



## Behavioral Health Commission

Unadopted Minutes

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Zoom Meeting

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Rasmussen, Frieda Edgette, Paul Nichols, Christina Falla, Jean Perry, Kristina Bell, Noelia Corzo, Yoko Ng, Hudson Fox, Michael Lim, Chelsea Bonini

**STAFF:** Chantae Rochester, Scott Gruendl, Doris Estremera, Ziomara Ochoa-Rodriguez, Sylvia Tang, OCFA, Maria Lorente-Foresti

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Excused:** Candice Hawley, Sheila Brar, Leticia Bido, Katelyn Chang

**Un-excused:**

**OTHERS PRESENT (signed in):** Ammi, Irene Pham, Jordan Anderson, Pat Willard, Susan Cortopassi, Sydney Hoff, Twila Dependahl, Victoria, Candice Cain

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Chris Rasmussen

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Commission members introduced themselves

**APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA**

Approval of the Agenda with the following changes:

▶ **M/S/C** Edgette/Nichols

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from the December 7, 2022, meeting.

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Lim

Approval of minutes from the December 14, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Lim

**Correspondence, Announcements, and Public Comment**

Jean Perry

The naming of the Cordilleras Campus

The campus itself will be called Cordilleras Health and Healing Campus

The center building (3 stories) will be called the Canyon Vista Center

The individual MHRC buildings will be called the Ponderosa House, Willow House, Acacia House, and Sage House

Chris Rasmussen

NAMI San Mateo is searching for an Executive Director. Anyone interested please visit their website at [www.namismc.org](http://www.namismc.org).

Pat Willard

I wanted to thank Randy Torrijos for his assistance in arranging meetings for myself and Supervisor Pine to discuss civilian independent mobile mental health. I appreciate Randy.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **A. Committee for Children & Youth**

**Reported by Frieda Edgette and Hudson Fox**

Next meeting will be held on February 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **B. Committee for Adults**

**Reported by Yoko Ng**

Next meeting will be held on February 15, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Via Teams

### **C. Committee for Older Adults**

**Reported by Jean Perry**

The next meeting will be held on February 1, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Via Teams

### **D. Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services**

**Reported by Paul Nichols**

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Via Teams

### **E. Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee**

**Reported by Leticia Bido and Jean Perry**

The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

## **Director's Report**

Reported by Scott Gruendl, Assistant Director

Welcome Supervisor Corzo and your staff, Christina. BHRS staff are very excited you were elected to the Board of Supervisors and chose to be on the commission.

### **Evacuations**

- We evacuated Canyon Oaks Youth Center (COYC) on New Year's Eve
  - We have one youth there right now
  - The other 6 were returned to their homes
- We came close to evacuating Cordilleras due to rising waters
  - We continue to be on high alert due to the next storm
  - The probability of evacuation of the facility is high

## COVID

- At the same time there's been a COVID outbreak at Cordilleras
- We have 26 positive cases right now
- 4 staff are covid positive as well

## Crisis Response Team

- We have a planning grant (it is part of the grant I will present on today)
- The state issued an information notice that requires counties to have a mobile crisis response team that is non-law enforcement
- They've created a funding stream
  - A way for us to bill for time for these teams
- This is the beginning of the State's infrastructure around supporting county based mobile crisis teams
- We are working on a board memo that gives as a follow up to the Commission's presentation
  - It talks about what we do
  - We have a mobile crisis, non-law enforcement format which is for youth
  - It highlights everything that's available in the entire spectrum now and we are looking to add

## Director Recruitment

A list of eligible candidates has been created and decision will be made soon.

January [Director's Update](#)

Past issues can be found [here](#).

## Public Comment

### Frieda Edgette

Big congratulations to Shirley and Amar for your leadership with moving this forward, specifically with the focus on young people. Would it possible for Chantae to send us a copy of the memo with our monthly packet?

### Jean Perry

I want to acknowledge our first Certified Peer Specialist, Laura, a Family Partner. She became a Health Ambassador through BHRS. Our system that can train community members to support peers. She has graduated from the Lived Experience Academy. There's been a lot of effort in supporting peers and family members to become peer specialist. This is such important work and I'm just so glad that it is us, it's people in our community that are becoming certified peer specialist.

Do we have a timeline for having our BHRS Medical Director position filled?

A: We are very close to making an announcement regarding the BHRS Medical Director position.

Jean Perry

Do we have an update in terms of Full-Service Partnership workgroup associated with the MHSA Steering Committee? They brought up a truckload of recommendations that were implemented in the new RFP's and I know that one for youth services has gone out. Do you have an update on whether a contractor was selected? Do you have an update for the Adult Full-Service Partnership?

A: Unfortunately, I can't give an update because I don't have the most current information and we don't have anyone on the call who can answer those questions. Doris can send an email to the Commission providing an update.

Frieda Edgette

For the survey, is there a deadline? If so, what is the deadline?

Michael Lim

- Cal Voices, an organization in Sacramento, is working with CCJBH (Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health) in conjunction with the Lived Experience Project to put out a survey for people who have justice involved experience
- The reason is that DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) and Cal Mesa has approved a specialization part of the peer support specialist certification for justice involved clients
- If you would like to get access to the survey, please email Chantae at [crochester@smcgov.org](mailto:crochester@smcgov.org).

It's good that we have non-crisis run for evacuating Cordilleras. When we do evacuate them, what is the plan? Where do they go? How is the place set up, where they go when they are evacuated? I'm especially focus on the lone youth that's being evacuated.

A: The Telecare staff that are supporting Cordilleras are very well prepared, and our teams have been in communication with Cordilleras to ensure that if this does happen everything runs smoothly. To circle back to Michael's question, we have an evacuation plan that's been reviewed and accepted by the state for Canyon Oaks Youth Center. When our youth are evacuated to the Legion site, our staff continues to stay with them so there is familiarity to minimize any disruption to the youth's routine.

Chris Rasmussen

May we get a copy of the memo that you're going to be sending to the BOS? I'm very happy to hear that we have some funding. Is that a new law or legislation that came out?

A: This is legislation that was passed in the last legislation session. It goes into effect Sunday. That doesn't mean that we have a crisis team as of Sunday, we to ramp that up but it created the vehicle for funding and for us to be able to bill like any other service we provide.

Ziomara Ochoa-Rodriguez

I want to acknowledge Frieda for her leadership with the Youth Committee. Thanks for really lifting the work for the Youth Action Board. It's been a long-term goal to get that going. Thank you, Frieda, and Michael for supporting that work.

Jean Perry

There are populations whose needs are not youth, and whose needs are not adult, but they other characteristics that we need to be able to adapt our crisis response. Individuals

with disabilities, whether it's physical or intellectual. There's a deficit there in terms of what is available to respond when they do have mental health emergencies and I hope that as we develop our whole system, I hope we can keep an eye on these other populations that remain underserved.

Pat Willard

I lead an organization called Peninsula Anti-Racism Coalition and Advocacy Group. Our project this year is to get the County BOS to fund and implement a civilian led mental health mobile crisis response program and teams.

- These teams consist of both certified mental health clinician and a peer certified peer specialist
- To provide response to mental health crisis when they call 911
  - You get three (fire, police, mental health) response
- I want to share with you some issues I've had in San Mateo County
  - We created these programs without public input
  - In contrast, Santa Clara talked with lots of civilian members
    - We need to do the same

If you can, prior to sending anything to the BOS, I'd like to meet with you to get more details.

A: The process we have right now is very broad and there's still plenty of opportunity to participate in our existing team. The youth side does consist of a licensed clinical professional partnered with a youth peer support worker as well as a family partner. I will have Chantae schedule a time for us to meet.

### **Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees**

#### **Suicide Prevention Committee**

**Reported by Yoko Ng**

We normally meet the first Tuesday of the month, for January we will meet on January 17, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will be voting for the roadmap goals and objectives to prioritize for 2023.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

- Hall of Fame Nominations are being accepted. The deadline to submit is Tuesday, January 17, 2023.
- January Executive Committee Meeting will meet Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. We will meet with the retreat facilitator

#### **Presentation**

Behavioral Health Infrastructure Funds  
Presented by Scott Gruendl, Assistant Director  
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Please see attached presentation.

Public Comment

Frieda Edgette

I want to highlight the bright spot around the partnership with the Veteran's Administration (VA).

- The VA is a good space to continue to deepen this relationship where possible
  - 40% of this isn't VA specific
  - 40% of the Federal governments leased buildings are up in 2026
- There's a broad conversation taking place where there's a like-minded similar mission
- This is an area of additional space that we might want to be focusing some potential partnerships for infrastructure

A: The timing is perfect:

- The VA in Menlo Park has had to submit a master plan on how they will use the existing property
  - It does include a methadone clinic for 50 VA's
  - The 50 VA's receive service through our existing services on the campus
  - They loaned this property over 20 years ago
- I'm hopeful that we in the middle of that process and we can be added to it

Pat Willard

I was wondering if these centers or building you are acquiring can serve as stabilization centers?

A: The Crisis Stabilization unit that we're contemplating applying is specific to youth:

- It is grant funded so it will have to be a licensed facility
  - It doesn't mean that there can't be a community component
- It would be a new operation
  - We want to go through a planning process that results in something cutting edge and a best practice

Urgent care can be a community-based response team that works with families in the home.

- We have FAST that works with families
  - It's operated by one of our contractors
  - They do in-home consultations with the family around concerns of potential of a family member having a crisis
- There's a lot of opportunity with both these facilities
  - We could begin to address the community-based response

Pat Willard

This should be a right now thing. People have their crisis at home, the services or stabilization centers should be in their neighborhood. Community means near my home.

Chris Rasmussen

That would be nice if we had them all over the place. We do operate like detox centers like First Chance and Palm Avenue, we have one or two of those in the county.

A: The opportunity of lived experience and peer involvement in our system:

- We have 57 individuals interested in becoming certified
- That begins their career ladder where they are paid
- They have opportunities for advancement in growth
  - We pay for their additional training and education
- We want to maintain that level of representation and expertise within our organization
  - As the world changes (funding, etc.) we would be remiss if we were not building a strong component of individuals with lived experience within our organization

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 5: p.02m. by Chris Rasmussen

**Next MHSARC Meeting:** February 1, 2023, from **3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
Virtual Meeting

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT CHANTAE ROCHESTER AT 650.573.2544 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER THE BHC OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three-day notice. Please call 650.573.2544.