



**Behavioral Health Services**  
*A Division of Health Care Services Agency*

Tony Vartan, MSW, LCSW, BHS Director

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)**  
*Regular Meeting*

April 15, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

**Teleconference**

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Ivy  
 Patricia Barrett  
 Lori Hansen  
 Jeff Giampetro  
 Dr. Mudalodu Vasudevan  
 Tasso Kandris  
 Cary Martin  
 Carolyn Cooper  
 Gertie Kandris  
 John Weston

**Board Members Absent/Excused:**

Joe Dittman  
 Supervisor Villapudua

**Also Present:**

Greg Diederich, HCS Director  
 Tony Vartan, BHS Director  
 Frances Hutchins, BHS Assistant Director  
 Betsey Rose, Deputy Director  
 Shirley Hollowell, Nursing Director  
 Michelle Pennington,  
 Angelo Balmaceda, MHS Coordinator  
 Isabel Espinosa, Office Secretary

**Guests:**

Tony Anderson, VMRC  
 Michael Fields, Wellness Center  
 Edna Ealey-Fields, NAMI SJC  
 Theresa Comstock, California Association of Local  
 Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions  
 Douglas Vigil

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Board meeting was convened on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. Chairperson Tasso Kandris called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M., held a moment of silence, and led the pledge of allegiance. The Board Secretary took roll call. A quorum was in attendance at this meeting.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson Tasso Kandris led self-introductions among board members and the public audience present at the meeting.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gertie Kandris commented that there are many inmates being released.
- Douglas Vigil commented that an office manager would not allow his service dog to come into the office for his appointment.
- Tasso Kandris, Cary Martin, and Tony Vartan thanked Theresa Comstock of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C for setting up the teleconference and for being a great moderator.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Jeff Giampetro made a motion to approve the February 2020 minutes, and was seconded by Carolyn Cooper. The minutes were approved, 9-0-1, with Lori Hansen abstaining.

### V. PRESENTATION

#### A. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 2021-2023 Three Year Draft Plan

- *Angelo Balmaceda*, MHSA Coordinator

- 2020-23 MHSA Three Year Plan –
  - Status Quo Plan due to uncertainty of economy in the midst of Covid-19 crisis.
  - Continuation of the 2019-20 Plan
  - Robust Community Planning
    - 502 Consumer and Stakeholder Surveys
    - 5 Community Planning Meetings – 1 in Spanish
    - 171 individuals participated
  - Community Input Themes
    - Housing
    - Services for the Homeless – located inside county shelters
    - More Full Service Partnership’s throughout the County
    - Outreach and Engagement in underserved Latino and faith based Communities
    - Services for 0-5 Population
    - Wellness Center in north and south county
    - Expansion of LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program throughout County
  - Public Meeting scheduled for May 20, 2020 (BHB Meeting).

#### B. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

- *Tony Vartan*, MSW, LCSW, BHS Director

- All BHS clinics have entry points with a triage to check temperatures and ask screening questions. BHS is working closely with California Behavioral Health Director’s Association (CBHDA) following their delivery of service.

- The following regulations are waived, and allow for distant services such as telemedicine. 5150 evaluations can now be conducted remotely to clear ER beds and expedite process.
- Staff are working from home remotely to ensure adequate social distancing space. Staff are rotating from home and to the office.
- Patients are categorized into three categories:
  - Level 1: Medically Frail, contacted 3x a week
  - Level 2: High need mental health, contacted 1x a week
  - Level 3: More stable, contacted 1x a week
- Crisis area is fully functional. Staff can either conduct a 5150 evaluation remotely, or gear up and go into the field.
- Justice and Decriminalization Division is active in the community serving the homeless and justice population.
  - All clinics are open and rotating staff remotely.
  - Recovery House, and Family ties are in operation.
  - Teams are in the field collaborating with District Attorney's Office, Health Care Services, Public Health Services, and Whole Person Care to educate the homeless population about COVID-19, providing screenings, and distributing items such as survival backpacks and food.
  - Winter Shelter task force includes the United Way, District Attorney's Office, Stockton shelter, and Gospel Center Shelter. People who are at risk or displaying symptoms are isolated. Hand washing stations were put up in homeless encampments.
  - State prison inmates who are released and connected to Behavioral Health Services have 48 hours to report to BHS, otherwise a warrant is issued for their arrest.
  - Jail inmates who are released are transported by the jail to Crisis. The crisis team then hands off to JDD.
  - Outreach team is screening from 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. at the shelters. High-risk clients are being isolated. Public health is on call. Screenings are being conducted with the assistance of Police and Fire Department in Tracy, Manteca, and Stockton.
  - Starting April 16, 2020 Community Medical Center will take the lead on the screenings at the shelters. BHS will continue to support.
- Critical patients are still seen in the office, all others are seen via telemedicine.
- Our Doctors with health conditions are working remotely. We have a lot of Doctors in the office who are seeing clients in person, and via telemedicine.
- Operation Room Key is a plan to house the homeless in collaboration with several other agencies. The committee is researching options to allow potential BHS Clients to be housed in the same area to allow concentration of services.
- Surge planning has begun. There are currently 341 cases, and 17 deaths caused by Coronavirus in San Joaquin County according to the Board of Supervisors last meeting. Preventative measures are helping to flatten the curve.

- Post-COVID we anticipate a surge of patients due to the devastating life changes such as job loss, death, physical distancing, isolation, depression, suicidality, substance abuse, and economic devastation. More people will be eligible for Medi-Cal due to loss of income.
- Timeliness remains good. There has been a slight increase in warm line calls. We anticipate the need will rise. On April 14, 2020 Children and youth services have a youth warm line from 11:30 -8 P.M. Youth can call in on their own time, when they feel the most comfortable.
- Hospitals have a lower census due to less non-elective surgeries at this time.
- County Behavioral Health budget is expecting a decrease in funding. Due to the economic downturn, it is anticipated that MHSA funding will be decreased by \$400 million. Realignment funds are also anticipated to decrease due to the delay in tax returns, the loss of the federal match, the impact on sales tax, vehicle licensing fees.
- All counties are affected by the Covid-19 and zero bail inmate releases. Approximately 3,500 inmates are being released; some will be in need of mental health treatment.
- SB89 infrastructure requires emergency funding for COVID, and post COVID issues. Proposed legislation would allow for \$100 million emergency relief fund. Temporary changed to allow Behavioral Health Directors to utilize prudent reserves. Allows for flexibility with MHSA funds

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M