



FRESNO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

Wednesday, July 17th, 2024 at 3:30pm

1925 E. Dakota Fresno, CA 93726

Minutes

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u>	<u>MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u>
Brooke Frost	Susan Holt, <i>Director</i>	Christian Cruz
MaryLou Brauti-Minkler	Ahmad Bahrami	Mary Perich
Debbie Xiong	Tina Young	David Tan
Elizabeth Kus	Jeannette Dominguez	Katee Wheaten
Carolyn Evans		Mickey
Manuel Piceno		Paulo
		Paul
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>		Josh Farris
David Thorne		Chuck Spina
Alan Faulks		Fidel Garibay
Angel Lopez		Adriana Zaragoza
		Antonio Guerrero
<u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u>		Felix Rodriguez
Sal Quintero, <i>Supervisor</i> – Absent		Pam Kroeker
		Chris Esqueda
		Jacqui Cavallaro
		Jazmine Rocha
		Christina Long
		Victor Flores
		Ana Monreal

I. Welcome

Behavioral Health Board (BHB) Chair, Brooke Frost called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

II. Approval of the May 15th Behavioral Health Board minutes

The draft of the May 15th meeting minutes was accepted as written.

III. Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Update; *Director, Susan Holt*

Director Susan Holt began the Department Update presentation with the Department mission, vision and goals and the land acknowledgement. She continued with the monthly acknowledgments for June and July. June included Pride month, Juneteenth, Father’s Day, Employee Wellness, Men’s Mental Health month and several others. She recognized the Departments Public Behavioral Health team for work on a recent campaign supporting men’s mental health and them creating a billboard that displayed an image of one of our very own BHB members and the words,

“Men Heal Mental Health”. A few more acknowledgments for the month of July were mentioned, such as Independence Day, Disability Pride month, National Minority Mental Health and National Selfcare Day.

A. General Updates: DBH Events, Board of Supervisors (BOS) items and legislation

Director, Susan Holt shared updates on some of the recent work completed by the Department that included the one-year anniversary of Payment Reform and the use of the new electronic health record (EHR) system. Credit was given for all the hard work completed by DBH Staff as well as by the network of contracted partner organizations within this process. This first year included many successes and lessons learned. The Department will continue to analyze fiscal performance to help with future fiscal strategies.

Board of Supervisors Items for June and July

- June 4th, The National Latino Behavioral Health Association agreement amendment to increase interpreter training courses to accommodate behavioral health bilingual certified workforce demands.
- June 18th, Agreement for Multi-Agency Access Program and Unite Us data platform
- June 18th, Amendment to the program agreements in the Evolutions Innovation Pilot Project and the agreement for the evaluation services for the California Reducing Disparities
- July 9th, Memorandum of Understanding with the providers on the coordination of specialty mental health services and substance use disorder services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
- July 9th, Agreement with Hinds Hospice for Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team

Legislative Updates – Item of interest

- Budget signed by Governor – much of the funding for the public behavioral health system was preserved.

The upcoming Legislative process timeline

- August 5th – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
- August 16th – Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.
- August 23rd – Last day to amend bills on the floor.
- August 31st – Last day for Legislature to pass bills.
- September 30 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills.

Program Update – Functional Family Therapy

Comprehensive Youth Services, the departments contracted provider of functional family therapy elected to execute the optional extension of the contract. The department anticipates launching a high fidelity (FFT) program again through either a County operated team or through the procurement process.

On the Horizon – BH-Connect

Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT), an initiative headed by the Department of Health Care Services from October 20, 2023, to demonstrate increased access and to improve behavioral health services for Medi-Cal members statewide. Recently an addendum was made to the BH-Connect adding numerous components and giving the Counties the option to opt-in and participate in the BH-CONNECT statewide incentive program or an evidence-based proactive incentive program. Fresno County will participate in the self-directed assessment and intends on opting in to BH-CONNECT

Suicide Data for Fresno County

As of June 4th, there was 11 deaths by suicide. This data was analyzed further due to the significant increase of 4 from the month of May.

Reorganization Update

The Departments reorganization of management has begun transforming to its new structure. Director Susan Holt committed to keeping the BHB up to date as this occurred. To help everyone understand how the work by the department is done an explanation on why the re-organization was needed and how this is an effort to establish management areas of responsibility with workloads that are reasonable and the goal to keep sustainable as California's Public Behavioral Health System continues to rapidly evolve as well as with the integration of substance use disorder services.

Team members are working cross-divisionally for as long as necessary to ensure functions that have transitioned are maintained without disruptions. Department phone numbers and email inboxes will be updated in accordance with new Division names, etc. Contracted partner organizations with inquiries or that have concerns can work directly with the Staff Analyst assigned to their contract who will help them through any processes. Non-contracted organizations may reach out to a Division Manager, Deputy Director, Director or other DBH designee depending on the topic or area of focus. While Behavioral Health Board member inquiries may be directed to the Director or a Deputy Director.

B. Overview and Outcomes for BlueSky Wellness Center

The BlueSky Wellness Center provides peer driven education, stigma reduction, social activities and opportunities, volunteer opportunities and support activities to address mental health illness or behavioral health challenges to achieve recovery and wellness.

The services that individuals can receive consist of the following:

- Volunteer Peer / Family Support
- Life Skills & Independent Living
- Educational Services
- Vocational Services Business Model
- Employment Services
- Family Support / Integration Plan
- Peer advisory Council

The program is funded as a Prevention and Intervention program through MHSA. For the reporting period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, 626 unique individuals were served with a total support and activity group check-ins of 15,637. 330 new members enrolled in this fiscal year and 100% of them were enrolled within one operating day. Through a consumer perception survey 80% of members agreed that BlueSky provided a positive influence in their life

C. Overview and Outcomes for Westcare Residential

WestCare Residential provides onsite services to women, men, individuals on parole, mothers, or fathers with children ages 0 -12 and individuals seeking withdrawal management for males. The services include:

- Individual, family, and group counseling based on Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Treatment for co-occurring disorders
- Employment assistance and vocational skills development
- Education in SUD, healthy relationships, grief and loss, relapse prevention and more
- Childcare for child of parent receiving services.

The facility has an average 67 staff members. The max occupancy is 223 with a treatment capacity of 198 (including children). The current census is 27 women with 9 children and the men's side has 105 with 3 children. While the withdrawal management area has 6 people. The program is funded by Drug Medi-Cal, Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, Recovery Services Block Grant, and Realignment

The Withdrawal Management section has 15 beds available for men only with 24/7 physician access. Typical length of stay is 3 to 14 days depending on symptoms and assessment. Individuals are transitioned to residential or outpatient services as appropriate.

IV. Public Comment

There were a few individuals who attended the meeting to provide comments about the BlueSky Wellness Center

- An individual that volunteers at the center commented that the amount of the vouchers received for volunteering need to be increased.
- BHB Chair inquired on if a survey has been given to members this year.
- Director Susan Holt mentioned that the BHB is more than welcomed request another outcomes report from the Department.
- Those individuals attending this BHB meeting were invited to stay after the meeting to discuss their concerns with the BHB Chair who believes better communication with the program is needed.

V. Old Business

• May Site Visit Report from BlueSky Wellness Center

BHB members attended a Site Visit at BlueSky on May 22nd and noted the following.

- Peer to peer support shows as a program strength.
- The BHB recommends some type of action plan training and a peer facilitator training to assist with escalated situations.

- **June Site Visit Report at Westcare Residential**

BHB members attended a site visit at the Westcare residential facility on June 10th. The following information was noted to report.

- Credit was given to Drug-Medical for making it possible that there is no waiting list for individuals to enter the program.
- Peers volunteer to lead support groups and lead any newcomers to the program.
- The program is working toward implementing 3.3 curriculum soon.
- Available housing beyond the completion of the residential program seems to be a limitation as it is needed for aftercare.
- Clothing donations in XL and books are welcomed.

VI. New Business

The BHB is interested in coordinating a site visit in August to the Fresno Center, Holistic Center and Living Well program.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

- Adult Services Committee –The Committee met in June and heard from the DBH HALO Team. For the August meeting they will hear information about Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
- Childrens Services Committee – The Committee heard from Prodigy at their June meeting and for the August 22nd meeting they will hear from Perinatal Wellness
- Forensics Services Committee – In June they heard from the Probation Dept and at the September 6th meeting they will hear from DBH about the upcoming changes with Cal-AIM for the justice involved.
- Substance Use Disorder Committee – Heard from DBH about the SUD system of care at the June meeting. On September 12th the Committee will hear about recent changes in federal regulations with medicated assisted treatment (MAT).

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

5:01 PM

This meeting is open to the public under the Ralph M. Brown Act.