



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

May 20, 2020, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Teleconference

Board Members Present:

Patricia Barrett
 Jeff Giampetro
 Dr. Mudalodu Vasudevan
 Tasso Kandris
 Cary Martin
 Carolyn Cooper
 Gertie Kandris
 John Weston
 Joe Dittman
 Supervisor Villapudua

Board Members Absent/Excused:

Karen Ivy
 Cary Martin

Also Present:

Tony Vartan, BHS Director
 Frances Hutchins, BHS Assistant Director
 Betsey Rose, Deputy Director
 Angelo Balmaceda, MHSA Coordinator
 Isabel Espinosa, Office Secretary

Guests:

Emily Ballus, Director, Mary Graham Foundation
 Tony Anderson, VMRC
 Michael Fields, Wellness Center
 Edna Ealey-Fields, NAMI SJC
 Sabrina Eng Flores
 Amy Portello Nelson
 Tosh Saruwatari

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Board meeting was convened on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. Chairperson Tasso Kandris called the meeting to order at 5:05 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

- John Weston commented that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will have a virtual walk this year. Please visit NAMI website for additional details.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- John Weston made a motion to approve minutes with corrections. Carolyn Cooper seconded motion. The minutes were approved, 10-0-0.

V. PRESENTATION

A. Mary Graham Children's Foundation

- *Emily Ballus*, Executive Director, Mary Graham Foundation

- Over 1,400 youth in San Joaquin County find themselves in foster care due to neglect, abuse, or abandonment each year.
- The Mary Graham Children's Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization established by community members in the late 1990s. The primary goal was to build a new shelter. After shelter was completed, the organization shifted their focus to enrichment and extra funding for foster care children, and those who aged out of the foster care system.
- Children in the shelter benefit from outings such as local sporting events (Ports, Heat, and Kings games), and attending plays at the Civic Theater and the Stockton Arena. Children also receive birthday and holiday gifts, special attire for prom, sports equipment, art therapy, and other necessities.
- Life after foster care:
 - Girls in Foster care are twice as likely to become pregnant before turning 19.
 - More than 30% of incarcerated individuals were in foster care.
 - Over 35% of addicts have been in foster care.
 - 40% of the homeless population were in foster care.
 - Less than 3% of former foster youth will earn a college degree.
- Each year the Foundation awards over \$200,000 in funding to former foster youth for college, training, and student support program.
- Support program includes mentoring, career coaching, special events, and celebrations. Staff is available 24/7.
- Emergency funds help with glasses, car repairs, braces, Wi-Fi, rent, moving expenses, and a place to stay for the holidays.
- Mentors and volunteers balance compassion and love, and help on the spot in a crisis.
- The Foundation has awarded over \$1.5 million dollars in scholarships to over 160+ local foster youth since 2005.
- The graduation rate is eight times the national average at 25%.

B. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 2021-2023 Three Year Draft Plan

- *Angelo Balmaceda*, MHSA Coordinator

- On April 24th the previous draft plan was rescinded. May 15 a new draft plan was issued for review. Please visit the website to review the plan <http://www.sicbhs.org/MHSA/mhsaplan.aspx>
- Public hearing for the MHSA plan will be June 17, 2020 at the Behavioral Health board meeting.
- The plan is intended to take a conservative approach to programming and limit changes due to the uncertainty of the economy in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Local MHSA revenues are based on personal income taxes collected by the state. It is still too soon to quantify how significant the financial impact will be. BHS intends on moving forward cautiously and responsibly.
- Once MHSA revenue is calculated plan may be revised.
- Project based housing program will be enhanced.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Tony Vartan, BHS Director

- Medi-Cal enrollment is expected to increase with anticipated job loss due to COVID-19.
- Warm line calls have increased.
- Social distancing is in effect in staff areas; gradually we will increase to capacity.
- Thank you to all county agencies working together during the COVID-19 crisis. BHS is in collaboration with multiple agencies. Betsey Rose, Deputy Director of Forensics will update the board on more next month.
- California is anticipating a surge in need for mental health services. A three phase plan is being implemented for the next 9 years:
 - Phase 1: Call center in San Francisco for a warm line. Where callers can receive help, and receive referrals to services.
 - Phase 2: FEMA grant to provide short-term counseling to those with COVID-19 to provide virtual counseling. Counselors will receive training. Complicated cases will be referred to County Mental Health or Private Insurance.
 - Phase 3: Media campaign to raise awareness of Phase 1 and 2.
- Economic slowdown predicted over the next two years. 16-25 % decline over the next two years in Realignment and MHSA funds. 2 years from April we will see the economic effect of the COVID virus.
- Tiffany DeWitte was Deputy Director of the Adult System of Care.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M