



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
(Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2022)**

FINAL

<u>2022 BHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaron Brandon - BOS	✓	✓	✓									
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt	E	E	E									
Cynthia Halman	✓	✓	E									
Mary Anne Schmidt	✓	✓	✓									
Valerie Shuemade	E	✓	A									
Constance Bone	A	A	✓									
Elizabeth Marum	✓	✓	✓									
Emily Valentine	E	✓	✓									
Heather Farris	✓	✓	E									
Jenn Salazar	✓	✓	✓									
Jennifer Pastorini	✓	✓	✓									
Marjorie Langdon	A	✓	✓									
Maureen Woods	✓	✓	✓									
Penny Ablin	✓	✓	✓									
Sherry Bradley	✓	✓	✓									
Susie DeMassey	✓	E	✓									

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

15 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Rebecca Espino, Director – Health & Human Services Agency
Tami Mariscal, Director – Behavioral Health
Lindsey Lujan, Agency Manager – Behavioral Health
Jenn Guhl, MHSA Agency Manager – Behavioral Health
Amanda Lawrance, QI Staff Analyst – Behavioral Health
Joe Shaw, QI Staff Analyst – Behavioral Health
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant – Behavioral Health
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Terri Alford, Mental Health Coordinator – Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Advisory Board Vice-Chair, Mary Anne Schmidt, announced to attendees that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of assuring accurate meeting minutes.
The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm. Twelve of the fifteen members were present and accounted for at the time of roll call to complete a quorum for the Board. Those present were Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Constance Bone, Elizabeth

Marum, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey. Cynthia Halman, Valerie Shuemake, and Heather Farris were not in attendance.

- The February 2, 2022 Findings Resolution for AB 361 indicating that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board would be meeting virtually only for the March 2, 2022, meeting was incorporated into the meeting record (attached).
- A motion was made and seconded to make the April 6, 2022 Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting available for virtual attendance per AB 361 and through #2 of the associated Findings. The motion passed. (Ayes: 12 – Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Constance Bone, Elizabeth Marum, Emily Valentine, Heather Farris, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley, and Susie DeMassey. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Members Absent: 3 – Cynthia Halman, Valerie Shuemake and Heather Farris)

As a result of this determination, the April 6, 2022 Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting will be available through virtual attendance only per the County Administrator’s recommendation to only allow in-person or virtual meetings and not through a combination of both.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all Behavioral Health Advisory Board members present. Introductions were made by Tuolumne County staff as follows: Rebecca Espino - Director Health and Human Services Agency, Tami Mariscal - Behavioral Health Director, Lindsey Lujan - Agency Manager, Jenn Guhl – MHSA Agency Manager, Amanda Lawrance – QI Staff Analyst, Joe Shaw – QI Staff Analyst, and Pandora Armbruster – QI Administrative Assistant. Terri Alford, Mental Health Coordinator for Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools was also present.

III. MHSA UPDATE: STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK – Jenn Guhl, MHSA Agency Manager

Jenn Guhl, MHSA Agency Manager, shared highlights of the current MHSA community program planning process. She explained that there are several opportunities available right now which allow anyone interested in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs and Tuolumne County Behavioral Health (TCBH) services to express their ideas, concerns, or feedback.

One piece of the planning process is an MHSA Community Stakeholders’ Meetings and a survey of TCBH programs via the following survey monkey link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZCGTHTY?fbclid=IwAR2ckEDuj1mnI--Zp4pRrAHn-P4Q_uxMJ1wiE073UiyULr9HPnr6P3IxBrM

This survey is open through March 31, 2022. Hard copies are also available at TCBH Reception, the Enrichment Center, and the David Lambert Community Drop-In Center.

Today’s attendees will be asked a couple of those survey questions to gain feedback through this meeting as well.

Question 1 – What are types of challenges to access mental health in the county and barriers clients face?

- The group identified several concerns such as phone, internet and transportation issues due to the rural nature of our County

- lack of interest or desire to participate in programs from those who could possibly benefit from them.
- lack of secure storage for homeless people to store goods to travel to events/meetings/resources.
- concerns surrounding challenges in filling county provider positions
- lack of interaction via email and social media informing the public of free available programs
- stigma and fear of the mental health system
- mental health and recovery housing programs
- the shortage of psychiatric services available locally and a potential service gap experienced by those that do not qualify for TCBH services.

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, pointed out that TCBH has 36 hours of psychiatry services available each week. Also, MACT, Mathiesen Memorial Indian Health Clinic, private primary care physicians and Adventist Health Sonora all now provide psychiatric care.

Question 2 – What programs are needed?

- Services that assist people in adjusting to change, loss, grief, stress, etc.
- Additional youth mental health services and mobile outreach services
- Hotel vouchers as transitional housing.
- Community group meetings to address the needs of the community
- Local psychiatric housing
- Creative spaces for mental health clients and previously incarcerated individuals to explore their interests
- Increased LGBTQ services and meetings.
- Increased collaborations between agencies to deploy mental health providers in lieu of law enforcement response.

Question 3 – What other concerns do you have?

- Increased community outreach to those severely mentally ill.
- Lack of board and care facilities within our county.
- Underserved youth who suffer from mental health issues.

Another MHSA Community Stakeholders' Meeting is scheduled via Zoom tomorrow, Thursday, March 3, 2022, from 1-3 pm. to receive additional feedback on survey questions.

The second item seeking ideas, feedback and input is the MHSA Innovations submission form which is due no later than March 22, 2022. If you have any potential County innovation plans that you may be interested in, this is the avenue for you to share that information. Innovations plans must be focused on new ideas and ways to improve mental health services within the county.

Supervisor Brandon suggested that a program be developed to pay financially struggling young parents to attend parenting classes, as he feels their lack of funds creates a barrier to attending.

Rebecca Espino, HHSA Director, asked for additional information on using innovation money for housing solutions.

Jenn suggested that those interested provide their input right away as the MHSA Innovations submission date ends soon.

IV. AGENDA REVIEW PERIOD

No revisions suggested.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Maureen Woods moved to approve the February 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Penny Ablin seconded. Motion passed unanimously by those present. (Ayes: 12 – Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Constance Bone, Elizabeth Marum, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 3 – Cynthia Halman, Valerie Shuemaker, and Heather Farris)

VII. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT – Board of Supervisors Representative – Jaron Brandon, District

Supervisor Jaron Brandon shared that the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors (BOS) are currently working on their strategic planning process. This process defines what the BOS would like to see County Departments focus on for the next year or so. The Board has moved from a one-year Priority List to a two-year Priority List, as many of the goals they would like to address will take longer than one year. They are also concentrating on a three-tier system. Most specific to Behavioral Health will be the Public Safety and Community Health and Prosperity priorities. Board priorities are sent back to county staff to determine how these goals can be met.

Ideas and advice are encouraged. Please share with Rebecca and Tami so that this can be brought to the Board of Supervisors attention.

Yesterday, the BOS hosted the Youth Summit, a multi-agency report-out which highlights how our youth are doing in the community. Issues were all familiar; high rates of abuse, stress, and learning challenges due to fluctuating learning environments due to Covid. The Board would like to encourage an additional Youth Summit, bringing in the youth of our community, to speak to their concerns directly.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Tami Mariscal, BH Director

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, shared that the Behavioral Health Department (BHD) actively participated in the Youth Summit held at the Board of Supervisors yesterday.

She informed the group that the department has been reviewing the contract and population service obligations for specialty mental health to assure we are serving all the populations we are required to serve within the capacity that is expected of us. BHD currently provides youth services to those identified as severely emotionally disturbed through contracts with ATCAA, who provides Suicide Prevention activities, SafeTalk and Mental Health First Aid. We fund Friday Night Live activities that focus on substance use education issues through our high schools and Club Live for our middle schools. We fund ICES parenting programs and EPIC which targets teens and substance use by developing a substance use specialist who provides community mentoring. We just engaged with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools to assist with the Mental

Health Student Services Act grant to expand services into school sites and increase mental health services to the whole student body, not just specialty mental health services. We also engage in Foster Care Urgent Response (FURS), partnering with Foster Care and Child Welfare Services to provide de-escalation services to foster youth, up to the age of 21, their parents and foster parents as needed. We are indeed rising to the increased needs of youth within our county.

Our hiring efforts are paying off. We now have 4.5 clinicians in the background process of the 8 positions we needed to fill. We have also hired one Behavioral Health Worker (BHW), with only one position left to fill. At this time, we are halfway to filling our vacant positions.

Our caseload relief should begin around the middle of March. We wish to assure that staff are comfortable, capable, and competent to deliver services. We have developed a four-week training process, as requested by staff, to assure they are successfully onboarded. We are still recruiting for relief clinicians to assist with our 24-7 crisis response. We are also recruiting for 3 vacant Program Supervisor positions and a Program Specialist.

Our required timeliness standard of assessment within 10 days of a request for care is currently at 16 days. As of yesterday, we have expanded the intake schedule out to three per clinician per week. We hope to reduce our number back down to the 10-day standard by next Friday, March 11, 2022. This is part of our Network Adequacy Requirement (NACT).

We are currently preparing for our External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) audit on March 23, 2022. As we receive these recommendations, you can look forward to receiving a presentation on how we are performing from an outside source.

Behavioral Health provided their first 5150 training to the Sheriff's Office about 2 weeks ago. There were 3 cadets who received this training. We will be extending these efforts to the Sonora Police Department soon. It is our hope to continue to train and support law enforcement in mental health crisis response.

Behavioral Health is expanding their services into the jail, providing services to inmates who may be in crisis. We discovered that, through the jail process, a barrier to crisis services had been created. We have addressed this by expanding phone services to incarcerated individuals so that they may contact a crisis worker directly without intervention from a correctional officer or the medical unit.

The Department is working on the Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (F-IST) project, partnering with the State Hospital and our county Correctional partners to begin to do Felony IST restoration for persons currently hospitalized who are considered residents of our county.

The Crisis Mobile Unit grant is currently in the scope of work phase. We have until Friday, March 4, 2022, to submit that information. No go-live date has yet been established. More updates will be forthcoming.

Our misdemeanor or local Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) program is already up and running. We are working with the District Attorney's Office to develop restoration activities for those individuals.

The Children's System of Care (CSOC) partnership between Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Schools, Valley Regional Medical Center, Probation and the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) was created to wrap our arms around the youth that we all serve. We are developing Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) to share minimum necessary information to coordinate efforts in services and supports.

CalAIMS continues. We passed our first milestone in January when Medical Necessity criteria was to be implemented. Behavioral Health did not need to change how we deliver services but did change up our language and policy and will expand it even further when we can.

Mary Anne Schmidt expressed interest in receiving Tami's report in written form to provide a better understanding and education of current efforts by Behavioral Health.

Rebecca Espino, HHS Director, shared that two of the new hires returning to Behavioral Health had previously left the department, but because of the change in our work culture, are now interested in returning.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Members of the Advisory Board may share announcements and/or comment on matters not on the agenda. Advisory Board Members' comments/announcements will be limited to **three minutes**.

Elizabeth Marum was impressed by President Biden's State of the Union address speaking of mental health, substance use and recovery programs. She does not remember any other President talking about such issues during the State of the Union. She would like to suggest that the Union Democrat or the local radio station respond to that by highlighting the services within this county.

Tami shared that she felt there was absolutely a need to raise awareness of mental health issues and highlight all the mental health services that are available to everyone within the county.

Sherry Bradley thanked Tami and her staff for the beautiful card she received while undergoing recent medical treatments.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to **five minutes**. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

No public comments were received.

XI. BUSINESS

Continued Items:

1. "Social Media" Ad-Hoc Committee – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne Schmidt presented the final report from the Social Media Ad-hoc Committee. A copy of that report is attached as a part of these minutes. A PowerPoint presentation was also shared which outlined the work completed by the "Social Media" Ad-Hoc Committee. Those slides are also attached.

Jaron Brandon shared his belief of the need for improved social media content for Behavioral Health. He feels that responses to content and posts should be measured to determine if public awareness of mental health issues and resources are improved.

Mary Anne Schmidt closed the "Social Media" Ad-Hoc Committee.

2. "Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors" Ad-hoc Committee – Rebecca Espino, HHS Director on behalf of Cynthia Halman

Rebecca reviewed the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors PowerPoint presentation. Edits and suggestions were made by Board members. Pandora will make the suggested changes per members requests.

A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Elizabeth to approve the Annual Report to be presented to the Board of Supervisors with suggested edits incorporated. Motion passed unanimously by those present. (Ayes: 9 – Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Constance Bone, Elizabeth Marum, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 6 – Cynthia Halman, Valerie Shuemaker, Emily Valentine, Heather Farris, Jennifer Pastorini, and Marjorie Langdon)

3. Crisis Care Continuum & AB 988 (15 minutes) – Discussion Review, and Possible Action – Cynthia Halman

This item was postponed until next month as Cynthia Halman was not in attendance.

4. “Speakers for Advisory Board” Ad-Hoc Committee (10 minutes) – Cynthia Halman
 - Suggested Speakers – Cathie Parker – TCSOS, Juvenile Hall, Probation Dept., Community Cultural Collaborative, District Attorney’s Office, ATCAA, and Mark Dyken – Resiliency Village
 - Invitations will be extended to them to attend future meetings.

A motion was made by Penny Ablin and seconded by Supervisor Brandon to accept the list of speakers as detailed and allow Cynthia to create a calendar of invitations of those listed to attend and report out at future meetings.

Motion passed unanimously by those present. (Ayes: 9 – Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Constance Bone, Elizabeth Marum, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 6 – Cynthia Halman, Valerie Shuemaker, Emily Valentine, Heather Farris, Marjorie Langdon, and Jennifer Pastorini)

Items for Future Meetings:

5. “Bylaws Review” Ad-hoc Committee (5 minutes) – Cynthia Halman
 - Review, Discussion, and possible Action regarding the “Executive Committee” language used in the current and draft bylaws.
 - Review & Approve County Counsel Edits if completed, and Possible Action to move forward to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance.
6. Social Get-Together Discussion – Cynthia Halman
 - Proposed Date, Place and Associated Costs – Cynthia Halman

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Anne Schmidt requested that an item be added to next month’s agenda allowing the creation of a Nomination Committee for election of Behavioral Health Advisory Board Officers.

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Anne Schmidt at 6:10 pm. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2022, at 4:00 pm via videoconference through Zoom and teleconference only. Meeting information will be posted on the April 2022 Agenda.

1 **Behavioral Health Advisory Board**

2 **County of Tuolumne**

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**FINDINGS OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS
OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2022
PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.**

WHEREAS, all meetings of BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions and requirements; and

WHEREAS, a required condition of Government Code section 54953(e) is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558(b); and

WHEREAS, a further required condition of Government Code section 54953(e) is that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body holds a meeting to determine or has determined by a majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency declaring a state of emergency exists in California due to the threat of COVID-19, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8625); and,

Media Ad Hoc Committee

Final Report to BH Advisory Board

March 2, 2022

At the May 5, 2021 monthly meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, a board discussed the following topics:

1. how the board could communicate with board members about meetings, classes, workshops, and trainings
2. how could the board could engage with the public about mental health issues and services in Tuolumne County

The Advisory Board Chair, Cynthia Halman, asked that an ad hoc committee explore how our board could communicate with its members and with the Tuolumne County community. It has been 10 months of meetings, researching, and discussing with county staff from various departments. Today, as the Media ad hoc chair, I submit the following report of what has happened over this last year.

First, lots of questions were asked:

- Why would our board want to even consider this course of action?
- Who would benefit from this?
- Where would the material come from?
- How would that material be vetted?
- Who would manage it?
- Would we, as a board, be within our scope of duties?

This last question is what we started with:

Section: 5604.2 (a) (1) from the Welfare and Institution Code states:

The local mental health board shall:

Review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems.

Then this led to the next set of questions:

- How do we review?
- How do we evaluate?
- How do we engage with the community to review and evaluate community's mental health needs?

A website page on the county's main website with contact information, calendar of public meetings and events, and a Facebook page, could be a beginning to engage with the Tuolumne County public and the Advisory Board.

- First, we explored how the county website could help us communicate. We discovered that the Advisory Board page looked like a possibility.
- So, the Media Ad Hoc committee had a meeting with BH staff. The committee was informed that a new company was contracted for the whole county website and would be doing some revamping. The committee would need to wait. January 2022 was the expected date of the unveiling of the new county website.
- We were also told that the website updates requested by our board could take up to a month to be placed on the Advisory Board page. This did not meet the Committee's need for timeliness.

With that in mind, the Media Ad Hoc committee continued on to resolve the issue of communicating with our board and the community in a timely manner. Hence, the proposal of a Facebook page that the Advisory Board could manage but with review of content by the BH department working to have a similar message as the department and with a timely turn around for updates. All postings of mental health topics would be from vetted state and federal sources.

- Please review with me the proposal: [\(PowerPoint presentation\)](#)
- The committee had meetings with BH staff, Health and Human Services, County Administrator, Director of BH and County Counsel. Much time and effort went into those meetings. We have learned so much. It seemed we were moving ahead.

Then two weeks ago we reached an impasse. The following are the major concerns BH and County Counsel have:

- The county could be sued.
- The messaging may not be the same as BH Department.
- The time BH staff would spend to vet the material may not be available.

As a result, the Media Ad Hoc committee recommends the following:

- That the BH Advisory Board disband the Media Ad Hoc committee.
- That since there is designated BH staff to manage and monitor the BH Facebook page, we recommend more active and up to date postings.
- That the BH Advisory Board members submit appropriate mental health material to the BH department. It may or may not be used for

postings, but it is an opening to help support the BH department and the Tuolumne County community.

- That in alignment with our duties as Advisory Board, we recommend to shift our focus towards evaluating the performance and community impact of the TCBH Department FB page. From there, BHAB will contribute relevant and applicable advisements to the BH Department.