

**CALBHB/C Governing Board Minutes**  
**December 15, 2023, 11:30 pm**  
**Zoom Teleconference**

**Governing Board Attendance:** President Bill Stewart (San Diego), Vice President Michael Rodriguez (Ventura), Secty/Treas. Kristine Haataja (Napa), Benny Benavidez (Imperial), Stacy Dalglish (Los Angeles), Michael Molina (Los Angeles), Harriette Stevens, Ed.D. (San Francisco), June Rumiko Klein (Santa Clara), Annie Thu Henrich (Stanislaus County), Jonathan Raven (Yolo)

**Staff:** Theresa Comstock, Executive Director; Manuel Fletes Medina, Support Associate

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by President Bill Stewart.

**1. Open Comment:**

- June attended CA Select Committee on the Behavioral Health Crisis. The meeting included a discussion of upcoming legislation and CalAIM payment issues. Key points:
  - Issues with CalAIM and new rates: the rates for reimbursement are coming in at 54-72% of costs.
  - Programs defined intensive were offered an additional 10%
  - Shift from 10%-20% reduction in revenue
  - Santa Clara County offered additional payments to their providers
  - Theresa stated that the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) is still trying to understand how each jurisdiction is experiencing the change in payment structure.
  - Theresa told the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) that we have heard concerns about CalAIM and would like to see the Systems and Medicaid Committee address this.
  - June commented on billable services at schools. If you have a trained therapist on campus who is walking around and talking to students, that is not a billable service. Students must have a diagnosis and office visit to be billable. This is a problem because therapists need to develop relationships with students before they make appointments.
- Bill was recently appointed to the Behavioral Health Planning Council.

**2. Minutes from November 17, 2023:**

Motion: Benny Benavidez made a motion to approve the November 17 Governing Board Minutes; Stacy Dalglish seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.

**3. Financial Reports:**

- a. Financial Position: Total assets as of December 8, 2023, are \$123,419.78. MHSOAC paid their first invoice, \$17,750, and county dues are being paid.
- b. Budget vs Actuals: Total expenditures are lower than expected for the first 5 months of 2023 (approximately 25% of budget through November).

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

#### 4. **Annual Goals for 2024:**

- Theresa noted that every year, some of our basic objectives continue to be in the annual goals. What we need to address is our top issues for support and legislative advocacy. The top concerns from the previous fiscal year continue to exist.
- What are GB members concerns?
  - Bill mentioned that Proposition 1 includes housing for homeless veterans. Homeless veterans are not a high population group, and Bill believes that housing for homeless individuals, in general, is a greater need than housing for veterans. He believes that there is a great need in continuing to advocate for underserved and unserved individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
  - June mentioned a concern that there are too many funds spent in areas that are not solving problems (Jail, ER, etc.). Santa Clara County reallocated some of these funds to more effective programs.
  - Mike Molina reminded us that the big issue at hand is Proposition 1. Money for housing will be created by reducing funding in other areas. He thinks that we should provide resources, training, and education regarding how to evaluate the impact of Proposition 1. His second concern is recent reporting about the shortfall of the state budget and how that will impact the on-going behavioral health programs.
  - June mentioned mental health parity. She said that one of large providers is rejecting 80% of the behavioral health requests. If insurance companies are not covering services, then the county needs to pick up the slack. Insurance companies are pushing costs off to the county.
  - Michael thinks that we need to keep workforce Education & Training as a top concern. All Counties continue to have serious staff shortages. Funding of education and loan forgiveness/grants are effective in attracting and retaining workforce.
  - Stacy asked Theresa to send the State budget analysis report to GB members. What we need to discuss is how Counties will respond to Proposition 1 and the budget issues.

In summary, Equity, Housing, Workforce, impact of Proposition 1 are key concerns for the coming year.

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

- Criminal Justice Panel: Theresa thanked Michael, Benny and Jonathan for help in preparing for the Criminal Justice Panel for the January Quarterly CALBHB/C meeting. Both Michael and Jonathan will present on the panel, along with Brenda Grealish (the Executive Officer for the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health. Theresa will update the [Criminal Justice issue brief](#) prior to the January meeting.
- Small ARFs/RCFEs (Board & Cares): Theresa and Jonathan along with Senator Cortese's Chief of Staff met with DHCS Behavioral Health leadership regarding Board & Cares (ARFs/RCFEs) and how to help small B&C facilities who serve individuals with SMI stay in business.

- Theresa drafted legislation to address the Board & Care issue ([www.calbhbc.org/arcf](http://www.calbhbc.org/arcf)) , and is waiting to learn if Senator Cortese will sponsor the legislation.
- The [Winter Newsletter](#) was released yesterday. Manuel was instrumental in putting this together.

## 6. Upcoming Meetings/Trainings: Schedules Below

### **Governing Board Meetings** (Zoom Teleconference)

- February 23, 2024, Friday, 11:30 am
- March 22, 2024, Friday, 11:30 am
- May 17, 2024, Friday, 11:30 am

### **Quarterly/Regional Meetings/Trainings**

- Southern/LA Region, San Diego & Zoom: January 19-20, 2024
- Central Region, Sacramento & Zoom: April 19-20, 2024
- Southern/LA Region (Location TBD) & Zoom: June 21-22, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.