



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)

Regular Meeting

Via teleconference

August 19, 2020 – 5:00 -7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Supervisor Villapudua
Patricia Barret
Jeff Giampetro
Dr. Mudalodu Vasudevan
Tasso Kandris
Cary Martin
Carolyn Cooper
Gertie Kandris
John Weston
Joe Dittman
Sabrina Flores-Eng
Tashante McCoy

Also Present:

Greg Diederich, Director HCS
Tony Vartan, Director BHS
Frances Hutchins, Assistant Director BHS
Betsey Rose, Deputy Director
Isabel Espinosa, Office Secretary

Board Members Absent/Excused:

Karen Ivy

Guests:

Peter Ragsdale, Housing Authority County of San Joaquin
Michael Fields, Peer Recovery Services
Samira Abdo
Earl Maxson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, and was followed by a moment of silence, and the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was taken, there was a quorum in attendance.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Board members, and the public in attendance introduced themselves.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – OPEN TIME

- John Weston commented that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will be hosting a Community Forum addressing Mental Health via Zoom on 09/03/2020 at 6:00 PM. Please contact NAMI San Joaquin for more information.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 15, 2020

Joe Dittman made a motion to approve the minutes, and was seconded by Patricia Barrett. Motion passed by unanimous decision 12-0-0.

V. PRESENTATION

A. San Joaquin County Housing

- *Peter Ragsdale*, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin
- The Housing Authority of San Joaquin (HACCSJ) provides rental assistance and housing to 6,000 households.
- Manages 1,376 housing units, including seasonal agricultural apartments.
- Has a \$51 Million dollar annual budget
- HACCSJ is also a housing developer with \$60 million dollars currently in construction projects.
- Has a subsidiary 501 (c)(3) non-profit that focuses on public housing, and new apartment communities for seniors, veterans, families, and the formerly homeless.
- Phase 1 of Crossway Residences is almost complete. It is 15 studio apartments reserved for BHS clients. These units are designated for BHS clients for the next 20 years.
- Crossway: Park Street Apartments will be converted into 11 units designated for BHS clients.
- Sonora Square apartments: BHS and HACCSJ will be applying for No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding for a 37 unit supportive housing complex for BHS clients who are experiencing homelessness and in need of mental health services.
- Victory Gardens: 48 supportive housing units that will serve homeless veterans in collaboration with San Joaquin County, HOME funds, California Emergency Shelter housing funds, Veterans Housing, Homelessness Prevention Program, Low-income housing Tax credit funds, and HACCSJ. This project will be located near the San Joaquin General Hospital and the new Veterans Affairs Administration clinic. Services will be provided by LifeSTEPS and case management by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP): 11, 1-3 bedroom homes, in partnership with S.T.A.N.D, Stockton Shelter for the Homeless, and Central Valley Low Income Housing Corp. (CVLIHC), City of Stockton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME funds, and Wells Fargo bank. Property management will be provided by S.T.A.N.D and case management by Stockton Shelter for the Homeless and CVLIHC.

B. COVID, State and jail releases

- Betsey Rose, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Services
- The State of California released
 - 75 people in April. 20 were expected to connect with BHS, 13 actually connected to services.
 - 121 people in July. 36 were expected to connect with BHS, 12 actually connected to services.
 - 152 people in August to date, 6 so far actually connected to services.
- San Joaquin County Jail released
 - 26 people in April, 12 received services from BHS.
 - 5 people in May, 3 received services from BHS.
- COVID, Homeless, and Placements
 - In July there were 5 COVID positive clients, 4 were homeless, one had a placement.
 - In August, so far there are 3 COVID positive clients, one is homeless, and two had placements.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative updates (SB 665, AB 2265, AB 2112, SB 803, SB 1259, AB 1976)

- *Tasso Kandris*, Behavioral Health Board Chairperson
- Gertie Kandris reviewed NAMI legislative recommendations on SB 665, AB 2265, AB 2112, SB 803, SB 1259, AB 1976.
- Letters sent on behalf of the Behavioral Health Board, will first go out in draft form, and be placed on the agenda for review and vote.
- As the bills are in their final stages, members are encouraged to voice their opinions directly to their representative.
- In the future, any suggestions for letters of support will go out early in the legislative process.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- *Tony Vartan*, MSW, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director
- Thank you to our partner Peter Ragsdale for presenting the projects and helping us expand and make progressive housing available through MHSA funding. The studio apartments are designated for BHS clients for the next 20 years.
- Staff continues to work diligently with clients and provide services onsite, and on zoom.
- Some staff are rotating their on campus days to enhance social distancing. Since the start of COVID, BHS has not closed any doors, and have increased our methods of providing service. Timeliness has improved with the implementation of TeleHealth visits.

- The Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) was on quarantine for 14 days. A day after reopening it was put on a second 14-day quarantine, when a client received COVID treatment under an alias.
- 5150 evaluations are conducted via zoom for hospital patients.
- Participating in work groups to improve the foster care model. Looking at other states and how they are taking care of the foster care population.
- Participating in an emergency work group with Department of Health Care Services, and California Behavioral Health Director's Association regarding how to fill in the gaps with the COVID population for those who end up in hospitals, PHF, or other high acuity locations. BHS is collaborating with St. Joseph's to discharge to COVID house, and include wraparound services to ensure they are compliant and that their Behavioral Health needs are being met.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Report
- B. Executive report: Tasso wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Behavioral Health Board to the City of Stockton, and Stockton City Council regarding the Traffic calming neighborhood project. Peer Recovery Services also sent a letter in support of the crosswalk.
- C. Children's Committee: Assistance is needed on the committee with researching legislation related to Children and Youth.
- D. Grievance Committee: Meeting was held 08/19/2020. Last quarter's meeting was cancelled due to COVID. In May there were five grievances, two regarding staff behavior, one financial, and two requests to change provider. In June there were four grievances, one confidential, one financial, one regarding lost property, and one regarding staff behavior.
April had no appeals, May has one request for appeal.
- E. Housing Committee: Jeff and Karen. Have not been operating due to COVID-19, committee will resume when safe.
- F. Substance Use Disorder: No report.
Adjourn 6:35

X. REMINDERS

- A. Next Behavioral Health Board meeting will be September 16, 2020. For information, please contact *Isabel Espinosa* at 209-468-8750 or via e-mail at iespinosa@sjcbhs.org

IX. ADJOURN TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.