

CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes
March 18, 2022, 11:30 am
Zoom Teleconference

Governing Board Attendance: President Benny Benavidez (Imperial), VP Bill Stewart (San Diego), Secty/Treas. Kristine Haataja (Napa), Shera Banbury (Nevada), Stacy Dalglish (Los Angeles), Patrick Ogawa (Los Angeles), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco), Michael Rodriguez (Ventura)

Staff: Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 11:31 a.m. by President Benny Benavidez.

1. Open Comment:

Bill commented that some stakeholders are concerned about Medicare RX. Theresa said she would provide additional information about Medicare RX at the next GB meeting.

Benny spoke to the number of deaths of mental health consumers in the San Diego County jail. Bill mentioned concerns about staffing levels for escorts of jailed mental health consumers to medical meetings.

Kristine mentioned concerns about Care Court and CAMHPRO.

2. Minutes from February:

Motion: Bill made a motion to approve the February 12 Governing Board Minutes; Harriette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Reports:

- a. Financial Position: Total assets are \$165,000.72
- b. Budget vs Actuals: Expenses continue to be below budget due to reduced travel during the pandemic.
- c. Accounts Receivable: Total Accounts Receivable as of 3/12/2022 equals \$10,900. Dues payments are still coming in (9 are still outstanding for a total of \$10,900 outstanding).

Motion: Harriette made a motion to accept the financials as presented, and Michael seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee recommends another year with current officers. (Election of officers is scheduled for the June meeting.)

5. Legislation:

SB-1019 Medi-Cal managed care plans: mental health benefits

CA Pan Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) has asked us to consider support for SB-1019.

Theresa summarized the key components of awareness, education, and access for mild to moderate consumers in the Medi-Cal system. There are still significant racial disparities present in the actual utilization of Managed Care Plan mental health services. This bill requires culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and education to underserved communities. Measures of accountability are included in the bill. She noted that the intent of the bill is completely in alignment with the CALBHBC goals.

Shera stated that the bill should include transportation to facilitate the access, since that is often a barrier to treatment. Patrick believes the currently stated bill expresses the intent and that there will be more steps to the implementation and how the funds will be

distributed. Shera and Harriette believe that the implementation plan should be included in the bill.

Benny said that unless the efforts of this bill are implemented (i.e., increasing awareness and use by underserved populations), it won't matter whether there is transportation or not.

Theresa suggested that she can ask a representative to speak with us at our quarterly meeting. Members agreed to that approach.

6. Executive Director's Report

- a. Regional Elections: The following members' terms end in 2022: Harriette, Stacy, Patrick, Bill, Michael, and Shera. These members have all agreed to run for Governing Board for another term. Other individuals who are approved by the officers will be placed on the regional electronic ballots; this includes Manuel Medina who was approved at the last meeting. New members will begin attending meetings immediately after the election.
- b. March Newsletter was sent out.
- c. Theresa spoke with the MHSA Partners Forum MHSA Community Program Planning. She is scheduled to present information regarding local mental/behavioral health boards/commissions (advocacy and membership) at the NAMI CA statewide leadership conference on 3/25.
- d. Interns: Theresa had 2 interns for the past 10 weeks, and they have completed their work. There are 2 new interns from UC Berkeley who will be starting soon. There has been increasing interest in internships with CALBHBC, so Theresa may be able to identify summer interns from current applicants.
- e. Theresa met with the coordinator for the Sacramento Youth MHB, the first youth MH Board in the state. The group has a non-profit that helps facilitate the YMHB. Theresa is looking at what type of training and resources CALBHBC could provide.
- f. There is an opening in the State Rehabilitation Council. Theresa has been active in the past 6 years, because she was concerned about lack of evidence-based vocational programs for individuals with mental illness. Theresa is terming off the Council and would like to have an individual with lived experience of mental illness (and leadership experience) apply for this Governor-appointed position. Bill will speak with Theresa regarding this opportunity.
- g. CARE Court Initiative: Theresa had conversations with CA HHS Deputy Secretary Stephanie Welch regarding the initiative. The intent of the initiative fits with the goals of CALBHB/C as stated below:

CALBHB/C Priorities (2022 Annual Goals, Item C) related to the Governor's *proposed* CARE Court Initiative:

- Increasing access for individuals who are unserved, underserved and/or justice-involved
- Reducing 5150's
- Increasing peer providers within the behavioral health workforce
- Addressing housing/homelessness issues.
- Psychiatric Advance Directives - CALBHB/C's Crisis Care Continuum issue brief includes "Psychiatric Advance Directives" as a "Foundational Element" within the Behavioral Health Care Continuum.

Theresa and Bill participated in a stakeholder conversation with HHS Secretary Ghaly and Deputy Secretary Welch regarding the initiative, and they are familiar with the concerns of various groups.

7. Meeting/ Training Schedule

Governing Board Meeting: April 15, 11:30 AM

Trainings/Quarterly Meeting: [Please Register!](#)

- Unconscious Bias Training, 4/8, 11am - 12:30pm
- Community Engagement, 4/8, 1 pm- 2 pm
- MH/BH Board/Commission Training., 5/13, 11 am -12:30pm
- Chair Training, 5/13, 1 pm - 2pm

[Quarterly Meeting \(In-Person in Milpitas or Zoom\):](#) 4/19, 9am - 12pm

The CA Behavioral Health Planning Council meets at the same location in Milpitas from 4/19 - 4/22)

8. [CARE Court](#) Discussion CA HHS Deputy Secretary Stephanie Welch

The initiative's goal is aimed at increasing resources, with a goal of providing better outcomes for individuals with psychosis and SUD who have been revolving through the jails/hospitals and lack the capacity to make informed decisions about their medical treatment. The target is very narrow affecting those who have the most severe impairment, i.e., those experiencing psychosis and homelessness. This is a Court ordered plan that doesn't affect or replace LPS or Laura's Law. Funding is included to create housing.

Governing Board members had the opportunity to address their concerns about the initiative, including workforce and housing availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm.