

**Sacramento County
Mental Health Board (MHB) Special Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021**

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
Loran Sheley, <i>Chair</i>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Supervisor Patrick Kennedy	<u>Present</u> Absent
Silvia Rodriguez, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<u>Present</u> Absent
Laura Bemis, <i>Secretary</i>	<u>Present</u> Absent	Corrine McIntosh Sako	<u>Present</u> Absent
Ann Arneill	<u>Present</u> Absent	Maria Padilla-Castro	<u>Present</u> Absent
William Cho	<u>Present</u> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<u>Present</u> Absent
Ryan Gallant	<u>Present</u> Absent	Paul Wagstaffe	<u>Present</u> Absent
County Staff to MHB			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Jason Richards	<u>Present</u> Absent	Janice Snyder (June Powells-Mays covering)	<u>Present</u> Absent

Agenda Item	Discussion
I. Welcome and Introductions	Chair Loran Sheley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and introductions were made. Behavioral Health Director, Dr. Ryan Quist, introduced the new Department of Health Services Director, Ms. Chevon Kothari.
II. Comfort Agreement	Ms. Ann Arneill read the MHB Comfort Agreement.
III. Mental Health Board Discussion/Action Item Recommendations Related to the Mental Health Board's role in the development and operation of a Community Advisory Board for the Proposed Sacramento County Alternative to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response Program	Chair Sheley introduced the discussion topic for this meeting, as outlined in Handout #1. The MHB discussed recommendations related to their role in the development and operation of a community advisory board for the proposed Sacramento County Alternative to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response program, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Quist advised that it makes sense for the MHB to take on this advisory role as experts in behavioral health, since they are familiar with the behavioral health system in Sacramento County. The MHB is best positioned to make these recommendations, and the existing vacant positions may be utilized to focus on this topic. • Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro highlighted the need for community feedback on this topic, outside the MHB. • Ms. Arneill summarized the time commitments of advising on this topic, which would involve a monthly subcommittee meeting and reporting back to the full MHB. • Ms. Arneill highlighted the existing consumer, public interest, and family member vacancies on the MHB which could be used

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	<p>to recruit for new members with first-person perspective on first responders, as well as the possibility of adding new members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Silvia Rodriguez agreed that advising on this topic falls within the role of the MHB, and that community feedback could be incorporated through outreach and recruitment. • Mr. Paul Wagstaffe reiterated the MHB’s advisory role to Behavioral Health Services as well as to the Board of Supervisors. • Supervisor Kennedy advised that this topic falls within the MHB’s role and encouraged the MHB to take on this important topic. • Mr. Ryan Gallant advised that without the MHB being full, there may not be enough time for the limited number of members to adequately research this issue and provide advice. • Ms. Arneill summarized the MHB’s statutory mandate, which includes evaluation of mental health related services, needs, and special problems. Therefore, this topic falls under the MHB’s role. • Ms. Arneill agreed with Mr. Gallant’s concern related to the existing vacant seats on the MHB and advised that they should be filled so that the MHB can advise on this issue at full strength. • Mr. William Cho advised that not having a full MHB would not be an adequate reason not to take on this topic, as it falls within the MHB’s mandated role. Mr. Cho expressed the concern that to create a separate commission for this purpose would create an inefficient layer of beurocracy which would delay services from reaching those who need it most. • Mr. Brad Lueth highlighted that MHB members are also members of the community with experience and concern for behavioral health related issues, and thus provide community feedback in this role. • Ms. Theresa Riviera expressed the concern that the MHB may not have adequate time to address this issue, in agreement with Ms. Padilla-Castro and Mr. Gallant. • Mr. Wagstaffe asked for feedback from the ad hoc committee on this topic. Feedback was summarized by Chair Sheley, as presented in Handout #1. • Ms. Sheley summarized recommended options from the ad hoc committee, including creating an ad hoc committee, a standing committee of MHB members only, or a standing committee of MHB members and stakeholders/public participants. If the latter option is chosen, only MHB members would have voting rights, per County Counsel recommendation as the most appropriate and legally-defensible mechanism to include community involvement. • Mr. Cho, Ms. Rodriguez, and Mr. Gallant expressed the opinion that community members’ inability to vote would not preclude them from expressing advisory opinions in this role. Ms. Padilla-Castro expressed concern that community members would feel devalued and discouraged from attending without the ability to vote. • Ms. Padilla-Castro highlighted the importance of the Alternative to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response issue, and expressed the opinion that this issue deserves its own commission, separate from the MHB.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cho highlighted the MHB’s knowledge on the subject of mental health as being appropriate for their advisory role on this topic. • County Counsel Janice Snyder advised that there are differing legal opinions on whether community members may have voting rights on a committee, but that the accepted practice is that community members would not have voting rights. At minimum, the Board of Supervisors would need to delegate authority to the MHB to accept votes from community members, since that would change the role of the MHB. • Dr. Quist reminded the MHB that the process of seeking Board approval on the issue of granting voting rights to community members would take several months to complete, if that is the direction that the MHB chooses to go. <p>After the Public Comment period (recorded below), Ms. Rodriguez moved to add an additional option to Handout #1, to appoint an MHB subcommittee to advise on the proposed Sacramento County Alternative to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response program if the MHB votes to take on this advisory role, composed of MHB members and community members with voting rights. Ms. Arneill seconded the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment #1: Community member advised MHB members not to underestimate the voices and opinions of community members. • Public Comment #2: Community member affirmed the MHB’s willingness to listen to community members in an equitable process. • Motion carried. Votes were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aye: Supervisor Kennedy, Chair Sheley, Mr. Lueth, Ms. Arneill, Ms. Bemis, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Corrine McIntosh-Sako, Ms. Riviera ○ No: Ms. Padilla-Castro, Mr. Wagstaffe, Mr. Gallant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Padilla-Castro clarified that her vote was due to the MHB not being the appropriate body to assume this role, as it should be a separate Board with full powers to vote and advise the Board of Supervisors, not to downgrade the importance of the topic ▪ Mr. Gallant clarified that his vote was due to the bandwidth of the MHB to take on this issue, not to downgrade the importance of the topic. ▪ Mr. Wagstaffe clarified that his vote was due to a concern over the legal ability to include members of the public as voting members of a committee. ○ Abstain: Mr. Cho <p>Ms. Arneill moved to affirm that the Mental Health Board should be the Community Advisory Board for the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Program with diverse community and linguistic representation. Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment #1: Community member advocated for the community to run the Alternatives to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response program instead of the County. • Public Comment #2: Community member advocated for this decision to be deferred until further community stakeholder input processes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment #3: Community member asked for clarification regarding a timeline on creating a separate board or commission to address this issue. Supervisor Kennedy and Dr. Quist clarified that this process would take several months, if approved. • Public Comment #4: Community member expressed support for the MHB in their advisory role on this issue. • Ms. Riviera asked to add linguistic diversity to the motion, and Ms. Arneill agreed. This amendment was added above. • Ms. Arneill reminded MHB members that 2/3 of positions on the MHB are for consumer and family community members, all of whom have awareness and experience of mental illness by definition. • Motion carried. Votes were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aye: Supervisor Kennedy, Chair Sheley, Mr. Lueth, Ms. Arneill, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. McIntosh-Sako, Ms. Riviera, Mr. Cho, Mr. Wagstaffe ○ No: Ms. Padilla-Castro, Mr. Gallant ○ Abstain: Ms. Bemis, Mr. Cho <p>Ms. Rodriguez moved to adopt the option on subcommittee design that was approved above, to appoint an MHB subcommittee to advise on the proposed Sacramento County Alternative to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response program, composed of MHB members and community members with voting rights. Ms. McIntosh Sako seconded the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gallant and Mr. Wagstaffe stated their concerns that the MHB has not been given the authority to grant voting rights to community members on this topic. • County Counsel advised that there are differing legal opinions on whether allowing non-MHB members to vote is allowed, and that doing so can create problematic conflicts of interest. In addition, the Board of Supervisors would need to delegate authority to the MHB to appoint community members for this purpose, which would take several months due to the extensive process involved. • Chair Sheley opened the floor for public comments on this motion. No public comments were given. • Motion carried. Votes were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aye: Supervisor Kennedy, Chair Sheley, Mr. Lueth, Ms. Arneill, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. McIntosh-Sako, Ms. Riviera, Mr. Wagstaffe ○ No: Ms. Padilla-Castro, Mr. Gallant, Mr. Cho ○ Abstain: Ms. Bemis
<p>IV. Public Comment</p>	<p>Public Comment 1: Community member asked how to join the MHB, and was given Dr. Jason Richards's contact information to obtain an application and submission details.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: Community member discussed the importance of diverse community member representation, inclusion, and transparency on this issue.</p> <p>Public Comment 3: Community member expressed support for the MHB taking on this issue with a subcommittee, and encouraged inclusion of community members in an equitable and inclusive manner.</p>

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	<p>Public Comment 4: Community member encouraged the MHB to include community members who have not historically been included in discussions on topics related to law enforcement and behavioral health.</p> <p>Public Comment 5: Community member highlighted the importance of community feedback in informing decisions made by the MHB, as a community advisory board.</p> <p>Public Comment 6: Community member expressed agreement with Public Comments 2 and 4, and expressed support for the MHB taking on an advisory role on this topic.</p> <p>Public Comment 7: Community member expressed agreement with Public Comment 2, and stated that the reason the County is needing to address the Alternatives to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response issue is because law enforcement is not in touch with community needs.</p> <p>Public Comment 8: Community member reminded the MHB about the origins of the need for an Alternatives to 911/Behavioral Health Crisis Response program and advocated for equitable community involvement.</p> <p>Public Comment 9: Community member advocated for community involvement on the subcommittee which advises on this issue, including voting rights.</p> <p>Public Comment 10: Community member expressed support for both MHB and community member involvement in advising on this topic.</p> <p>Public Comment 11: Community member advocated for MHB and community member involvement to advise on this topic, and advocated for the removal of law enforcement entirely from existing crisis response programs.</p> <p>Public Comment 12: Community member affirmed the courageous voices of MHB members and community members tonight on this topic.</p> <p>Public Comment 13: Community member encouraged the MHB to take on this topic, and to adopt the perspective that they have an opportunity to change things and encourage community perspectives.</p> <p>Public Comment 14: Community member advised that if community voices are not equitably included by the MHB on this topic, that a separate commission should be formed instead.</p>
V. Adjournment	Chair Sheley adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.