



**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)**  
*Regular Meeting*

Hybrid In-Person and Teleconference

January 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 -7:00 P.M.

**Board Members Present:**

Tasso Kandris  
Patricia Barrett  
Carolyn Cooper  
Cary Martin  
Douglas Vigil  
Dr. Vasudevan  
Gertie Kandris  
Jeff Giampetro  
John Weston  
Mary Avanti  
Pamela Keese-Wyre  
Sabrina Flores-Eng

**Guests and Others in attendance.**

Supervisor Villapudua  
Greg Diederich – Director HCS  
Cara Dunn – Assistant Director BHS  
Angelo Balmaceda – MHSa Coordinator BHS  
George Galas – Patients' Rights Advocate  
ASL Interpreter Stephanie & Diamond  
Cassy Lowe - CAPC

**Board Members Absent / Excused:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Moment of Silence
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – OPEN TIME**

Mary Avanti – Voiced Concerns about election being under new business and in the middle of the meeting. Recommends that Elections be at the beginning of the meeting and before everything else.

- Tasso – Historically the elections have been after the presentations, and the elections will remain there today.

The Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq) requires that every agency for regular meeting provide an opportunity for member of the public to directly address the San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Board on any item of interest to the public, before or during the Board's consideration of the item. When the Chairperson announces the public comment period, any person wishing to address the Board will be recognized by the Chairperson and is requested to state their name and make their comments. Each speaker is allocated up to three (3) minutes to speak. Comments must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board will take no action and will hold no discussion on matters presented during public comment unless the matter is an action item on the Board agenda. The Board may refer the subject matter to the appropriate department of agency for follow-up and/or to schedule the matter on a subsequent Board agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Tasso K : Noted Legislative Committee report was not on the Minutes when originally sent out and that is has been added.
- Jeff Giampetro – Moves to Approve the amended Minutes
- Cary Martin – Seconded the Motion
- Minutes approved as amended.

## V. GENERAL PATIENTS' RIGHTS

### *George Galas -Patients' Rights Advocate*

- George states his company is moving out of San Joaquin County moving more toward Sacramento County Company has been rotating Advocates in recent years.
- Advocates are state mandated
- Some of the functions of Advocates include
  - Privately meeting with clients and BHS Staff
  - Reviewing patient records prior to 5250 and 5270 hearings
  - If the patient expresses a wish to leave hospital, it's required for the advocate to aid them leave hospital even if it might be in the patient's best interest. The patient rights advocate wants patient to recover but his primary job is to advocate for the rights of the patient.
- The Facility should ensure that clients have access to the advocate whenever possible
  - Posters should be located where patient can see them.
- Denial of rights
  - If a patient is denied any of his rights there must be a good cause.
  - Any Denial and Restoration of his Rights should be tracked in the patient chart.
- Housing – Advocates monitor board in care homes.
  - Chapter 22 – laws and regulations must be abided by
  - The Advocate should inspect facility, interview all the clients, asking questions to make sure everything is ok the Advocate should try and resolve any issues discovered at a lowest level possible.
  - Unlicensed facilities without oversight can be a problem.

#### **Questions:**

- Patricia B. How long will you be BHS's Advocate?
  - George - Contract ends at end of January.
- Pamela W. Are you able to provide outcome studies?
  - George - Board and Care report to committee (they have record that could be requested)
  - George - Stats provided every quarter sent to county – concerns each quarter.
- Pamela W. What kind of education or training do you need to have to become Advocate?
  - George - Position is for all kinds of people self-training, no degree required, they recommend Computer literacy and some kind of lived experience.
- Douglas V. Do the Patient Advocates Just Advocate for those with Mental Health issues or do they advocate for those in Substance Abuse treatment as well? What about those with Disabilities?
  - George - Position is to advocate for the rights of clients, not really to help them with other issues.
  - George invited Douglas to come to the office to have further discussions.

## VI. MHSA – COMMUNITY PLANNING

### *Angelo Balmaceda - MHSA Coordinator*

- Angelo asked to keep his presentation to around 30 Mins
  - BHB invited to come to next meeting to further discussion.
  - Luke Will send out copy of slide show at the end of the Meeting.

#### **Planning Discussion:**

- What is Working
  - Jeff G.– We need safer board and cares – Human trafficking and violence – Covid etc. everyone needs to be safe from covid – testing vaccination etc.
  - Pamela B.– County is focused on access to services which is a positive step. Moving in right direction.
  - Angelo: Having a good model for telehealth is key and Covid has forced that forward.
  - Jeff G: Consortium is working and Mobile Crisis – Homeless issue has gotten better(?)
- What needs improvement?
  - Pamala W. – Concerned with Stigma regarding Mental Health Services in African American communities, Covid has cause an increased need for outreach to schools educating that seeking mental health services is ok.
  - Follow up with clients after 5150- collaboration with parents and schools
- Gertie K.–
  - Children and Family concerns After care and re-entry
- Patricia – Underserved and low-income community's

## VII. **NEW BUISNESS**

### *Nomination Committee Report* Douglas Vigil, Mary Avanti, and Dr. Vasudevan

- Mary A: - Nomination Committee Guided themselves by the bylaws.
- Three Members submitted Their name Nomination Committee for Chair and one Member for Vice Chair.
- One name had to be removed as the bylaws state that someone cannot serve as Chair for more than 3 consecutive terms.
- The two names remaining were Patricia Barrett and Pamela Keese Wyre
- Carolyn Cooper was the only name submitted for vice chair.

The Nomination Committee recommended Patricia Barrett for Chair and Carolyn Cooper for Vice Chair.

- Pamela Wyre Nominated Herself for Chair.
  - During debate about how a secret ballot should be cast Pamela withdrew her name from consideration.

### *Election of Chair and Vice Chair*

- The Board elected Patricia Barrett as the Chair and Carolyn Cooper as the Vice Chair

## VIII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### *Cara Dunn*, BHS Assistant Director

- BHS is has gone to the committee asking to increase wages for some positions which will help BHS recruit and retain staff.
- Covid Wave has hit BHS staff very hard.
  - 300 staff effected since start of Pandemic
  - 100 new cases since December.
  - Need the shortage of staff has caused the need of close collaboration between departments.
- Critical items moving forward.
  - Budget process for the year is underway.
  - Deputy finance director for BHS starting tomorrow, Deanna Herrera.
  - The Smith Waters group is going to be the new patient rights advocates

#### **Questions:**

Patricia B: The BHB would like to meet the New Child Psychiatrist Dr. Kumar.

Cary M: The BHB would like to know how many of the 100 new cases since December who caught covid were vaccinated.

- Cara D: HR will need to run the numbers, but there have been many breakthrough cases with the Omicron variant.

## IX. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Legislative Committee*

- CALIFORNIA SB 224 (Sen. Portantino) "PUPIL INSTRUCTION-MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION"  
Requires each School District, County Office of Education, State Special School and Charter School that offers one or more courses in health education to pupils in Middle School or High School to include mental health instruction courses that meet the requirements of SB 224.  
Among other things, SB 224 requires instructions and materials to be appropriate for use with pupils of all races, sexual orientations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, pupils with disabilities and English learners.  
SB 224 requires the State Department of Education to develop and expand mental health instructions in California Public Schools on or before January 1, 2024.

### *Quality and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Committee*

- Nothing outstanding that needs to be addressed, only one area of concern.
- Staffing of the warm line needs to have better training so they can be more aware and empathetic of those calling to seek help.

### *Homeless camps*

- Mary A: Looks as if Homeless encampment on turner road in Woodbridge has been cleaned up by the State, transportation is an issue for the homeless, Gathering Blankets  
Point in Time count coming up – if you haven't volunteered and you have free time please volunteered
- Jeff G: Asked if the bathroom situation have improved, the state put out bathrooms in some places but noticed they were gone recently.
  - Patricia B: Reported that those bathrooms were stolen.

## X. **REMINDERS**

- Next Behavioral Health Board meeting will be Hybrid Over Zoom / In Person February 16<sup>th</sup> for information, please contact *Luke Vlavianos* at 209-468-8750 or via e-mail at [lvlavianos@sjcbhs.org](mailto:lvlavianos@sjcbhs.org)

## XI. **ADJOURN TO February 16th, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M.**