



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY COMMISSION

## Unadopted Minutes Wednesday, July 7, 2021 Zoom Meeting

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donald Mattei, Patricia Way, Sheila Brar, Jan Wongchuking, Cherry Leung, Chris Rasmussen, Jean Perry, Michael Lim, Randy Torrijos, Yoko Ng, Leticia Bido

**STAFF:** Scott Gilman, Chantae Rochester, Ally Hoppis, Doris Estremera, Sylvia Tang, Claudia Saggese, Jennifer Basler, Maria Lorente-Foresti

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Excused:**

**Un-excused:**

**OTHERS PRESENT (signed in):** Armaan Arora, Clara Jaeckel, Chris, Martin Fox, Pat Willard, Sal Arora, Sydney Hoff, Tom Barrett, John Butler, Judy Davila, Erica Horn, Carolyn Shepherd, Robert Cartagena, Juliana Fuerbringer, Adriana Furuzawa, Bruce Adams

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Sheila Brar

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioners introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA**

Approval of the Agenda

► **M/S/C** Way/Torrijos

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from the June 2, 2021 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission Meeting

► **M/S/C** Rasmussen/Mattei

Approval of minutes from the June 16, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

**Correspondence, Announcements, and Public Comment**

Jean Perry – The Pride New Progress Flag was lifted over Millbrae and Burlingame and many other locations in our County.

Cherry Leung – CALMB/C met on June 25, 2021

There were several presentations and updates:

- Behavioral Health County Council
  - Providing input for workforce development plan
    - 5 year plan
  - They utilize the data notebook for performance outcomes and data
- MSHA Oversight Commission
  - Multi County FSP Innovation Project
    - Comparing what works and what doesn't from various FSP's
- California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
  - Intersectionality
    - Addressed the need for individuals to be addressed as a whole
    - Programs often silo specific populations
- NAMI
  - Peer certification – details on their website [www.calbc.org](http://www.calbc.org)

Randy Torrijos – The Progress Flag was raised at County Center by Supervisor Groom and Supervisor Pine.

Jean Perry – The presentation at the CALMB/C that is most relevant to the work we are doing around housing was the presentation on the FSP's. San Mateo County is one of five counties participating in the project.

- Develop guidelines and areas of collecting data
- Launched 10/2020
- Recorded meetings of this collaboration are available on their website

John Butler – September is Suicide Prevention Month

- The committee is working to develop events
- We would appreciate support from the commission to promote events

Randy Torrijos – The BOS will issue a proclamation for suicide prevention month on 9/14.

Chris Rasmussen – I am participating on the Suicide Prevention Committee

Erica Horn, Executive Director, Clubhouse

- We are still looking for a new home, for now we have extended our lease
  - It has been difficult with zoning for our type of service (good area for advocacy)
- We are open 5 days a week with limited hours
  - We have a capacity limit to the number of clients who can sign up each day
  - We are hoping to open full days by the end of July, early August
  - We are starting orientation for new members this week

- Think of us if you know people looking for a productive way to spend their day or are looking for work

Martin Fox – I was contacted by the Clinical Research Outreach and Education Coordinator for Palo Alto Veterans Institute for Research in association with Stanford Alzheimer/Dementia Research and Education Group. They are looking for veterans of all eras to be on an advisory counsel to educate the public on dementia and conduct research. I will put the contact information for the coordinator in the chat (see attached).

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

#### **No report given**

Next meeting will be held on August 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Via Teams

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

#### **Reported by Yoko Ng**

Next meeting will be held on August 18, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Via Teams

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

#### **Reported by Patricia Way**

The next meeting will be held on September 1, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

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

#### **Reported by Jean Perry**

The next meeting will be held on August 5, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Via Teams

## **Director's Report**

Please see the [latest issue](#) of the *Director's Update*.

Dr. De la Cruz, our Medical Director, who has been with us for just over a year is leaving. She is leaving California. We are recruiting for a new Medical Director and we've asked Pat Way to be part of the interview panel.

### Tele-Health

- Restrictions were relaxed
- Some restrictions are being put back in place
- Most of the flexibilities that we have will remain in place (video/Facetime)
- We will be more restrictive with our staff
  - We want to be on the ground doing face to face work

### Legislative Issues

We are dealing with a situation involving state hospitals and our clients who are deemed incompetent to stand trial in our in-state hospitals. The is in hot water because of people languishing in state hospitals that shouldn't be and a waiting list for people who have been deemed incompetent to stand trial locally waiting to go to a state hospital rehabilitation. Two categories of incompetent to stand trial:

1. Felony incompetent to stand trial
  - a. State's responsibility
    - i. For treatment
    - ii. For payment
    - iii. Making sure they receive rehabilitation so they can stand trial
2. LPS Conservators (incompetent to stand trial did not commit a felony)
  - a. They are our responsibility
    - i. Treatment
    - ii. Payment

Both groups of people go to the state hospital. Because of the law suit the May revised budget there was language that would send all LPS Conservators home (back to BHRS) in a short amount of time. The reason for sending them to the state hospital is because we have exhausted all options to keep them from going to the state hospital. There is noting that we have locally that can begin to manage the need. We can do the work, but it is going to take us a couple of years to be able to handle the load.

#### Commission Retreat

- We have begun working on some of the action items from the retreat
  - Chantae is working to get the language for public comments
- I want to apologize for the technical problems for the second day of the retreat

Jean Perry – In your Director's Report it shows statistics for the Access Call Center, it shows the calls have doubled compared to pre-pandemic. I know people weren't sitting on their hands before the numbers doubled, how are the calls being handled? Do we have the resources to meet the needs of twice as many calls?

A: About three weeks ago we had to ship staff from other areas over to help with the Call Center volume. The Call Center also had staff vacancies that we had to fill. Part of that was related to people being confused with the mild to moderate benefit that we sent back to Health Plan of San Mateo.

Jean Perry – The box under the Call Center box showed that we've dropped 500 clients. Any idea what has happened to those 500 clients?

A: There's a continuous flow of people in and out of the system. We saw a slow down in the number of people who are being admitted. We continue to have normal rate of discharge, but our new consumers didn't change.

Martin Fox – Please consider going to County Counsel and have them look at the 1991 Realignment Legislation, which I understood as being a transfer of funding to deliver mental health treatment services locally. Incompetency to stand trial therapy consist of teaching people to answer the right questions to get out of the hospital to get on with their case has no therapeutic value, it's purely legalism. If that is what the state is trying to transfer, the consequences of that's effectively closing the state hospital and they need to

come up with a lot more money than the 1991 Realignment legislation, much less anything else. I'd appreciate it if you would talk to County Counsel about the budget situation.

### **Old Business**

**Action Item:** *Vote to close 30-day Public Comment Period for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Fiscal Year 2021-22*

► **M/S/C** Torrijos/Bido, passed unanimously

**Action Item:** *Vote to submit the Mental Health Services Act Annual Update Fiscal Year 2021-22 to the Board of Supervisors including amended comments*

► **M/S/C** Torrijos/Way, passed unanimously

### Public Comment

To view public comment submitted for the MSHA Annual Update, visit the website at [www.smchealth.org/mhsa](http://www.smchealth.org/mhsa).

Jean Perry – My community is considering an ordinance that will provide a financial incentive for builders to have affordable or very affordable housing. It will reduce their contributions to infrastructure cost. I asked the Department of Housing if our MHSA units could be scattered among a number of different for-profit developments. I was told our MHSA units must be in a development where all the units are considered affordable, which is different than being very affordable. We need to have these units connected to services; the comment submitted is unfounded.

Jean Perry – Who is making the interpretation that these children of elderly parents are not eligible? Are they basing this on whether the parents have a terminal diagnosis? Or the ethnicity of the family? Who is watching over the decision making? Who has the power to make a policy in our county that at risk and homelessness involves these individuals? Where can we take action? How can we move the voice of the stakeholders to that decision making body?

A: That would be a good topic for us to bring someone from Housing in to speak. Some of it is federal law and some is state law. The tools they use to access it come from the state. Unfortunately, very little of that is up to us to decide but I think this is an elected official.

Pat Way – I'd like to make a recommendation that this commission keep a close eye on this "at risk of homelessness" phrase because it's been out there for a long time and I think it is inhumane to wait for people to become homeless, especially if you know they are at risk, that means they are seriously mentally ill. We need to keep an eye on this for the constituents in our mental health community. At risk is defined differently by county, state, and federal and it all has to do with the streams of funding.

Martin Fox – The BOS appointed a Chief Equity Officer who might be the person who could answer the questions to the extent that they affect county decision making. The concern is that we know we won't have people with addresses. That's the issue that's been raised during the vaccination process. We need to look at the zip codes and determine which parts of our community it would most adversely affect.

Doris Estremera – We will amend one of the descriptions of one of the items in the Annual Update. We discussed partnering with Aging and Adult Services to support older adult identified covid related needs. We are going to be adding language so that it isn't just older adults but also other providers that work with older adults and removing the wording around Great Plates since that project is completed.

### **New Business**

MHSARC Retreat Day 2 – Friday, August 20, 8:30-11:00

Need 3 volunteers for new members interviews – email Chantae if you're interested/available to be on the panel.

Leticia Bido – we had youth seats available, are we not ready to interview for those?

A: We met with the Youth Commission because that is where we get our youth commissioners, per our bylaws. The Youth commission only appoints once a year. We were encouraged to have the youth participate and join the youth commission. The Youth Commission offers support and training to the youth on being part of a board and/or commission.

Chris Rasmussen – We may bring them on the Children & Youth Committee so they can participate, and they won't need to be appointment to contribute.

Renaming the commission

Proposed to change the name to Behavioral Health Commission

Scott Gilman – We should consult Gina Beltramo.

Randy Torrijos – We would need to put it on a future agenda, if we decide to move forward with the name change.

Chris Rasmussen – We aren't set on that name. I would like to put it out to the community for input.

Jean Perry – there is a lot of energy around changing our name. I would like to add recovery to the name: Behavioral Health Recovery Commission.

Leticia Bido – I would add recovery as well and would like to have public input.

Chris Rasmussen – There were other options:

- Mental Health Substance Misuse Recovery Commission
- Mental Health Substance Use Commission

The main agenda is to get rid of the word abuse. We thought it is clean, concise and inclusive being Behavioral Health Commission.

Pat Willard – I'm in favor of the name change. I'd like it to actually be called the Mental Health Recovery Commission.

John Butler – Behavioral Health Commission is inclusive and good, but the word recovery should be included. Behavioral Health Recovery Commission might be more appropriate.

Michael Lim – I like the adding of the word recovery in the name, however, I would like to add another option. The word wellness, Behavioral Health Wellness Commission.

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

Suicide Prevention Committee

Reported by Yoko Ng

The Suicide Communication Workgroup met to continue planning for September Suicide Prevention Month.

- National Suicide Prevention Week is 9/5-11
- World Suicide Prevention Day is 9/10
- The statewide and countywide theme is “Supportive Transition, Reconnect, Re-enter and Rebuild”
- The committee advised on advocacy days, mini grants and social media engagement
- The next two meetings to continue planning are July 20 and August 3.

Community Wellness and Crisis Response Committee

Reported by Chris Rasmussen

- The committee did not meet due to technical difficulties
- Our next meeting is July 20, at noon
- We are looking broader as far as the police and mental health partnership, not just focusing on the four cities that are doing the pilot, we are looking more countywide

**Presentation**

MHSARC Retreat Report Out

Presented by the MSHARC members

Due to time, this item will be presented at the September meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. by Sheila Brar

**Next MHSARC Meeting:**

September 1, 2021 from **3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
Virtual Meeting

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 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 MHSARC 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.