

TULARE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - 2023



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INTRODUCTION

Rationale

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604 establishes and describes "Powers and Duties of California Mental Health Boards." These include "submit an annual report to the governing body on the needs and performance of the county's mental health system." The current report is a summary of Mental Health Board activities for calendar year 2023.

Information Sources

Information for this report is obtained from minutes of the Mental Health Board Executive Committee and general Mental Health Board meetings (January through December 2023). The Tulare County Mental Health Board (TCMHB) was supplied summaries of the Tulare County Mental Health Branch's organization, committees, budget and state reporting mandates from the Tulare County Mental Health Branch, Health and Human Services Agency.

Relevant Considerations/Demographics

U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 poverty data show that 18.2% of Tulare County population is living at or below poverty level. The State average is 12.2% and reflects a 6 percentage point increase. Due to the high poverty rate within Tulare County, over half - approximately 55% - of our residents receive some form of social support services or program aid such as Medi-Cal or Cal-Fresh. As of December 2023, Tulare County ranked #3 in highest unemployment rates compared to other 27 counties in California. Tulare County has a higher unemployment rate of 11.2% compared to a California state unemployment rate of 5.1%.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

2023 Board Composition:

Executive Committee: Erin Brooks. (Chair), Michele Eaton (Co-Chair), Dr. Jennifer Newell (Member-At-Large), Michale Handley (Member – At-Large) and Darlene Prettyman (Secretary)

General Membership: The spreadsheet below lists general membership as it relates to 2023. The letter “R” indicates Resignation in 2023.

Seat	Seat Type	Member Name	Appointed	Current Term	Next Term
1	At-Large	Mark Gist	6/7/2022	12/31/2024	12/31/2027
2	At-Large	Lynne Martin Del Campo	1/29/2013	12/31/2024	12/31/2027
3	At-Large	Serina Palomino	11/29/2022	12/31/2024	12/31/2027
4	At-Large – R*	Terry Sayer	6/7/2022	12/31/2024	12/31/2027
5	Consumer	Michael Handley	7/12/2022	12/31/2024	12/31/2027
6	At-Large	Erin Brooks, J.D.	9/15/2009	12/31/2025	12/31/2028
7	Consumer	Brett Woolman	7/31/2023	12/31/2025	12/31/2028
8	Family	Michele Eaton	3/28/2023	12/31/2025	12/31/2028
9	At-Large – R*	Dr. Jennifer Newell	3/7/2023	12/31/2025	12/31/2028
10	At-Large	Vacant	6/7/2022	12/31/2022	N/A
11	Family – R*	Sandra Juarez	10/9/2018	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
12	Family	David Winters	10/25/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
13	Family	Darlene Prettyman	4/5/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
14	Consumer	Christopher Smith	1/30/2018	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
15	At-Large – R*	William (Bill) Woodmansee	7/27/2021	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
16	Family – R*	Therese Woodmansee	9/1/2020	12/31/2023	12/31/2026
Ex-Officio	Board of Supervisors Rep.	Amy Shuklian	N/A	N/A	N/A

1 At-large seat, 1 Consumer seat and 1 Family seat were filled in 2023, with 1 At-Large seat remaining open. The Board will strive to fill the one At-large seats by the end of 2024, as well as the At-Large Seat number 15 vacated by William (Bill) Woodmansee, At- Large Seat number 4 vacated by Terry Sayer, At- Large Seat number 9 vacated by Dr. Jennifer Newell, Family Seat 11 number vacated by Sandra Juarez and Family Seat number 16 vacated by Therese Woodmansee.

R* - Terry Sayer resigned At-Large Seat 4 on June 6, 2023

R* - Dr. Jennifer Newell At-Large Seat 9 on July 31, 2023

R* - Sandra Juarez Family Seat 11 on October 3, 2023

R*- William (Bill) Woodmansee resigned At-Large Seat 15 on January 3, 2023

R* - Therese Woodmansee resigned Family Seat 16 on January 3, 2023

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING AGENDAS

Monthly meetings provide Mental Health Board members with contractor and Department presentations to allow better understanding of the mental health plan (MHP) and system of care. Meeting agendas for the past year are summarized below and on the next page.

January 10, 2023 MHB Special Meeting

- Discussed and approved the selected Mental Health Director candidate

February 7, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Approved changes to the Mental Health Board Bylaws
- Reviewed and Discussed AB 2449 with County Counsel
- Consider application from Dr. Jennifer Newell for At-Large Seat #9; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Discussed Mental Health Board Retreat topics
- Presentation: Jail Based Competency Treatment for Early Access for Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Individuals

March 7, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Considered renewal application from Michele Eaton for Family Seat #8; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Acknowledged the resignations from William (Bill) Woodmansee At-Large Seat 15 and Therese Woodmansee Family Seat 16
- Presentations:
 - Kings View Wellness Centers (Porterville and Visalia locations)
 - Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan Update and open 30-day public posting and comment period
- Approved May 10, 2022 as the Mental Health Board Retreat Day. Hours: 10:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
- Reviewed the 2023 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 for 30-day Public Post and Comment Period

April 4, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Approved the Mental Health Services Act 3-Year Plan/Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2022/2023; voted to move this forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and other state agencies after 30-day posting period which closed on April 8, 2023
- Approved the Mental Health Board Annual Report for 2022 and voted to move this to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval

- Presentations:
 - Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council
 - Tulare County Office of Education – Mental/Behavioral Health services for students

May 2, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Considered application from Brett Woolman for Consumer Seat #7; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Presentation: California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)

May 10, 2023 MHB Retreat Meeting

- Retreat Presentations:
 - Mental Health Organizations
 - Mental Health Services - Overview

June 6, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Acknowledged the resignation from Mayor Terry Sayer for At-Large Seat # 4; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Discussed Mental Health Board Onboarding Team
- Reviewed and discussed SB 551 (Portantino) Mental Health Boards
- Presentation: Adult Protective Services (APS)

August 1, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Acknowledged the resignation from Dr. Jennifer Newell for At-Large Seat # 9; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Presentation: Mental Health Services Act Innovation/Pilot Projects – Metabolic Syndrome and Connected 2 Community

October 3, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Approved the 2024 Mental Health Board and Mental Health Board Executive Committee meeting schedules
- Nomination of 2024 Mental Health Board Executive Committee Members
- Presentations:
 - Mental Health Services Act Innovation/Pilot Projects – Advancing Behavioral Health and Semi-Statewide Electronic Health Record
 - Youth Substance Abuse

November 7, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Approved the cancellation of the November 21, 2023 Mental Health Board Executive Committee meeting
- Approved the 2023 Data Notebook for submission to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council
- Considered renewal application from Darlene Prettyman for Family Seat #13; voted to move this application forward to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for approval
- Election of 2024 Mental Health Board Executive Committee Members

- Presentation: Tulare County Mental Health Board Bylaws and Responsibilities

December 5, 2023 MHB Meeting

- Presentation: Mental Health Legislation

TULARE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH PLAN (MHP)

Tulare County Mental Health Plan Overview

The Tulare County Mental Health Plan (MHP) is summarized in a "Wellness and Recovery Guide to Mental Health Services" published by the Tulare County HHSA. Services are for Tulare County residents experiencing symptoms of mental illness. County-operated clinics in Porterville and Visalia are supplemented by Wellness and Recovery Center in Porterville and Visalia.

The current range of MHP services includes a 24h/7day Psychiatric Emergency Team (PET), mental health services for those incarcerated in county jail facilities, and adult and youth mental health services for the treatment of mental illness in children, adolescents, adults, and seniors. The array of services includes, but are not limited to: mental health assessments, individual and group therapy, psychiatric and related medication services, crisis intervention, case management for access to medical, social, educational and community services, and therapeutic behavioral services for those age 21 years old or younger.

PROGRAM	SERVICES	LOCATION	OPERATION
Substance Use Disorder Prevention, & Treatment Recovery (SUD)	Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorder Placement Services	942 South Santa Fe Avenue, Visalia, CA 93292	Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
		1055 West Henderson, Suite 4, Porterville, CA 93257	Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm Friday 8am-12pm Delivers assessment, evidence-based treatment, prevention and placement services aimed at improving lives
Adult Services			
Visalia Adult Integrated Clinic (VAIC)	Adult Mental Health	520 East Tulare Avenue, Visalia, CA	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PROGRAM	SERVICES	LOCATION	OPERATION
		93292	
Porterville Adult Clinic (PAC)	Adult Mental Health	1055 West Henderson Avenue, Porterville, CA 93368	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
North Tulare County, Mobile Services	Mental Health, All Ages	201 North Court Street, Visalia, CA 93291	Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
South Tulare County, Mobile Services	Mental Health, All Ages	201 North K Street, Tulare, CA 93274	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (MD only) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Services			
North Tulare County, One Stop	Transitional-Age Youth Mental Health	201 North Court Street, Visalia, CA 93291	Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Central Tulare County, One Stop	Transitional-Age Youth Mental Health	113 South M Street, Tulare, CA 93274	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
South Tulare County, One Stop	Transitional-Age Youth Mental Health	409 North Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257	Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Child/Youth Services			
Aspiranet	Children's Mental Health	1840 S. Central Street Visalia, Ca 93277	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dinuba Children Services (DCS)	Children's Mental Health	144 South L Street, Dinuba, CA 93615	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hope Horizon Mental Health, formerly Tulare County Youth Services Bureau (TYSB)	Children's Mental Health	327 South K Street, Tulare, CA 93274	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Porterville Youth Services (PYS)	Children's Mental Health	1055 West Henderson Avenue, Porterville, Suite 2, CA 93257	Monday- Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sequoia Youth Services (SYS)	Children's Mental Health	514 North Kaweah Avenue, Exeter, CA 93221	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE)	Children's Mental Health	1830 S. Central St., Visalia CA 93277	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Visalia Youth Services (VYS)	Children's Mental Health	711 North Court Street, Visalia, CA 93291	Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Housing Sites & Programs			
Transitional Living Center (TLC)	Transitional Supportive Housing	Adult (18+) Augmented Board & Care	53 beds
Community Living	Transitional	Adult (18+) Supported	24 beds

PROGRAM	SERVICES	LOCATION	OPERATION
Center (CLC)	Supportive Housing	Independent/ Transitional	
Crossroads	Transitional Supportive Housing	Transitional Age Youth (18-25) Supported Transitional Living	Porterville – 10 beds Visalia – 10 beds
East Tulare Avenue Cottages (ETAC)	Permanent Supportive Housing	Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing	11 shared apartments (22 beds)
Porterville Lotus Project	Permanent Supportive Housing	Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing	8 shared apartments (16 beds)
Tulare Inyo Project	Permanent Supportive Housing	Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing	10 shared apartments (20 beds)
Casa de Robles	Permanent Supportive Housing	Transitional Age Youth (18-24) Permanent Supportive Housing	6 beds
Finca Serena (No Place Like Home)	Permanent Supportive Integrated Housing	Porterville, Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing for Unhoused	39 beds
Sierra Village II (No Place Like Home)	Permanent Supportive Integrated Housing	Dinuba, Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing for Unhoused	9 beds
Santa Fe Commons I (No Place Like Home)	Permanent Supportive Integrated Housing	Tulare, Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing for Unhoused	24 beds
The Lofts at Fort Visalia (No Place Like Home)	Permanent Supportive Integrated Housing	Visalia, Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing for Unhoused	26 beds
Sequoia Commons II (Multifamily Housing Program)	Permanent Supportive Integrated Housing	Goshen, Adult (18+) Permanent Supportive Housing for Unhoused	13 beds
Wellness Centers			
Porterville Wellness Center	Wellness Center	333 West Henderson Avenue, Porterville, CA 93257	Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat-Sun 11am-3pm
Visalia Wellness Center	Wellness Center	1223 S. Lovers Lane Visalia, CA 93292	Mon-Thurs 8:30 am - 5:30pm Friday 8:30am - 4:30 pm Saturday 8:30am – 5:30pm

This list of services does not reflect additional programming such as an array of prevention and early intervention programs. However, it gives a robust picture of significant direct services provided.

Mental Health Board Procedural Changes/Evolving Relationships

The working relationship between the Mental Health Branch and the Mental Health Board by very nature must evolve. Employees are fulltime participants in the daily management and provision of direct services. Advisory board members “sample” a small fraction of all this by attending a limited number of committees and receiving summary overviews at monthly meetings. Staff typically may be long-term experts. Advisory board members might have lived experience, have family members with lived experience, be allied healthcare professionals themselves, or well-meaning and well-intentioned and interested, but potentially naïve community members. The differences between our two groups occur most notably with terminology, abbreviations and acronyms, and basic assumptions.

1. Mental Health Board members have had attendance challenges such as meeting regularly, meeting a quorum and executing Mental Health Board responsibilities. The admin team provided a power point presentation of the Mental Health Welfare & Institution Code Membership Responsibilities of local mental health boards. The Mental Health Board also revised its Bylaws and were recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
2. The complicated business of the Branch requires ongoing presentations to and action by the Board of Supervisors, especially on crisis and homeless matters. Some of the more “business-minded” members of the Mental Health Board have wished to be more knowledgeable about community and program activities of the Mental Health Branch. Staff continue to provide the weekly courtesy of forwarding action items agendas for the Board of Supervisors meetings, highlighting any Mental Health Branch considerations and the Mental Health Board Executive Committee continues to use a six (6) month schedule of ongoing presentations.
3. The Mental Health Board intends to continue a locally develop an Annual Report in order to continue to consult, confer, review, and plan together.

Respectfully submitted, 2023-2024 Mental Health Board members, Spring 2024.

RESOURCES

NAMI: (800) 950-6264;
www.namitularecounty.org

Public Guardian/Conservator:
(559) 623-0650; (877) 657-3092

Family Advocate: (559) 624-7449

Patient Advocate: (559) 624-7440;
(800) 905-5597

Mental Health Grievances/Appeals: (800)
500-4465

Substance Use Disorder
Grievances/Appeals: (833) 433-4988

Legal Aid: (559) 733-8770

Adult Protective Services: (559) 623-0651

Family Court Services:
(559) 730-5000 x 1300

My Voice Media Center: (559) 802-3266

Teen Line: (800) TLC-TEEN (858-8336)

LGBTQ & Questioning Youth: (800) 712-
3000; thesourcelgbt.org (559)429-4277

2-1-1 Tulare County: dial 2-1-1

PATH Projects for Assistance in Transition
from Homelessness: (559) 687-0920

Suicide Lifeline: (800) 273-TALK (8255) –
Veterans press “1”

Homeless Veterans: (877) 424-3838,
press “1”

24-hr. Mental Health Crisis Line: 1-800-
320-1616

24-hr. AOD Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
Access Line: 1-866-732-4114

Office of Compliance and Ethics:
Fax: (559) 713-3730
Mail: Compliance Officer, 5957 S. Mooney
Blvd. Visalia, CA 93277
Email:
complianceofficer@tularecounty.ca.gov
Suicide Prevention:

For non-crisis information
(559) 624-7471

Tulare County 24 Hour Crisis Line; there is
no physical location:
1-800-320-1616

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

Tulare County Warm Line
1 (877) 306-2413

Emergency
9-8-8 or 9-1-1



Artwork By: My Voice Media Center – Art
Consortium
Title: A Collaborative Work Using
Concentric Circles
Facilitator: Merry Miller-Gass
Session: Art and Feelings (2023)