

**CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes**  
**September 10 , 2021, 11:30 am**  
**Zoom Teleconference**

**Governing Board Attendance:** President Benny Benavidez (Imperial), Secty/Treas. Kristine Haataja (Napa), Stacy Dagleish (Los Angeles), Patrick Ogawa (Los Angeles), Michael Rodriguez (Ventura), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco)

**Absent:** VP Bill Stewart (San Diego), Shera Banbury (Nevada), Kylene Hashimoto (Fresno), Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono)

**Staff:** Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

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

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** Governing Board members introduced themselves to newly appointed GB member Michael Rodriguez (Ventura). Following that, Michael introduced himself and his involvement with mental health.
2. **Minutes from August 20:** Harriette requested an amendment: removing the “in person meeting” description from the meeting schedule section of the minutes. Stacy made a motion to approve the August 20 Governing Board Minutes with the correction; Harriette seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention (Michael).

**3. Financial Reports:**

- Financial Position: Current assets are \$133,810.
- Budget vs actuals: There was no revenue for this period. Current assets will sustain the organization until revenue begins to come in. Dues invoices will be sent out to County Boards/Commissions soon. Expenditures are primarily rent and payroll expenses.
- Accounts Receivable: One invoice due from MHSAOC in 2 weeks.

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

4. **Internal Audit Comments:** Kristine Haataja and Patrick Ogawa shared their comments regarding the CALBHBC Internal Audit. Both reviewed all of the financial documents and found the filings and documents to meet financial standards.

Theresa noted that this year’s federal filing was more difficult for officer signature because of an online filing requirement. She thanked President Benavidez for his time and efforts to confirm and sign the on-line filing.

**5. Brown Act Meeting Requirements:**

The Executive Order to allow solely virtual meetings expires on September 30. Today is the last day of the legislative session, and [AB361](#) may still be passed to provide leniency regarding meeting in person. Theresa is still following legislative activity; if AB361 passes, the Governor must sign the bill to make it effective. The ACLU has opposed this bill, likely because they want to ensure transparency. The ACLU supported [AB339](#) which has also moved through the legislature, and is awaiting potential Governor’s signature.

## 6. **LBGTQ+ Issue Brief (Revised):**

Theresa reviewed the brief with Poshi Walker with #Out4MentalHealth. Based on the discussion, she changed the rainbow flag to include brown and black and updated some of the wording. She revised the introduction to speak more clearly about the trauma issues impacting many individuals who identify as LBGTQ+. She also added additional program information.

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

- a) [Afghan Arrivals: California Counties Prepare to Serve](#), CSAC article was shared with the mental/behavioral health board/commission leadership in 7 counties. Theresa prompted the boards/commissions to ask local staff regarding plans for outreach, engagement and services to individuals in process of resettling from Afghanistan in the 7 counties mentioned in the article.
- b) [Crisis Care Continuum Issue Brief DRAFT](#): Theresa reviewed the brief's findings and recommendations for crisis services and support.
  - o Although AB988 didn't pass, \$20 million dollars have been allocated to facilitate "988" through existing suicide crisis lines, addressing workforce investments, training and capacity expansion. [CSAC Article](#)
  - o Individuals in crisis, their families and supports have a difficult time navigating the system. Having a Crisis Intervention Team or coordinator can aid in providing continuity of care through a crisis episode, and facilitate a smooth transition through different levels of service.
  - o Peer Respite, Mobile Crisis teams, Crisis Stabilization Services and Crisis Residential Treatment Programs are important services within the crisis care continuum.
  - o The brief also describes foundational elements for averting crisis (key components within a behavioral health continuum of care), along with a listing of CALBHB/C issue briefs addressing specific issues and populations.
  - o Theresa will contact experts for feedback and make revisions to the brief.
- c) [Communications](#): Discussed increasing awareness of GB advocacy through social media.
  - o [www.facebook.com/calbhbc](http://www.facebook.com/calbhbc)
  - o [www.twitter.com/calbhbc](http://www.twitter.com/calbhbc)
- d) [Legislative Update](#)
  - o AB988 – AB 988 did not go through during this legislative session. The legislature is likely to draft a new bill to address the establishment of a crisis line.
  - o AB552 – Integrated School-Based BH Partnership is now a 2-year bill. There has been a lot of money allocated for these activities.
  - o SB224 – Pupil Instruction/MH Education is now on the Governor's desk. This bill will require each public middle and high school that offers one or more courses in health education to include mental health instruction.
- e) [Statewide Collaboration](#):
  - o [CA Behavioral Health Planning Council](#) – The Council has asked Theresa for contact information for each county. They plan to get the Data Notebook out soon.
  - o [Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission](#) – After the Executive Committee met with Executive Director Toby Ewing last Spring, Theresa sent a letter regarding CALBHB/C's services and the cost of those services. CALBHB/C has not yet received a formal response. Recently, the commission has been reviewing next year's

fiscal budget. During those meetings, Theresa made public comment regarding CALBHBC’s budget and how MHSOAC funding does not adequately cover services provided.

- County Behavioral Health Director's Association & Kaiser Permanente – Theresa is participating with a work group regarding behavioral health workforce, training and education.
- Department of Rehabilitation – The July CALBHB/C teleconference addressed vocational training and employment as evidence-based practices for those with mental health conditions: [www.calbhbc.org/vr](http://www.calbhbc.org/vr)

As chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, Theresa is in conversation with DOR leadership, and is working to increase DOR’s provision of evidence-based behavioral health / vocational services, including the matching of MHSA funding with Vocational Rehabilitation dollars.

- f) Individual Board/Commission Trainings: Several counties have requested training for their Commissions/Boards.
  - Tuolumne County (Theresa) 9/1
  - L.A. County - Community Program Planning (Dr. McKindley Alvarez) - 9/17
  - Napa County (Theresa) 10/11

**Upcoming Meetings & Training Schedule**

- 1. **Governing Board Meetings** (Meetings last 1 hour to 1.5 hours)
  - a. October 15, 11:30 am
  - b. November 19, 11:30 am
  - c. December 17, 11:30 am

**2. Regional & Statewide CALBHB/C Meetings & Trainings**

October, 2021	Regional CALBHB/C Training	Teleconference
October, 2021	Regional CALBHB/C Meeting	Teleconference
November 5, 2021	Topic TBA	Teleconference
January, 2022	Regional CALBHB/C Meeting	Format?
January, 2022	Regional CALBHB/C Training	Format?

Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.