

San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Board
Minutes

Members Present

Nancy Chastain, Chair
Joseph Dittmann, Vice-Chair
Cary Martin
Ingrid Oliver
Karen Ivy
Mike Corsaro
Tasso Kandris
Tosh Saruwatari
Vaunita Duval
Mudalodu Vasudevan
Lori Hansen

Members Excused/Absent

Frances Hernandez
Daphne Shaw
Supervisor Miguel Villapudua

Also Present

Tony Vartan, BHS Director
Frances Hutchins, Assistant BHS Director
Greg Diederich, HCS Director
Cindy Morishige, Deputy Director of CATS
Isabel Espinosa, Board Secretary
Kayce Rane, Consultant
Carolyn Walters, BHS Lodi Clinic

Guests

Tod Patterson, Lodi Police Chief
Gertie Kandris, NAMI SJC
Krystal Scherer
Alvena Votaw
Reyna Jackson
Stephen Pittenvino
Mary Ellen Cranston-Bennett, NAMI SJC
Susan Hatch
Lori Sawdon, First United Methodist
Church
Drew Strachan, NAMI SJC

I. Call to Order

The Behavioral Health Board (BHB) meeting was convened on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the Lodi Public Library located at 201 W. Locust Street, Lodi, CA. Chairperson Nancy Chastain called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., led the pledge of allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by the Board Secretary. A quorum was in attendance at this meeting.

III. Introductions

Chairperson Nancy Chastain led self-introductions among board members and the public audience present at this meeting.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was requested by Chairperson Nancy Chastain to approve the September 20th meeting minutes. Motion was made by Tasso Kandris, and seconded by Cary Martin. The motion was carried by unanimous approval.

V. Public Comment

Tod Patterson, Lodi Police Chief, commented:

- Multiple consumers in the Lodi area require frequent transport to 1212 N. California Street to receive services, which places a burden on the City of Lodi's law enforcement resources.
- Community Resource Officer Ryan Holtz of the Lodi Police Department (LPD) is assigned to work with the Lodi homeless population. LPD is modeling their homeless outreach after Tracy's approach.
- The LPD has assisted 38 people in the last three months to find shelter or live in programs.

Greg Diederich, HCS Director advised Chief Patterson that Medi-Cal will pay for emergency and non-emergency transport to appointments under the proposed Managed Care Plan.

Cary Martin expressed his interest having the Chief give the Behavioral Health Board the same presentation he gave to the Board of Supervisors and Lodi City Council during the Joint Study Session on Homelessness.

VI. New Business

a. Carolyn Walters presented on services of the Lodi Mental Health Clinic and discussed:

- The Lodi clinic provides treatment to Adults, Children, and Older Adults who reside in the north county. typically residents of Lodi, Lockeford, Clements, Victor, Woodbridge and north Stockton.
- Depression, bi-polar and schizophrenia are the three major diagnoses seen in the clinic.
- The clinic offers groups on medication education, life skills, Wellness and Recovery Action Plans (WRAP), Seeking Safety and co-occurring recovery groups.
- Carolyn ended her presentation welcoming questions from the community.
 - One community member asked if the Lodi Clinic offered social skills classes for children. Carolyn answered that the county provides self-esteem classes and referred her to Amanda Yochum, Children and Youth Services Program Manager.
 - Board member Tosh Saruwatari asked if there are any plans for more residential facilities in the Lodi area. Cindy Morishige, Deputy Director answered that BHS is always trying to develop more services in the Lodi area.

- Another community member asked about housing for people under the age of 60. Carolyn advised that the housing described in the presentation is only available to consumers.
- Greg Diederich commented that with the No Place like Home project, continued partnerships between the Board of Supervisors, the Lodi City Council and other agencies will assist the county in obtaining the funds necessary to increase the amount of affordable housing.

b. Introduction of Tony Vartan, BHS Director:

- Mr. Vartan introduced himself to the Behavioral Health Board. He stated that he is honored to become a part of Health Care Services team. He related his 29 years of experience in behavioral health, both in the private and public sectors. He mentioned that he has been an advocate his entire career for patient rights and NAMI and that he will continue to collaborate with other agencies and pool resources to better serve the community.
- In the next few weeks he said he will meet with management, staff, advocacy groups, stake holders, and clients to discuss their needs and problem areas. He will evaluate current practices and look for ways to improve services. His goal is to provide the safest, cleanest, and least restrictive environment for BHS consumers.
- Tony ended his introductions welcoming questions from the community.
 - Board member Lori commented that she was concerned consumers being released early due to no beds in the inpatient unit. Tony advised her that he was unsure of the current practice and that his policy is safety first and that it's critical to assess and ensure the safety of BHS consumers.
 - Board member Tosh asked how the Board can be of assistance. Tony stated the Board can help by working together, communicating, and providing feedback and updates. He asked that the board advise him of any gaps in services.

VII. Old Business

- a. Chairperson Nancy Chastain convened the Public Hearing on the Innovation Plan for the Behavioral Health Assessment Center.
- Several members of the public expressed their interest in the project and asked where they could find more information. They were referred to the BHS website, and advised to comment electronically.
 - The public hearing was closed by Chairperson Nancy Chastain.
- b. 2017 Data Notebook
- Assistant Director Frances Hutchins reviewed that the California Mental Health Planning Council has provided the 2017 Data Notebook to the Board. The 2017 Data Notebook focuses on services for older adults. The response from the Board is due to the Planning Council by the end of November. She asked for volunteers to assist in the process. Nancy Chastain, Karen Ivy, and Lori Hansen volunteered to work with Deputy Director Cindy Morishige on the 2017 Data Notebook.

VIII. Director's Report

- a. Frances Hutchins thanked the Board for the two public hearings and announced that the two Innovation Plans are set to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on November 7, 2017. Upon approval they will be forwarded to the state's Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Committee.
- b. The UC Davis Behavioral Center of Excellence has agreed to conduct the evaluation of the two Innovation Projects. Staff will begin meeting with the Center in November.
- c. BHS is continuing to work with Community Medical Centers on the Withdrawal Management Center to be funded by Prop 47 grant funds.
- d. BHS will undergo an External Quality Review on October 24 and 25. The review is conducted by independent contractors appointed by the state to review our plans and data for timeliness, access, quality, and outcomes.
- e. Legislative staff will be touring the County's Health Care Services on October 26. They will visit BHS substance abuse treatment programs, the Psychiatric Health Facility, and the Crisis Stabilization Unit.
- f. Some heating and cooling systems are being replaced at BHS on October 19 and 20. Staff has made plans to mitigate the effect of this on consumers and staff. Parking will be very tight on the main campus those two days.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – set agenda for tonight's meeting.
- b. Legislative Report –no report
- c. Children's Committee –no report
- d. Grievance Committee –no report until next meeting in December
- e. Housing Committee – no report
- f. Substance Abuse Disorder Committee –Nancy reported that the grass has been watered at Family Ties. Cary discussed the 2016 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use that he reported on at last month's meeting. He asked that the board review the data.

X. Other

- a. Tosh Saruwatari requested information on Billy Olpin's Substance Abuse Continuum meeting.
- b. Board members Tasso and Karen thanked Frances Hutchins and Cindy Morishige for their dedication and hard work as Interim Director and Interim Assistant Director.
- c. Chairperson Nancy thanked Tasso for arranging the Lodi Library meeting.

Meeting Adjourn: 7:20 p.m.