

CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes
October 15 , 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), Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono), Stacy Dalgleish (Los Angeles), Kylene Hashimoto (Fresno), Patrick Ogawa (Los Angeles), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco)

Absent: Michael Rodriguez (Ventura)

Staff: Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

Meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m. by President Benny Benavidez.

1. **Open Comment:** Benny attended last week's training and was surprised by the number of participants and their interaction. He liked the speaker and believed that we are doing a good job. Shera was disappointed in seeing only one person from her board. Everyone who attended considered the training a success. Stacy wondered if MHB Training is mandatory. Shera thought more board/commission members would attend if the training was mandatory. Bill is still recovering from his accident.
2. **Minutes from September 10:** Harriette made a motion to approve the September 10 Governing Board Minutes; Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention (Supervisor Corless).
3. **Financial Reports:**
 - a. Financial Position: Current assets are \$132,937.34.
 - b. Budget vs actuals: Revenue for this period was a payment from the MHSOAC. Dues invoices will be sent out to County Boards/Commissions next week.

Motion: Stacy D. made a motion to accept the financials as presented, and Patrick seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Resources:**
 - a. Best Practices Update: Theresa updated the Best Practices Handbook, and a link was included in the newsletter.
 - b. Brown Act Guide (New): Benny said that the Brown Act Guide was very timely given new rulings. Boards must hold a special meeting every month to vote on having a virtual meeting, and the ruling is very cumbersome. Supervisor Corless said that the legislation is in a state of flux and is being reviewed by the Counties and County Counsels. Benny indicated that some meetings are being done using a hybrid model. Both Benny and Bill commented on the benefits of in-person meetings and personal interaction.
 - c. Hybrid Meetings (Draft): Benny thought the Hybrid Meetings draft was well done. The suggestion for having video set up in advance for hybrid meetings was good advice.
5. **Issue Briefs:**
 - a. Crisis Care Continuum: Theresa is still meeting with statewide leadership regarding this brief. Meetings have occurred or will soon occur with the following organizations: the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council, CA Behavioral Health Directors Association, Steinberg Institute, CA Association of Counties, Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission, United Parents, CA Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations.

Shera spoke about a local resident who recently died due to a drug overdose, which made her especially sensitive to the need for an improvement in the crisis care continuum. Fentanyl is being laced in many street drugs, including marijuana, and is becoming an increasing problem. Benny wondered whether treatment programs are being impacted by requirements for COVID testing and decreased access. Another concern mentioned is the response time for obtaining services. A new drug, carfentanil, (an elephant sedative) is causing overdose deaths. It is much stronger and more dangerous than Fentanyl.

- b. Employment: Behavioral Health Agencies that are performing well on employment are not working with DOR. Instead of trying to integrate employees and funding, they are creating their own teams in Behavioral Health. They can use MHSa funding as well as MediCal. Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) was too slow and paperwork too cumbersome. The Employment Issue Brief was updated to include a link to CALBHB/C’s Vocational/Behavioral Services Recorded Teleconference, and reference to Mental Health Cooperatives (Local Behavioral Health Agency / DOR Cooperatives) was removed.

6. Executive Director’s Report

- a. Communications:
 - o Spoke with Tony Ewing at MHSOAC regarding additional CALBHB/C funding as follow-up to previous conversations. He now recommended that we should go directly to the legislature for funding. Supervisor Corless suggested talking with Farrah with CSAC and possibly RCRC since CALBHB/C provides services to counties; she offered to help facilitate the conversation.
 - o Theresa was asked to serve on a panel (regarding community engagement) at the upcoming County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA (CBHDA) meeting.
 - o CASRA asked Theresa to present at their next meeting speaking about employment and mental health.
- b. Fall newsletter went out to all boards,
- c. Legislative Update: See Fall newsletter
- d. Individual Board/Commission Trainings:
 - o “How to be an Effective Board” was presented to the Napa County Mental Health Board.
 - o Brown Act Training was provided to the Sutter-Yuba board
 - o Alameda County Training is scheduled.

Upcoming Meetings & Training Schedule

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

2. Regional & Statewide CALBHB/C Meetings

November 5, 2021	Crisis Care Continuum	Teleconference
January 28, 2022	Regional CALBHB/C Meeting Note: This timing may change date/location to coincide with the CBHPC meeting	Format TBD
January 28, 2022	Regional CALBHB/C Training	Format TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.