providers remain open and available to provide services to those who need them.
IX. Public C	Comment	 Public Comment 1: Community member discussed Board and Care facilities taking COVID-positive patients, to move them out of hospitals and free up resources. Public Comment 2: Community member discussed the role of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions in supporting local MHBs. Community member highlighted the chronic nature of behavioral health conditions and current efforts involving Project Roomkey in serving this population.
X. Adjourn	nment	Chair Arneill adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.