

CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes
June 16, 2023, 12:30 am
Hybrid: Santa Ana & Zoom Teleconference

Governing Board Attendance: President Benny Benavidez (Imperial), VP Bill Stewart (San Diego), Secty/Treas. Kristine Haataja (Napa), Manuel Fletes Medina (Glenn County), Michael Molina (Los Angeles), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco), Annie Thu Henrich (Stanislaus County), Michael Rodriguez (Ventura), Jonathan Raven (Yolo)

Absent: Stacy Dagleish (Los Angeles), Shera Banbury (Nevada)

Staff: Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 12:30 a.m. by President Benny Benavidez.

1. Open Comment:

Since new Governing Board members were attending, Benny asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes from May 12, 2023:

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

3. Financial Reports:

- a. Financial Position: Total assets as of May 5, 2023: \$132,163.71.
- b. Budget vs Actuals: The budget appears in line with expectations.
- c. Accounts Receivable: For the first time, every county has paid their CALBHB/C dues!
- d. Other comments: Waiting for our contract from MHSOAC which is late. They have had a lot of staff turnover which makes all contracts delayed.

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

4. Federal Parity Legislation - Consideration of support for:

[S. 923](#) (Bennet) [Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act](#)

This bill will expand access to mental health and substance use care by extending parity to those with Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid. This includes: improving the accuracy of provider directories for Medicare Advantage plans; increasing reimbursement for integrated behavioral health services and addressing cost-sharing barriers that prevent the scaling of integrated care; establishing Medicaid demonstration projects to increase access to integrated mental health care for children in settings like schools, pediatric primary care practices, and community organizations; requiring CMS to align payments, measure access and quality, improve prevention services for mental health care, and bring together payers to transform behavioral health within primary care.

Discussion: This bill is consistent with other bills that we have supported in the past. Michael asked if there has been opposition to the bill, or not. Theresa will look for information regarding this.

Motion: Kristine made a motion to support the bill, and Michael R. seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Election of FY 2023-2024 CALBHB/C Officers

Harriette spoke for the Nomination Committee and recommended the following slate of nominees for the term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Michael R. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **President:** Bill Stewart (Southern Region/San Diego County)
- **Vice President:** Manuel Fletes Medina (Superior Region/Glenn County)
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Kristine Haataja (Bay Area Region/Napa County)

6. Recognition of Outgoing Officers

- President Benny Benavidez
- Past President Harriette S. Stevens, Ed.D.

Theresa recognized Benny and Harriette for their exemplary service to the Governing Board. In recognition of their service, Theresa presented a CALBHB/C pen to Benny and Harriette.

7. Executive Director's Report

Theresa commented that SB551 (Portantino) had been revised but not in the way that the Governing Board had recommended. She stated that the newly revised bill appeared worse than the original because it expanded to include all counties, regardless of population. The newly revised bill requires the following:

- MH Boards with 5-9 members: must have 1 member age 25 or under and 1 member employed by a school agency
- MH Boards with 10-15 members: must have 2 members age 25 or under and 2 members employed by a school agency
- MH Boards with 16 or more members: must have 2 members age 25 or under and 2 members employed by a school agency
- The bill would require counties to give a strong preference to appointing members of the board who have experience providing mental health services to students.

Theresa will continue to advocate for the changes that the Governing Board supported: To require all counties with populations over 500,000 to include 1 member age 25 or under and 1 member employed by a school agency

Benny asked Theresa about her efforts to increase the funding for the Board. He recognizes that it is an education process to inform the legislature about the role that CALBHB/C plays in the state and the importance of the Governing Board in representing the needs of local communities. Theresa said that Toby Ewing has encouraged CALBHB/C to advocate to the

legislature for funding, and although he is willing to provide assistance, he encouraged the building of direct relationships with legislators in order to increase CALBHB/C's capacity and voice.

Theresa participated on a panel regarding the Behavioral Health Modernization at the CA Association of Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) LEAD conference, and was honored to receive an invitation to the upcoming CA Pan Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) conference.

She also mentioned scheduling individual trainings and/or presentations in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Shasta, Solano, and Santa Clara Counties.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Trainings:

July 14 (Friday)

11:30 am **Governing Board** Meeting (Zoom Teleconference)

August 25 (Friday)

11:30 am **Governing Board** Meeting (Zoom Teleconference)

September 16 (Saturday) (*Tentative*) Superior Region Meeting/Training in Chico & by Zoom

October 20 (Friday)*

1 pm** - 4 pm CALBHB/C Quarterly Meeting (Bay Area Region) Meeting

* Lunch available at 12 pm to in-person attendees.

** CALBHB/C will also pay lodging and travel expenses for Governing Board members for meetings (CA Behavioral Health Planning Council meetings) that occur October 17 - 20th in the same location.

October 21 (Saturday)

9 am - 12 pm CALBHB/C Training (San Francisco & by Zoom)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 pm.