

**CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes**  
**November 19, 2021, 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)

**Absent:** Michael Rodriguez (Ventura), Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono), Kylene Hashimoto (Fresno),

**Staff:** Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. by President Benny Benavidez.

**1. Open Comment:**

a. **COVID Booster Shots** - Theresa recommended that everyone get COVID Booster shots.

b. **Performance Outcomes:**

i. Data Notebook: Benny initiated a discussion regarding the Data Notebook, both the extent of questioning and the unreasonable time expectations of the CBHPC (The Council). The Council takes a lot of time developing the topic and expects quick turn-around of the counties which is unrealistic. Bill recommended that we speak with the Council about this, since it has been the pattern for several years. GB members discussed a number of concerns about how the surveys have been created and are compiled. Benny suggested having a meeting with the Council where counties could understand council objectives and provide input into the reporting. Theresa suggested that we could create a letter of recommendation followed by attendance at one of the Council's Performance Outcomes Committee meetings. Benny suggested waiting until their January meeting.

ii. Performance Outcome Data:

1. SB 465 was passed and will require reporting by the MHSOAC of specific of performance outcome data.
2. Shera mentioned concerns about obtaining comparable data, because Counties use different software and lack of consistency. Benny said 20 counties have collaborated to hire a consultant to review and make recommendations regarding a potentially consistent software system.

c. **Workforce**: The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health has a workgroup regarding workforce. They are researching issues related to behavioral health staff, including topics such as pay, communication, career path and other issues that impact workforce development.

2. **Minutes from October**: Patrick made a motion to approve the October 15 Governing Board Minutes; Harriette seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

**3. Financial Reports:**

a. Financial Position: Current assets are over \$137,000

b. Budget vs actuals: We started receiving dues income from the counties and have an outstanding invoice to MHSOAC.

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

Over the past few years, we have asked for an increase in revenue from the MHSOAC. Although MHSOAC has expanded our responsibilities, they haven't increased our compensation. Theresa spoke to CSAC to strategize how to approach this funding issue. She asked Toby Ewing for an increase and copied other HHS executives, requesting a formal response by December 6. If no positive response from MHSOAC, the next step may be to approach DHCS. Previously DHCS paid for training, but that contract was eliminated a couple of years ago.

#### **4. Issue Briefs:**

- a. Crisis Care Continuum: Benny found this brief very comprehensive. Theresa spoke to a number of people in nonprofits and government agencies to inform this brief. Sustainable funding was discussed - hopefully, it will be easier for Full Service Partnerships to bill MediCal for services as CalAIM becomes implemented. We recognize that the implementation challenge is greater for small counties and will observe how they are influenced by CalAIM.
- b. LPS Act Update: The updated issue brief increases the focus on requisite resources that are key to reducing serial 5150s and the cycle between homelessness, hospitalization and the criminal justice system. We need to consistently apply the LPS Act, and it isn't being consistently applied. Increased training could be helpful so that people would better understand the Act. This is very controversial legislation, and many are concerned about removal of individual rights. Peer support is an important factor in generating engagement and trust.
- c. Adult Residential Facilities Update: The document was updated because of new funding available, so 2<sup>nd</sup> page reflected Community Care Expansion program (this requires a match by counties.) Project Home Key provided additional funding. A key issue is still compensation for Board & Care which is insufficient to effectively run ARFs and is the cause for so many of them closing.

#### **5. Recent Meetings**

November 5 Crisis Care Continuum Teleconference: Benny was very impressed with the Steinberg Institute. He was interested to hear about new grant opportunities for counties. As counties implement some of the new programs, such as mobile crisis, it's important that counties get this information out to the community

#### **6. Executive Director's Report**

- a. State-wide Collaborations:
  - o Theresa presented and participated in a panelist Discussion w/County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) re: Community Engagement
  - o Theresa presented and led a discussion with the CA Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA) regarding employment. She presented the information on CALBHB/C's [Employment web page](#), and encouraged discussion regarding successes and challenges for integrating vocational and behavioral health services. Placement and Support (IPS) was viewed as a successful model, although there are funding and administrative hurdles to overcome for community based organizations. Theresa followed up with CA's Department of Rehabilitation, communicating the items discussed and encouraging increased focus to address the challenges and increase more effective services.

- Communication w/CalVoices re: SB 803 implementation. CalVoices approached Theresa and copied her on communications regarding concerns about implementation of SB803. She hasn't heard similar concerns from other peer organizations.
- b. Special Meetings:
  - Reporter with Communications Daily, a trade journal in D.C. covering the Federal Communications Commission contacted Theresa to discuss implementing 988 in CA. They included some quotes from Theresa in an article.
  - Legislative Aide with CA Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's Office reached out to Theresa regarding CALBHC/C's [LPS Act Issue Brief](#). Theresa reviewed the updated issue brief, emphasizing the need to focus on requisite resources that are key to reducing serial 5150s and the cycle between homelessness, hospitalization and the criminal justice system. Theresa encouraged communication and input from statewide advocates as any changes are considered.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Training Schedule**

#### **CALBHC**

- a. **Governing Board:** December 17, 11:30 am (Zoom)  
**Regional & Governing Board** – There was discussion about holding the meeting on Tuesday, January 18. Locations: San Diego Holiday Inn Bayside & Zoom (Hybrid)
- b. **Governing Board:** February 18, 11:30 am (Zoom)

#### **CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)**

January Meetings are at San Diego Holiday Inn Bayside & Virtual)

[Performance Outcomes:](#) January 18, 2 - 5 pm

[Executive:](#) Jan. 19, 8:30 am to 10:15 am

[Patients' Rights Committee:](#) Jan. 19, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

[Reducing Disparities:](#) January 19, 10:30 am to 12 pm

[Children & Youth,](#) January 19, 10:30 am to 12

[Workforce and Education:](#) January 19, 1:30 to 5:00 pm

[Legislation:](#) January 19, 1:30 pm to 5 pm

[Housing and Homelessness:](#) January 20, 8:30 to 12:00 pm

[Systems and Medicaid:](#) January 20, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

[General Session,](#) January 20, 21

Meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm.