

**CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes**  
**September 23, 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), Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono), Stacy Dagleish (Los Angeles), Manuel Fletes Medina (Glenn County), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco); Michael Rodriguez (Ventura)

**Absent:** Martel Okonji (Los Angeles)

**Staff:** Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by President Benny Benavidez.

**1. Introductions:** New member Martel Okonji (Los Angeles) was unable to join the meeting due to a schedule conflict.

**2. Open Comment:**

Kristine announced that she was elected to the Board of This Is My Brave, Inc.

Harriette thanked Theresa for attending a meeting of the San Francisco Behavioral Health Commission.

**3. Minutes:**

Motion: Bill made a motion to approve the July 29 Governing Board Minutes; Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention from Kristine who did not attend that meeting.

**4. Financial Reports:**

Financial Reports: Total current assets as of September 16, 2022 was \$136,575.52. Benny asked about the liabilities line and Theresa said that it indicated scheduled payroll tax expenditures.

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

Internal Audit Comments: Kristine said that she reviewed all items in the internal audit, including all links. Bill indicated that he also reviewed all documents. Both indicated that they found all financial reports in good order.

**5. Review of August 20th Quarterly Meeting (Virtual & In-Person Chico)**

- Benny said that the meeting was refreshing, and that going to an area that we haven't visited before was insightful. He was pleased with the turnout from the area, including a Behavioral Health Director. Everyone was engaged in the meetings and was active in training. Overall, he thought the meeting went well.

- Kristine mentioned that local boards are interested in training on how to recruit new members who meet the needed demographics and mental health status. This may be challenging since county policies vary in how members are appointed.
  - Shera suggested that we create a flyer/video about the role of the BH Boards so that interested people could read about the role and what is required for membership.
  - Supervisor Corless said that it's hard to get people to serve on boards. She also suggested a video that explains what it means to be on a board and how the Boards are making a difference in counties.
  - Harriette indicated that although SF is a large county, they still have issues recruiting. She thinks the video training sessions are good for Board member training.
  - Manuel noted the more we get message out about the Boards, the more people will understand what we do. Benny noted that each board has funds for community outreach. Shera noted that very few people are interested in going on County sites and the idea of using social media may conflict with the Brown Act. Theresa said the Board should not have its own social media presence because it may conflict with the Brown Act, but announcements could be made on the County's social media.
- There was discussion about the need to increase the amount of time for local members to discuss local challenges and successes during the Quarterly Meetings.

## 6. Executive Director's Report

### A. Legislation

#### 1. Supported or Opposed by CALBHB/C

- Medication Access Trailer Bill - **Not included in Budget**
- AB 738: Veterans Required on Mental Health Boards - **Passed** (CALBHB/C Letter of Opposition) Theresa will be sending out information about that bill.
- AB 552 Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership - **Vetoed**  
The governor said the we currently have a children and youth initiative and this may overlap with program already being rolled out.

#### 2. Other Legislation Signed Into Law (so far)

- AB 988 - 988 Crisis Line
- SB 1338 - CARE Court
  - There are some Counties that were ready to implement Care Court, and they are the Counties that will lead that initiative. There was a lot of work regarding this because initially there was no funding. Counties worked very hard to encourage the initial rollout rather than full rollout to all counties.
  - Benny said that the stipend for participating in the rollout was overly generous and wondered whether other counties would receive similar consideration once all are required to participate.

- Bill mentioned that San Diego is one of the pilot counties and he'll be monitoring and reporting how that is working.

- [AB 2449](#) - Open Meetings: teleconferences

Includes allowances for members to attend remotely without posting their physical location due to "emergency circumstances" or "just cause".

## B. Statewide Collaboration

1. Theresa has been reappointed to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC advises CA's Department of Rehabilitation regarding employment services for individuals with disabilities (such as blindness, deafness, and mental illness). The SRC has made recommendations to increase integration between behavioral health and vocational services. The DOR is now focused on behavioral health as a priority area.
2. Theresa was elected President of the CA Coalition for Behavioral Health. This is comprised of associations, councils and advocacy organizations. They meet 4 times a year and do advocacy for behavioral health.
3. CA Behavioral Health Planning Council – Council is in between Executive Directors. Interim director Jenny Bayardo said that their officers requested a meeting with Theresa to learn more about CALBHB/C. The Planning Council paid for our conference room for the Sacramento meeting.
4. MHSOAC & DHCS: Theresa will be meeting with leadership from MHSOAC & DHCS regarding funding to support the work of CA's 59 local mental health boards/commissions. She is revisiting discussions due to DHCS staff changes.
5. CA Commission on Aging: Theresa met with Director on state commission. They want to do more to support behavioral health and asked Theresa to attend their meeting. Theresa hopes they will work with us on advocacy for older adults, including Board & Cares.

## C. Interns - Hired two new interns: Abigail Caine & Myra Tahir

Theresa has attended some local meetings with Myra. The interns will attend County Board meetings representing CALBHB/C. Term of hire is often short, a semester/quarter. During the legislative session, Theresa may ask them extend their internship.

## 7. Meetings & Trainings

### A. Governing Board Meetings:

November 18, 11:30 am

December 9, 11:30 am

### B. Hybrid Meetings - CALBHB/C Quarterly Meetings\*

October 21 - Hybrid: Zoom & Courtyard Sacramento Midtown - [Please Register](#)

January - Hybrid: San Diego & Zoom (Date TBD)

April - Hybrid: Bay Area & Zoom (Date TBD)

- \* CALBHB/C Quarterly Meetings usually coincide with CA Behavioral Health Planning Council Meetings - GB Members are encouraged to attend the CA BH Planning Council Meetings:  
CA BH Planning Council Meetings and General Sessions:

October 18 - 21. Courtyard Sacramento Midtown

January 17 - 20, San Diego

April 18 - 21, Bay Area

**Discussion regarding Meeting Times:** Benny said that he would like to maintain our connection to the Planning Council by meeting when they meet. Bill also indicated a desire to stick with the schedule of the Planning Council.

There was some discussion regarding timing of training sessions and whether they should occur during quarterly meetings or the Saturday following the quarterly meeting.

### C. Virtual Statewide Meetings

11/4/22	11 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Board &amp; Cares</b> (aka Adult Residential Facilities (ARF), Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)): Addressing local and statewide challenges to meet the need for unserved and underserved individuals with SMI or co-occurring SMI/SUD.
12/2/22	11 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Behavioral Health Workforce:</b> Advising to meet local workforce, education, and training needs Speakers: <i>CBHDA (need to know speaker)</i>

### D. Virtual Statewide Trainings

1/6/2023	12 pm - 2:30 pm	Unconscious Bias Training Community Engagement Training
1/13/2023	11 am - 2 pm	MH/BH Health Board/Commission Training Chair Training

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.