

**CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C)  
Governing Board Meeting (Zoom Conference Call)  
August 28, 2020 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by President Harriette Stevens, Ed.D.

**Attendance:**

Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (President & SF)	Jerry Harris (Ventura)
Benny Benavidez (VP & Imperial)	Lynda Kaufmann (Santa Cruz)
Mae Sherman (Secty/Treasurer & Lassen)	Patrick Ogawa (L.A.)
Jessica Bennett (Alpine)	Bill Stewart (San Diego)
Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono)	Shera Banbury (Nevada)
Stacy Dagleish (L.A.)	Theresa Comstock (Executive Director)

**Open Comment:**

Jerry Harris mentioned that Ventura County adopted CALBHB/C's "[Conduct](#)" document, and is also formalizing a mentorship program among its BHAB members, so that new members can be assigned to older members who can address questions regarding the board and its functioning.

Lynda Kaufmann mentioned that Santa Cruz is updating their bylaws with requirements of board members to include: annual attendance at trainings, serving on at least one committee, dedication to board work (10 hours/month), and new members to meet with the chair. Santa Cruz is in the process of merging the Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Boards.

Governing Board members requested that CALBHB/C provide information regarding the conservatorship issue (reference: LPS Audit: [www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2019-119/summary](http://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2019-119/summary) ). Stacy Dagleish mentioned that NAMI Urban Los Angeles is providing a teleconference regarding conservatorships.

There is a bill moving through the legislature that would institute Laura's Law in all counties, including the provision of Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Counties would have the option to opt-out. (Current law allows counties to opt-in.) Shera Banbury mentioned that Amanda Wilcox, who was instrumental in creating "Laura's Law" is currently the chair of the Nevada County Mental Health Board.

**Minutes:** Corrections to the July 31 Minutes were discussed (including adding Mae Sherman to attendance and showing only Mae Sherman abstaining from vote regarding the June Minutes.) Stacy Dagleish made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2020 meeting, to include the corrections above. Jerry Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Finances:** Comstock presented the "Statement of Financial Position" and "Statement of Activity,". Revenue received included \$4,637 from the MHSOAC. Total Assets as of August 25, 2020 were \$130,285.39. A motion to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Stacy Dagleish with a second by Bill Stewart. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes and financials were emailed to Governing Board members prior to the meeting.

**COVID-19, Racial Injustice, Fires/Heat - Governing Board Discussion:** Governing Board members discussed:

- I. **Racial Injustice** - In San Francisco, under the leadership of Mayor London Breed, there is a new initiative focused on mental health for African American communities. (3% of SF population are African American, and 37% of the homeless population in SF are African American) In San Diego County, plans are being implemented to improve relations/increase cultural diversity.
- II. **Disasters (COVID, Fires, Heat, Economic) and Racial Injustice** have impacted:

**Housing:**

- 1) **Homes lost and evictions** - for staff, contractors and clients.
- 2) **Adult Residential Facility** closures result in:
  - a) Increased Homelessness
  - b) Increased Emergency Room use
  - c) Increased Crisis Management

**Stress & Active Symptoms of Mental Illness and Addiction**

1. **Working Parents** are experiencing increased stress. Home-schooling impacts their employment/income.
2. **Active Symptoms** are increasing for individuals with schizophrenia, including increased paranoia and depression.
3. **Respite Center** - Clients asking for repeated stays (coming back over and over).
4. **PRN Medications:** Increased use of "as needed" medications to manage agitation and psychotic behavior.
5. **Overdoses and Drug Cases** are increasing in San Diego County

**County Staff & Contractors**

1. **Increased anxiety**
2. **Shifting of staff** from county to county due to disasters
3. **Decreased staff** resources/staff burn-out

**Financial Stress** increased to programs and facilities, including adult residential facilities due to:

1. **Increased supplies** (such as masks/gowns)
2. **Increased compliance** requirements (such as increased monitoring of clients to ensure they are safe from COVID-19.)
3. **Small non-profits are struggling** to maintain day to day
4. **Donor Burn-Out** - Decreased willingness of donors to help with additional costs due to a variety of disasters.

**Additional items mentioned:**

1. **Pet Displacement**
2. **Epidemiologist** hired in L.A. County to help protect staff.
3. **Change of leadership:** L.A. County's CEO is retiring
4. **Educators:** Need to increase mental health first aid and focus on supporting mental health needs of teachers.

**Executive Director's Update** included:

## 1. Advocacy Update:

SB 803 (Peer Providers), SB 855 (Access/Parity), AB 2377 (ARF Closures) and AB-1766 (ARF Data) are moving forward. SB 1259 (ARF) stalled in committee.

Comstock has reached out to specific individuals throughout the state with "Calls for Action" in support of SB 855.

Comstock and President Stevens resubmit letters of support as legislation is amended, provided the intent of the bills remains intact. Social media postings are also used in support of legislation.

2. Communications: The [August E-Update](#) was emailed statewide.

## 3. Statewide Collaboration Update - Comstock reported on:

- a. NAMI CA - CALBHB/C Town Hall is scheduled for 10/29 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. This is being organized by NAMI CA.
- b. CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)
  - i. CALBHB/C assisted with encouraging local boards/commissions to complete the CBHPC's Patients Rights Advocacy in Jails survey.
  - ii. The 2020 Data Notebook topic will center on Telehealth during the Public Health Emergency.
- c. MHSOAC Contract: Comstock has been communicating with MHSOAC contract administrators, suggesting updates to the next annual contract. In an effort to justify an increase in funding for the upcoming year, Comstock has provided reports on expenditures related to the contract deliverables.

**Meeting Schedule**

**San Francisco MHC Training, September 2**

**Governing Board Teleconferences (Zoom) 11:30am: 9/25**

**Regional/Statewide Meetings & Trainings (All by Teleconference):**

October 1 (Tentative) - Central Region Meeting (Open Statewide)

October 2, 12:30 - 3:30 pm - Central Region Training (Open Statewide)

**NAMI CA - CALBHB/C Town Hall: 10/29, 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.