



Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission

Unadopted Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Zoom Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Perry, Candice Hawley, Chelsea Bonini, Cherry Leung, Chris Rasmussen, Frieda Edgette, Hudson Fox, Michael Lim, Paul Nichols, Randy Torrijos, Sheila Brar, Yoko Ng

STAFF: Scott Gilman, Chantae Rochester, Sylvia Tang, Clara Boyden, Diane Tom, Doris Estremera, Maria Lorente-Foresti, OCFA, Roxanne Dean, Charo Martinez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused: Katheryn Chang

Un-excused:

OTHERS PRESENT (signed in): Aurora Pena, Bridget Mannix, Clara Jackel, Dr. Connie Wong, Eloy Aleman, Erica Horn, Ian Adamson, Iliana Solis, Jesus Bonilla, LanaJean Vecchione, Marshall G, Martin Fox, Mary Rimando, Noemi Ojeda, Seton Medical Center, Valerie Bor, Ziomara Rodriguez, Zoe Taylor-Ploug

CALL TO ORDER

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

INTRODUCTIONS

Commission members introduced themselves

APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda

▶ **M/S/C** Rasmussen/Perry

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from the April 6, 2022, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission Meeting

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Edgette

Approval of minutes from the April 20, 2022, Special Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission Meeting

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Edgette

Approval of minutes from the April 20, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Lim

Correspondence, Announcements, and Public Comment

Randy Torrijos

The Board of Supervisors meetings are now hybrid. Yesterday they met with three board members in person. It is still considered a virtual meeting. The virtual location was the chambers which allowed the other two members to call in and the chambers were open for the public to attend.

Bonnie McNamara

I work for Mateo Lodge and we're here today to discuss Wally's Place. Mateo Lodge helped me years ago with my own family member and now I work for Mateo Lodge because I believe in them and I'm sure those who know Ian Adamson believe in them as well. Wally's Place is one of the places that Mateo Lodge runs so my job is to help families who are in crisis over having a mentally ill loved one. What I love about my job is that I'm able to bring them and help them get into places to further their recovery. With Wally's Place closed, it's such an important part of our community, right now we're turning away people who need to be there. If it was our child needing service, I know they're grown adult, but it was our loved one needing help and Wally's Place is closed because of a glitch, I would feel horrible. I know you guys want what's best for the community and Wally's Place offers so much hope for families and clients. Ian Adamson is my real-life hero and I believe in Mateo Lodge; I just pray to God that this is handled in a timely fashion because we've done everything asked of us and I feel it's time to just move forward.

Martin Fox

Please adopt a resolution recommending the Board of Supervisors (BOS) make the county safer and healthier for persons living with serious mental illness and their families by supporting the Governor's Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment Court proposal, known as Care Court, and the reintroduction and passage of the repeal of the Lanternman-Petris-Short-Act (LPSA) as a top county state legislative priority. Support the defunding of the lawyers who oppose the LPSA repeal a top county federal legislative priority, including Disability Rights California and the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. The Governor's Care Court proposal acknowledges that the LPSA as one of the 10 worst involuntary health treatment laws in the 50 states. Parents of adult children living with serious mental illness, who are treatment resistant and live in Hillsboro or Atherton can do what parents who have adult children living with serious mental illness or treatment resistant and live elsewhere, like me, cannot to. Take their mentally ill loved ones to another state like Utah to get them the effective mental health treatment they need and escape what California has laid for them. LPSA criminalizes persons living with serious mental illness if it doesn't seriously injure or kill them first. Persons living with serious mental illness don't have to accept an offer of ineffective mental health treatment before they become gravely disabled or violently dangerous. San Mateo County's Housing First Policy won't make a difference. The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley and Disability Rights California need to be defunded and the LPSA need to be repealed. Please adopt a resolution recommending the Board of Supervisors make defunding the foundation of Silicon Valley and Disability Rights California a top county federal legislative priority and the repeal of LPSA and the Care Court Proposal top county state legislative priorities.

Erica Horn, California Clubhouse

Happy Mental Health Awareness Month. First, I want to thank BHRS for the opportunity for community-based organizations to apply for one-time funding, I think it is going to be a blessing for many. I wanted to share two things with the community.

1. We are currently hiring for a Social Practitioner
 - a. We are not receiving as many responses as we had hoped
 - b. Please spread the word
2. We just passed our 7-year anniversary, so we are having a party
 - a. At Central Park on Wednesday, May 25, from 12-4
 - b. It is open the mental health community
 - i. We will be doing contact tracing and asking everyone to wear masks
 - c. Lunch will be served from 12-1
 - d. At 1:00 p.m. we will kick off a short program

Ian Adamson, Mateo Lodge

I've been in this county for 44 years, serving the mental health community, this is the first time in 20 years I've been back here, too busy taking care of everybody in the community. I have an issue which is major, Wally's Place is a program which have been around for 29 years (successfully and wonderfully) and has been put on hold by county mental health representatives asking us not to take clients until the resolution is achieved between us and the state. We have done everything the State has asked, we finalized that in February. We have had no response from the State, and we have not been able to take clients since September 2021. That has left us in a position where we are bankrupting that program, a program that stands ready to serve the underserved, some the most difficult folks in the county and we want some resolution. For 29 years we have had an exemplary record with licensing and just this last go round with the State has been a problem. We feel we've corrected the problem and have gone the extra mile and the state has not responded. We are coming to you to see if we can work out the fact that we should be open, we still have a license in good standing, there's nothing stopping us from taking clients other than the recommendations from mental health administration. This to me is sad and we need to change it so we can serve the people in the county.

Candice Hawley,

Please explain why Wally's Place is closed in the first place.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committee for Children & Youth

Reported by Hudson Fox

Next meeting will be held on May 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Via Teams

B. Committee for Adults

Reported by Yoko Ng

Next meeting will be held on May 18, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

Via Teams

C. Committee for Older Adults

Reported by Jean Perry

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

Via Teams

D. Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services

Reported by Paul Nichols

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2022, 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 May 3, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Public Comment

Pat Willard

I'd like to express my appreciation for Yoko Ng's comments with respect to hiring black mental health clinicians. There's an article from Science Daily Magazine in 2016 "Therapists More Likely to Call Back Allison than Lakeisha". If you leave a message for a therapist, you have a better chance of getting a call back if you have a white sounding name, rather than a black sounding name. There's another article done by the California Racial Disparities Project, they found that black people do not receive the amount of mental health care they deserve, did not get referrals from clinics or hospital mental health referrals to clinicians who are able to help them. Suffice to say that racism is as much a part of the mental health care service as the rest of the country.

Martin Fox

I think we need to adopt another resolution recommending San Mateo County start providing pre-hospital emergency behavioral services that are comparable to the pre-hospital emergency medical services that American Medical ambulance currently provides to the county through the pre-hospital emergency medical services group joint powers authority under our contract the Board of Supervisors approved unanimously on May 14, 2019. The pre-hospital emergency behavioral health services currently provided by American Medical Response Smart Car under a contract with the county that was negotiated without any opportunity for public comment. The BOS approved unanimously on September 24, 2019, without any opportunity for public comment should truly have been hidden because the measure K oversight committee reported that the American Medical Response Smart Car failed to meet its performance measurement targets for the third consecutive year. The BOS, on March 8, for the annual celebration of mental health month should do more than pass a proclamation. Actions do speak louder than words, San Mateo County's American Medical Response Smart Car contract expires on June 30 of this year. Please ask the BOS to have someone start providing pre-hospital emergency behavioral health services that are comparable to the pre-hospital emergency medical services American Medical Response Ambulance currently provides before their contract ends on June 30, 2022.

Erica Horn, California Clubhouse

Regarding the MHSA Innovations Grants, will there be a revisiting of previous topics or ideas that came from the public and will there be enough adequate staffing at the county to ensure that as things are approved under those funds that they can roll out and be carried out in the community?

Candice Hawley

The lack of African American clinicians and psychiatrists in San Mateo County, I know this is an old issue, what I don't understand is what has ever been done about it? Who is the person responsible for the hiring and retention of African American clinicians? How does that person go about doing their job? Who do they report to? What are the expectations for their job? This whole thing is a mystery to me, as important of an issue as it is, it seems no one knows anything about it, or no one is willing to speak the truth that they do know.

Director's Report

Reported by Scott Gilman, Director

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

Topics include:

- County and Cities Promote Mental Health Month
- "Wellness for All" – Free Access to Wellness App
- Tony Hoffman Award
- Contractors' Association Spotlight - California Clubhouse
- Welcome - Kim Lorica
- New MHSA Innovation Cycle
- Preparing for the New Peer Support Specialist Roles
- First Cal AIM Change Broadens Eligibility and Eases Access Criteria

Find past issues [here](#).

Racial Equity

In reference to Candice's question regarding hiring and retaining African American clinicians

- I can do a presentation for the commission on all our racial equity work
- We have strong advocacy from our staff for the hiring of more African Americans

One-Time Funding

In reference to Erica Horn's question regarding oversight and our capacity to handle the process.

- There isn't going to be a ton of oversight
- It isn't going to start a new program, it's for expenses
- All our contract agencies will get a 3% cola, retro going back to the beginning of 2020
- The contracts team is working to figure out a streamlined way to that out as soon as possible

Staffing

We are suffering from symptoms of the great resignation.

- Our staffing numbers continue to go down
- We have approached crisis level with psychiatry
 - We are down 6.5 full time employees (doctors)
 - Including Medical Director and Deputy Medical Director
- We've authorized additional funding for staff to attend recruitment fairs

- We're working with HR on advertising all over the County of San Mateo
- The County reached an agreement with the Nurses Union
 - To have \$10,000 signing bonus
 - If they stay a year, they will receive another \$10,000
 - If they stay 5 years, they will receive another \$10,000

Jean Perry

As the process proceeds with Cal Aim, we need to have our substance use disorders (SUD) providers licensed for their professional level. I hope the county and contract providers look at providing scholarships and provide support for current experienced professionals that are doing the work now so they can achieve that level to be able to bill.

A: That's a good point. People who have been doing the substance use work for years and are very talented, you don't want to put them out of work. Slowly ensuring that the funding is there and moving the bar to get full integration, it takes a while to get there.

Randy Torrijos

I wanted to add some context to what Scott mentioned about staffing shortages. It isn't unique to BHRS, the county is experiencing it through all departments and as Scott mentions, the great resignation is a national phenomenon. According to HR it is worse in the Bay Area because of the price of housing.

Jean Perry

I am fully on board with the county contracting with organizations to provide services to clients. My concern is that there's seems to be no accountability with these other organizations as there is with the grievance process with BHRS. When families call the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs because there's an issue with a contracting organization, they kind of do a fist pump and say nothing because it isn't BHRS. I'm wondering if we can fix this because it doesn't seem like we are truly being accountable for the service that we contract to provide if we aren't willing to back up the family members and clients that have legitimate issues that can not be resolved directly with the contractor organization.

A: The grievance process is across the system, if you have family members telling you different then we need to address the problem. The right to file a grievance for medical services is system wide. I always ask for specific examples because sometimes it's hard to pin down where was the staff misinformed or where did the system go wrong. They absolutely should be supported.

Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees

Suicide Prevention Committee Reported by Yoko Ng

Presentation: School Suicide Update
Presented by: Molly Henricks, MFT,
Coordinator School Safety and Risk Prevention
San Mateo County Office of Education

She updates us on how students and school staff are doing after two years of the pandemic and plans for the future.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Topics:

- How community partners can introduce new suicide attempt survivor group to our County
- Resource dissemination work group will focus on 988 communication education

Public Comment

Pat Willard

On the topic of 988, my concern is that it will not be known to the public. I'm hoping that a marketing campaign will be launched, this is particularly important when supporting mental health crisis in the streets or in people's homes by mobile mental health crisis response teams. One more item, the One Day Cares Program in Half Moon Bay which is essentially a carbon copy of the Cahoots Program that is famous nationwide for its response to mental health, issues wellness checks and interactions with the homeless and without law enforcement. I must say that any mental health mobile crisis that leads with law enforcement as opposed to having law enforcement wait until the conditions need law enforcement to back us up is what people want and demand. Please support this throughout the county.

Martin Fox

I'd like to follow up with what Pat said. There's several pieces of legislation pending on the 988 number that is going to require some kind of integration between the two pilot projects that are going on in the city of Half Moon Bay, the Cares of Response Team is the unarmed response team and the armed response team is the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Pilot project and with all of the Care Court legislation pending in the state legislature, there is going to be some significant systematic impacts and I would think that 's the perfect subject for somebody to get ahold of because we have four major cities with the armed response, and we in Half Moon Bay (not a major city) but what they've proven is that you deal with calls at the emergency dispatch level. You can change the dispatcher script and that would have made the difference in the Yanira Serrano shooting in Half Moon Bay. I believe that's the only responsible way to put this whole controversy over which works best to rest.

Ian Adamson

I want to express our agency's appreciation for 44 years of county support. It's not all bad it's just one glitch, we never had anything like this before. I'm determined to overcome it. My good friend Tony Hoffman was involved in starting and crafting our programs and we were the first recipient of the Tony Hoffman Community Service Award so I'm very glad to see that on the agenda, that tradition continuing.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

No New Business to report.

Presentation

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

Presented by Sylvia Tang, Community Health Planner
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, Office of Diversity and Equity

Presentation attached.

Public Comment

Martin Fox

Thank you, Sylvia, you kept me going until the Veterans Administration (VA) rolled out their new Suicide Prevention Program out of the Palo Alto division. They have a new coordinator and they have had low turnout, initially, but this is particularly important for the older adult communities. Just within the last 30 days I encountered a spouse of a Vietnam veteran who was extremely depressed. The pandemic has really gotten to the older veteran community, and I want you to know that you kept me going.

Catalina Maya Martinez

I try my best to support my community. I am a single mom and I try my best every day. My kids learn how to do their best and to support each other. Thank you, I enjoy my community.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. by
Sheila Brar

Tony Hoffman Community Service Awards 2022 Honorees

Karen Chavez
Valerie Bor

Seton Medical Center, Geriatric Behavioral Health
Health Ambassador Program

Congratulations!!

Next MHSARC Meeting: June 1, 2022, from **3:30-5:00 p.m.**
Virtual Meeting

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 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.