



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
(Minutes of the meeting of April 6, 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	E								
Cynthia Halman	✓	✓	E	✓								
Mary Anne Schmidt	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Valerie Shuemade	E	✓	E	E								
Constance Bone	A	A	✓	A								
Elizabeth Marum	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Emily Valentine	E	✓	✓	✓								
Heather Farris	✓	✓	E	✓								
Jenn Salazar	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Jennifer Pastorini	✓	✓	✓	E								
Marjorie Langdon	A	✓	✓	E								
Maureen Woods	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Penny Ablin	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Sherry Bradley	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Susie DeMassey	✓	E	✓	E								

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

15 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Tracie Riggs, Tuolumne County Administrator
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 Chair, Cynthia Halman, 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. Ten 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, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Elizabeth Marum, Emily Valentine, Heather Farris, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, and Sherry Bradley. Valerie Shuemaker, Constance Bone, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, and Susie DeMassey were not in attendance.

- The March 2, 2022 Findings Resolution for AB 361 indicating that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board would be meeting virtually only for the April 6, 2022, meeting was incorporated into the meeting record (attached).
- A motion was made and seconded to make the May 4, 2022 Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting available for virtual attendance per AB 361 and through #2 of the associated Findings. The motion passed. (Ayes: 10 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Elizabeth Marum, Emily Valentine, Heather Farris, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, and Sherry Bradley. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Members Absent: 5 – Valerie Shuemaker, Constance Bone, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, and Susie DeMassey)

As a result of this determination, the May 4, 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: Tracie Riggs, Tuolumne County Administrator, 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. AGENDA REVIEW PERIOD**

Rebecca Espino requested that an additional 5 minutes be added to the time allotted for the Director’s Report allowing for a total of 10 minutes.

After member discussion, an item will be added to the upcoming May agenda to discuss the possibility of receiving a written Director’s report prior to the regular meeting each month.

**IV. MHSA INNOVATIONS CONCEPT PRESENTATION: Perinatal Supports –  
Jenn Guhl, MHSA Agency Manager**

Jennifer Guhl informed the group that as a part of the Community Program Planning (CPP) process, ideas/suggestions were solicited from the community for an Innovation Plan for Tuolumne County. Those ideas were received through submission forms available in printed and online formats. The entry period for submission ran from March 1, 2022 through March 22, 2022. Ten submission forms were received from the community over that period.

Innovations submissions were then reviewed on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Quality Management (QM) Team meeting. The QM Team consists of line staff representatives from each program within the Behavioral Health Department, as well as members of the Management Team. Detailed data was compiled and reviewed so that informed decisions on the most viable and needed Innovations concept could be made.

The submission chosen by the Quality Management team was the Perinatal Mental Health Support for Parents Innovation Plan. This support would be open to all parents and pregnant mothers, specifically targeting young parents, foster youth, as well as transitional age youth (TAY). Stakeholder feedback identified youth as one of the demographics in need of additional aid and a potential target of increased mental health awareness efforts. This innovation idea would allow the department to bring in alternative options to support parents. We know that by supporting parents, we will help the youth and children in the community by decreasing the generational trauma occurring in families.

At this point, this is a very basic concept in the beginning stages. There are several possible services that could be supported through this plan, such as social connection, parenting skills, mindfulness groups, yoga, and child development classes. Specific populations can be targeted through pediatricians, OB/GYNs, and other non-profits.

Several steps that must be taken to get this Innovation Plan approved. We are sharing this idea with you now, and once more solidified plans are in place, we will bring it back to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board a second time and open it for Public Comment before submission to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for approval.

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, shared that the ten Innovation Plan submissions recently received by Behavioral Health were very exciting. These great ideas were spread across all age cohorts, different milieus of services, or interventions. It was important that we used our demographic population data gained from claims to look closely at our penetration rates (the rate at which how many Tuolumne County Medi-Cal eligible individuals (14,000) actually receive Behavioral Health services). We found that there were two age groups (youth and TAY) who were very low in accessing Behavioral Health services. These figures were not unique to Tuolumne County as they are also reflected in other small counties and statewide averages. This aligns with the Board of Supervisors initiative in supporting youth, as well as our county partners, who are banding together to focus on youth issues within our community. We are concentrating on treating the entire household to improve youth services by providing parental education and support. There are a lot of specialty services within the substance use realm that don't exist in mental health, so we plan on pulling in perinatal services, which increases family unity, better choices in living, and increased parenting skills. We have treatment, children's play and socialization all built-in to this innovation concept. We are still at the infancy stage but are hopeful this plan will impact families lives in very positive ways.

Jennifer Guhl asked if any Behavioral Health Advisory Board members had feedback surrounding this proposed innovation plan. Maureen Woods shared her experience in working with perinatal programs in the Public Health field in the past. She suggests looking into Public Health key players to involve them in collaboration efforts and funding opportunities.

Sherry Bradley thanked the department for choosing this project as it could have some very innovative aspects to it.

Jaron Brandon agrees that this could be a really great program. He would like to see a comparative report to the other innovation projects that were submitted. He feels that this would allow the Behavioral Health Advisory Board to weigh in on each submission.

Sherry relayed that the county has not had an innovation project in quite some time and, as a result of that, wonders if there is enough money for more than one innovation project at this time.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

## VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sherry Bradley moved to approve the March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes with noted corrections. Elizabeth Marum seconded. Motion passed. (Ayes: 8 – Jaron Brandon, Mary Anne Schmidt, Elizabeth Marum, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Abstentions: 2 - Cynthia Halman and Heather Farris Absent: 5 – Valerie Shuemake, Constance Bone, Jennifer Pastorini, Marjorie Langdon, and Susie DeMassey)

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

Supervisor Jaron Brandon congratulated Cynthia Halman and Tami Mariscal on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's Annual Report presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) are continuing work on their priority list which will be coming back on April 12<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion at yesterday's BOS meeting of the Legislative Agenda. Jaron shared that he has recommended Care Courts (Governor's Newsom's initiative) be included on the list for more discussion as this initiative has been identified as one that may be difficult to implement in smaller counties.

Site reviews for an outdoor shelter continue through the Commission on Homelessness. A planning grant related to the Navigation Center was applied for. For the first time since 2014, there was a meeting of the governing board of ATCAA. ATCAA Board membership is low so they are looking for candidates that may be interested in serving.

Jason Elliott, Senior Counsel for Governor Newsom's Housing and Homelessness Committee, was present at a recent conference up in Yosemite. He shared information about the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (CIP).

Sonora PRIDE will be holding another event. They are looking for a venue and potential partners in the community.

There is a new President at the Columbia College, Selena Tran, and Jaron suggests she be invited as a future speaker to the Advisory Board.

Jaron would like a future agenda item added requesting a presentation from Behavioral Health staff on their social media strategies and digital communications.

## VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tami Mariscal, BH Director

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, thanked Supervisor Brandon for mentioning the PRIDE Event and shared that the Behavioral Health Department (BHD) is participating this year and attended last year's event as well. The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) will be invited to join the department in this effort. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

The department is taking part in the Blue Zones Discovery Fair on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. A booth promoting mental health awareness will be manned by staff and Advisory Board member volunteers. Staff will also be appearing in their Inflatable costumes throughout the Fair grounds.

The department will be a part of the Mother Lode Mothers' Day Parade on May 7<sup>th</sup> this year. Staff are working on a float and inflatables will also be represented. The float's

theme is “Garden of Hope” and will be promoting mental health awareness and recovery throughout the community.

BHD is continuing to manage recruitment efforts and vacancies. We currently still have 21 vacancies. We have recently lost a Fiscal Tech who secured employment closer to their community of residence. We had a relief Transportation Officer who secured full time employment elsewhere. Our Deputy Director position remains unfilled by choice. We have three Program Supervisor positions available, one of which we are interviewing for this Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. We have seven Clinician positions and one Behavioral Health Worker II position open. We have 2 Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) positions open as we recently had a staff member retire. One of the open LVN positions will be converted into the Registered Nurse (RN) classification to expand scope of practice and increase program fidelity. We have one Medical Office Assistant position vacant. One Mental Health Program Specialist position is also open, which was Jennifer Guhl’s previous position. We had interviews today for that position and felt that there were several viable candidates. And finally, we have a MHSA Behavioral Health Worker position vacancy that supports the Enrichment Center with Benefits and Resources assistance.

Since our last report to the BHAB, we have had one Clinician join our team, Mickey Gibson. She joined our team on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and is under a 4-week training cycle. She will be ready for a full caseload in three weeks.

Applications continue to come in. We are excited and can see that something is happening out there. People are choosing to consider Tuolumne County Behavioral Health (TCBH) as a place to work. We do have two other clinicians in the wings, pending background checks.

Please look forward to the month of May, which is Mental Health Awareness month. We will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors requesting a proclamation of such. We invite all to attend and speak to the importance of Mental Health Awareness within our community.

Tami shared her gratitude of the Advisory Board and Supervisor Jaron Brandon for their interest in gaining Behavioral Health’s opinion and concerns about Senate Bill 1338-Care Court before deciding to support this proposal as it was written. There are a lot of potential challenges with the implementation of this bill. Tami believes that with everyone’s passion and interest in assuring the best care for those that we serve, that great plans can be created for these individuals.

Behavioral Health is building out their substance use disorder treatment programs for perinatal, and for judicial referrals. As a result of that, we identified that we have an integrated behavioral health system. We serve the whole person, not just mental health and substance use disorders, but any underlying issues overall that may contribute to their struggles. To promote this integrated approach, we are now sharing more Substance Use Disorder material and information through our Facebook page. Tami requested that the Advisory Board, as partners in promoting mental health topics, expand their vision of what that material and information should look like.

As the previous Social Media Ad-Hoc group came to a close last month, a plan for support was left in place. The protocol of just how that partnership could be utilized was not fully discussed. Tami encouraged BHAB members to forward any material they felt could be appropriate for posting on the Facebook page to Pandora Armbruster or Jenn Guhl for consideration of publishing. Once vetted through the county’s Social Media Policy, items will be quickly shared through our social media page. The county is currently entered into a marketing contract with Archer and Hound which will promote items posted in our

Facebook as an extension of County services. This should help increase likes and coverage of our shared content.

**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**.

Jenn Salazar talked about her concerns about those encountered through her work with One Pile At A Time. She shared hand-written of signs witnessed at the homeless site she is currently cleaning. She feels that the unsheltered population is currently underserved and believes that there are about 20 of these camps throughout the area. She relayed several overdose and mental health incidents and stories shared with her by individuals residing at these sites. She would like ideas of how One Pile At A Time can collaborate with resources and services to help these individuals. She requests that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board members follow One Pile At A Time on social media.

The group thanked Jenn Salazar and requested/discussed ideas for supporting her in her efforts. The group spoke about the Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness. Supervisor Brandon offered to connect Jenn with those Commission members and staff.

Mary Anne Schmidt suggested that the Chair create a Nomination Ad Hoc Committee to prepare for officer elections in June as this item was inadvertently left off of this agenda. She also requested that BHAB members receive a copy of the recent Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors PowerPoint presentation. She would also like to see an agenda item related to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board website in order to start the process of updating and developing that page.

Cynthia Halman agreed to place an item on next month's agenda for the formation of an Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee tasked with planning for Officer Elections.

**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**

**Due to technical difficulties with the videoconference platform, no further business was conducted, or items were reviewed.**

**BHAB members were asked to submit their Bylaws edits and concerns in writing to Pandora Armbruster for compilation and review at the next month's meeting.**

**All items remaining items below will be brought forward to the May 4, 2022 meeting.**

### **Continued Items:**

1. "Bylaws Review" Ad-hoc Committee (20 minutes) – Mary Anne Schmidt
  - Review, Discussion & Possible Action to Approve County Counsel Edits and move draft Bylaws forward to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance.

2. 988 Messaging Framework Webinar Report: Discussion and Review (10 minutes) - Sherry Bradley & Cynthia Halman

**Items for Future Meetings:**

3. Social Get-Together Discussion – Cynthia Halman
  - Proposed Date, Place and Associated Costs – Cynthia Halman

<b>XI. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Halman due to technical difficulties. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for May 4, 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

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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.