



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)

Regular Meeting

Zoom

October 20, 2021 – 5:00 -7:00 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Chair Tasso Kandris
Vice Chair Patricia Barrett
Gertie Kandris
Mary Avanti
Cary Martin
Jeff Giampetro
Douglas Vigil
John Weston
Carolyn Cooper
Sabrina Flores-Eng
Dr. Mudalodu Vasudevan
Supervisor Miller
Pamela Keese-Wyre

Board Members Absent/Excused:

Also Present:

Greg Diederich, HCS Director
Tony Vartan, BHS Director
Betsey Rose, Deputy Director, Justice and
Decriminalization Division
Jennifer Spruill, Chief Mental Health Clinician
Dennis Buettner, Protective Services Social
Worker III
Carlos Mendoza, Substance Abuse Counselor II
San Luu, Mental Health Outreach Worker
Isabel Espinosa, BHB Secretary

Guests:

Michael Fields, Peer Recovery Services
Karen Walker, Peer Recovery Services
Lindsay Kaufman
Justin Schrottenboer, VMRC

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Board meeting was convened on Wednesday October 20, 2021 via Zoom teleconference. Chairperson Tasso called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting began with a moment of silence, pledge of allegiance, and roll call. There was a quorum in attendance at this meeting.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions began with audience members as the board members introduced themselves during roll call.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – OPEN TIME

Board member Jeff Giampetro announced that there is a Health fair at San Joaquin General Hospital on 10/30 from 10 AM -2 PM.

Board member John Weston announced that NAMI elections would be held in December. The board is looking for new members and officers. For further information contact John Weston or Namisj.org.

Vice Chairperson Patricia Barrett commented that any items mentioned in public comment that are not on the agenda would not be discussed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Gertie Kandris made a motion to approve the September minutes. Board member Doug Vigil seconded the motion.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report

- *Tony Vartan*, BHS Director

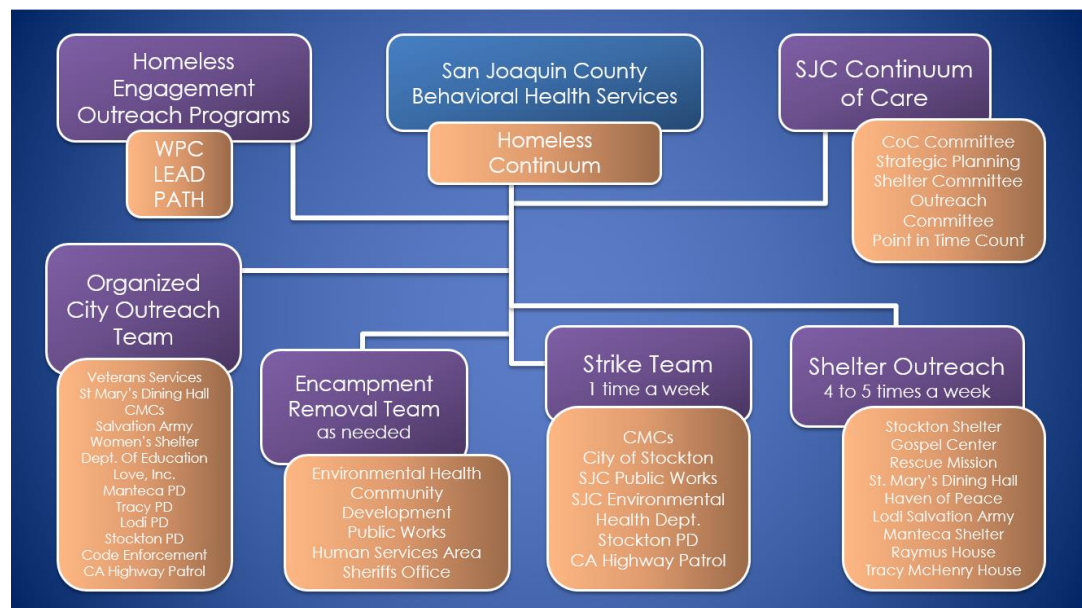
An Assistant Director was selected. Thank you to Chairman Tasso, Michael Fields for participating the selection process. The five-person panel unanimously selected Cara Dunn effective 10/25. She studied neuropsychology in college, and has worked in health care for over 25 years. She is self-employed as an analyst. In addition, has been working for BHS since 2010 and a program director, and deputy director.

Behavioral Health Director Tony Vartan introduced Betsey Rose, Deputy Director of Justice and Decriminalization Division.

B. Overview of Homeless Outreach

- *Betsey Rose*, Deputy Director of Justice and Decriminalization Division
- *Jennifer Spruill*, Chief Mental Health Clinician
- *Dennis Buettner*, Protective Services Social Worker III
- *Carlos Mendoza*, Substance Abuse Counselor II
- *San Luu*, Mental Health Outreach Worker

Betsey Rose highlighted BHS Homeless Outreach Services. Services are provided in collaboration with many agencies throughout the county.



Whole Person Care (WPC), Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), and Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) provide outreach, engagement, linkage, and screening services to the homeless, to those at risk of homelessness, and the chronically homeless. Outreach is conducted in the community, homeless shelters, on the street, parks, homeless encampments, jail, hospitals, PHF, Crisis, and at temporary housing locations.

The SJC Continuum of Care is a collaboration between the SJC Board of Supervisors and the City of Stockton to provide guidance and recommendation regarding policies and actions in response to homelessness. This program was developed by US Department of Housing and Urban development. All community stakeholders working together to coordinate services, reduce duplication, and bridge gaps in service. They also provide outreach and engagement, emergency shelter to transitional housing to permanent supportive housing or affordable housing, and linkage to physical and mental health care.

BHS participates in outreach efforts in all of San Joaquin county including, Tracy, Lodi, Manteca, and Stockton. The Encampment Removal team meets on an as needed basis. BHS staff provide outreach, resources, services, linkage to those in the encampments prior to the encampment removal.

Supervisor Miller thanked Betsey and her team for their hard work, and invited them to present at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board member identification

Identification badges are in progress.

B. Report on CALBHB/C training

Four board members attended the CALBHB/C training.

BHS Director Tony Vartan commented that he is glad that board members are engaging and participating in trainings. In addition, reminded board members that although we do have limited staffing, patient care remains the priority. The board is requested to forward all requests for information to the BHB Chairperson using a request for information form. The Chairperson will send the requests to the Secretary of the Board for processing.

C. Review Teleconferencing Status

We can work with our Information Systems team to have a hybrid meeting next month.

D. Board and Staff Collaboration

Chairperson Tasso commented that politeness, respect, and patience is important. With all of the audits, day-to-day operations, the BHB is not the only entity that needs attention.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

15 MINUTES

A. Executive Committee

Board training is on Saturday at 9:30 AM– 2 PM at BHS.

B. Legislative Committee

See report.

- C. Children's Committee
No report.

- D. Quality and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Committee
No report.

- E. Board and Care Monitoring Committee
No report.

- F. Substance Use Disorder and Homeless Outreach Committee
No report.

VIII. REMINDERS

- A. Next Behavioral Health Board meeting will be November 17, 2021. For information, please contact *Isabel Espinosa* at 209-468-8750 or via e-mail at iespinosa@sjcbhs.org

IX. ADJOURN TO November 17, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.