



# Behavioral Health Commission

## Unapproved Minutes

### Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM



Hybrid Meeting – College of San Mateo, 1700 Hillsdale Blvd, Bldg 10, Room 468, San Mateo; Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave, Study Room B, Millbrae; 5GWM+CH, La Veleta, 77760 Tulum, Q.R., Mexico; and Online

<b>BHC Members:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Perry – Chair (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leticia Bido – Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yoko Ng – Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Bustos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Silverfarb – BOS Rep (online) <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Rasmussen <input type="checkbox"/> Colin Chu (YC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Keohane <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frieda Edgette <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kurczak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.D. Kristina Bell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Gomez (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Lim <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Nichols <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rubi Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Lopez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Palani <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sophia Escobar (YC) <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Yu
<b>SMC BHRS Staff:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jei Africa (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chantae Rochester (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristie Lui	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doris Estremera <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sofia Recalde (online)	
<b>Excused Absences</b>	Colin Chu, Victoria Yu		
<b>Others Present (in-person)</b>	Laura Palmer Lohan, Marcelle Jalate Valdez, JJ Nonu, Lueni Masina, Lexi Saelua, Ola Fakahua, Milika Afuhaamango, Joanna Padilla, John Butler		
<b>Others Present (online)</b>	Jana Spalding, John McMahon, Vickie Thompson, Voices of Recovery, William E, Daniella, Armando, Iliana, Waynette Brock, Sisilia Fifita, Armando, Gina Beltramo, Karen Chavez, Lala, Lee Harrison, Susan Cortopassi, Sydney Hoff, Ted, Pat Willard		

Meeting called to order at 3:35 by Chair Jean Perry.

ITEM	DISCUSSION/ACTION
<b>Roll Call/ Introductions</b>	Lavanya Poreddy stepping away from the commission. Roll call was completed.
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The meeting agenda was approved with the following changes: - Move George Culores Award to before the announcements. ► <b>M/S/C</b> Nichols/ Keohane
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The meeting minutes were unanimously approved. ► <b>M/S/C</b> Keohane/ Garcia
<b>George Culores Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony</b>	<p><b>George Culores Award Recipient:</b></p> <p><b>Joana Padilla</b></p> <p>Joana has displayed exemplary leadership by completing the Lived Experience Academy that she later helped co-facilitate as well as speaking at the Board of Supervisors and other San Mateo County Behavioral Health &amp; Recovery Services events, participating in Health Equity Initiatives, working towards her Medi-Cal peer support specialist certification, volunteering with behavioral health community organizations and being a role model for other Behavioral Health &amp; Recovery Services clients and family members.</p>
<b>Correspondence, Announcements &amp; Public Comment</b>	<p>John Butler – I'd like to thank the commission for acknowledging the importance of peers in San Mateo County. Jo Padilla is a great example of this and she is also an important part of NAMI San Mateo.</p> <p>Voices of Recovery - We here at Voices just wanted to say congratulations and give Joanna a round of applause. We are here to support you in any way that we can, and we appreciate your support that you give to our center.</p>

<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Memo from County Attorney's Office re: remote attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If a board member or commission member has a disability that requires accommodation for them to attend meeting, that accommodation should be made and you won't have to go through normal teleconferencing rules e.g. posting your address on agenda and posting agenda at the site. You won't need to go through AB2449 rule where you have to give a just case for why you are not there or an emergency circumstance.</li> <li>o You just need to have a disability that requires accommodation. This doesn't need to just be for teleconferencing. It can be for a listening device, etc.</li> <li>o One requirement is that you need to identify if anyone in the room is age 18+ and your relationship with that person.</li> <li>o Memo will be sent including form that can be sent to County's title II coordinator.</li> <li>o At no point do you need to disclose your disability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Vote to approve support implementation of 5270 in San Mateo County</i>  ▶ <b>M/S/C</b> Bido/ Keohane</li> <li>- <i>Vote to open a 30-day public comment period for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update, Fiscal Year 2025-26</i>  ▶ <b>M/S/C</b> Lim/ Keohane</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentation: MHSA Annual Update for Programs and Expenditures, FY 2025-26</b></p> <p><b>Presented by Doris Estremera</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are in the transition planning phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Three modules of policy planning are going to be published but not all final recommendations have been shared out.</li> <li>o The biggest shift is in prevention dollars. So, it is really important we partner with public health to ensure that all the work around mental health and substance use prevention, awareness, and education can continue.</li> <li>o Anyone can join upcoming taskforce. Taskforce will act as a broad advisory input role, but it is not the only place to have your voice heard. There will also be input sessions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSA Annual Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o We are still wrapping up MHSA (as it shifts to BHSA). I will give one more annual update next year as well.</li> <li>o We are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our 3-year plan, so I am here to give you updates.</li> <li>o I shared an executive summary but for the full report please visit <a href="http://SMCHealth.org/MHSA">SMCHealth.org/MHSA</a>, under "Announcements" tab.</li> <li>o To give a public comment, you can verbally comment at BHC meeting or fill out online form found at <a href="http://SMCHealth.org/MHSA">SMCHealth.org/MHSA</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSA Revenue &amp; Expenditures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Goal is to get ongoing expenditures to match revenue but it's hard when revenue is not consistent and has a few peaks and dips.</li> <li>o This was part of the narrative of what led to Prop 1.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 3 Year Plan Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o \$34.1M one-time spend plan through FY 2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supportive housing</li> <li>▪ Building infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Behavioral Health community infrastructure program grant match</li> <li>▪ System transformation</li> </ul> </li> <li>o On-going funding priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full-service partnerships</li> <li>▪ Workforce education and training</li> <li>▪ Prevention &amp; early intervention</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MHSA Program Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o There is a wide variety of programs and quantitative and qualitative data of clients services.</li> <li>o Post-Intervention Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homelessness – data shows homelessness has gone down for adults and older adults</li> <li>▪ Criminal Justice Involvement</li> <li>▪ Employment-Engagement</li> <li>▪ Education-School Suspensions</li> <li>▪ Substance Use</li> <li>▪ Emergency Service Utilization</li> <li>▪ Individual Goals Met</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Implementation highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Updated definitions</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Innovation projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Approval from board to launch four new innovation projects in March 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ allcove Half Moon Bay</li> <li>▪ Peer Support for Peer workers</li> <li>▪ Pet Fostering/ Care of Housing Stability</li> <li>▪ PIVOT – Medic-Cal eligibility infrastructure</li> </ul> </li> <li>o 6 Active INN Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kapwa Kultural Center &amp; Cafe</li> <li>▪ PIONEERS Program Recovery Connection</li> <li>▪ Music Therapy</li> <li>▪ Adult Residential In-home Support Element</li> <li>▪ Mobile Behavioral Health Services for Farmworkers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Something I'm considering for the transition to Prop 1 is to move from the MHSA Steering Committee to the Behavioral Health Commission since we are no longer informing one funding stream, but system transformation.</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation Public Comments, Questions &amp; Responses</b>	<p>Q: How do we interpret deficit?</p> <p>R: In the graph where the revenue was lower than anticipated expenditures that was intentional because every year there has been unspent dollars, so we are creating an over revenue budget to continue tapping into the unspent. For programs under MHSA that are longer going to be funded under prop 1, we are looking for alternative source of funding. Particularly a focus on realignment.</p> <p>C: I have attended a lot of events at the Kapwa Kultural Center and that center is so important to me, and I wanted to just acknowledge its great work and hope other programs can come out of the innovation projects.</p> <p>C: I'm a proud Samoan American and also work for a community-based organization. The reason why funded programs such as PIONEERS and Essence of Mana are needed is because they show the importance of mental health and mental wellness through people from my culture. It has made a tremendous impact in my life. Essence of Mana has helped me reconnect with my daughter and break generational trauma. Me and my family's lives are better because of these programs.</p> <p>C: I am a Tongan student here at CSM. I'm part of the program Asian American Recovery Services, and I believe MHSA should continue to fund programs like PIONEERS because the program has been supporting my mental health and social anxiety. They helped me take the first step in seeking help. I have made tremendous progress. PIONEERS gave me a sense of belonging and their encouragement and care have made all the impact on my journey.</p>

	<p>C: I am a case manager for PIONEERS. Our program serves youth and transitional aged youth. So, I'm here to state how imperative it is that this funding continues to go to programs like PIONEERS that truly serves populations that are historically severely underserved and underrepresented. In less than two years, PIONEERS has been able to serve around 80 Pacific Islander students and expose them to behavioral health services where otherwise they would not have been. We collected data that shows the mental health of our long-term students has improved significantly because of our culturally competent services, so it's obvious that we need to ensure that the funding to programs like ours continues.</p> <p>C: I am currently a student here at CSM. I am part of the PIONEERS program at AARS where they serve our Pacific Islander community in San Mateo County. I believe that MHSA should continue to serve programs like PIONEERS because without it a child like me couldn't feel seen. It wasn't until college that I could see people who look like me, have experiences like me telling me that it is possible to go beyond these childhood traumas. If it weren't for programs like PIONEERS, then a lot of brown kids like me would not have been seen. A program like PIONEERS is honestly home for me.</p> <p>C: I am the project coordinator of our PIONEERS program. PIONEERS stands for Pacific Islanders, Organizing, Nurturing, and Empowering Everyone to Rise and Serve. That is exactly what we do throughout San Mateo County with our youth and transitional age, youth, as you've heard many or not many, but a number of our students speak on. We serve our Pacific Islander community through our culturally centered mental health workshops, case management, community engagement and leadership trainings. We are now on our 6th cohort and have served about 80 Pacific Islander students who express the need for spaces like pioneers, where they feel comfortable, safe seen, and valued, where they recognize that their voices matter, and the way to nurturing relationships within their lives is prioritizing, nurturing their mental health. I believe MHSA should continue to fund programs such as pioneers so we can continue to provide support that greatly impacts the lives of our youth and allowing us to destigmatize mental health within the Pacific Island community a struggle that we've been having for many, many years, and this will help us to further connect students to mental health services, which is what we've been doing for about 2 years now.</p> <p>C: I believe MHSA should continue to fund programs like PIONEERS because if it wasn't for PIONEERS I would never have given mental health acknowledgement and would still be stuck in the toxic environment along with the mindset that I used to be in. PIONEERS has helped me in so many ways. If it wasn't for PIONEERS I would not be here.</p> <p>C: I'm speaking today because our families, our elders and our youth need to be heard as a Samoan woman who has witnessed mental health challenges in the community and in her own backyard. It is imperative that we continue to fight for innovative resources, that support and address behavioral health disparities among the unserved and underserved. We need to find and fund more prevention programs like PIONEERS and Essence of Mana. Their public comments are testimonies that our programs work and are needed now more than ever, especially in the light of the ongoing mental health crisis. There have been many barriers for accessing mental health services for far too long, and as service providers, it is our duty to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are protected. We need to do better because our communities deserve better. This is our time to take action, to demand change. As I echo all who have gone before me today we ask that you not just hear us, but stand with us to make sure to serve, defend, and uplift the people who need it most.</p>
<b>Standing Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Committee for Children &amp; Youth Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for Adult Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report given.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Committee for Older Adult Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul>
<b>Director's Report presented by Dr. Jei Africa</b>	<p>See attached slides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BHRS is part of Wave 2 of the EPIC (Integr8 Health) transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We haven't gotten an exact date for the transition yet.</li> <li>With EPIC there is an increase in level of care coordination with real time data and portability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Office of Improvement and Innovation will be developing a performance dashboard aligned with State and county requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OII is very focused on data integrity and alignment in metrics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Congress passed a \$4.5T budget that will affect us in the future including cuts in Medicaid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are paying close attention to possible local impacts.</li> <li>We are focusing on what we are already doing with no major expansions and focus on core mandates and services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comments on Director's Report</b>	<p>Q: For the EPIC transition, we learned from a graduate student about the value of Z-codes. How can we as a commission support the use of Z-codes?</p> <p>R: In EPIC Wave 1, staff are being asked to learn about the client's circumstances, factors and social determinants. We will need to do a deeper dive into what questions our clinicians are asking but we have to get EPIC in place first. We also are implementing many things right now.</p>
<b>Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees</b>	<p><b>Suicide Prevention Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Legislative Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Member Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>QIC Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Visits Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cal BHB/C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul>
<b>Old Business</b>	<p>Retreat report-out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved to April</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>This meeting was adjourned at 5:36PM by Chair Jean Perry.</p>

<b>Next BHC Meeting:</b>	<p>Wed, April 2, 2025, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.  College of San Mateo - College Center, Building 10, Room 468  Millbrae Library, and Online  Information will be posted on <a href="http://www.smchealth.org/BHC">www.smchealth.org/BHC</a>.</p>
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<b>Next Executive Committee Meeting:</b>	Wed, April 2, 2025, at 5:30p.m. College of San Mateo - College Center, Building 10, Room 468 Millbrae Library, and Online
<b>Note:</b>	PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT KRISTIE LUI AT <a href="mailto:KFLUI@SMCGOV.ORG">KFLUI@SMCGOV.ORG</a> . 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.