



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
(Minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2021)**

FINAL

<u>2021 MHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaron Brandon - BOS	C	✓	✓	✓								
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt	A	E	E	E								
Cynthia Halman	N	✓	✓	✓								
Mary Anne Schmidt	C	✓	✓	✓								
Valerie Shuemake	E	E	✓	E								
Chris Daly	L	✓	E	✓								
Emily Valentine	L			✓								
Jenn Salazar	E	✓	✓	✓								
Jennifer Pastorini	D			✓								
Penny Ablin				✓								
Sherry Bradley			✓	✓								

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

10 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Michael Wilson, Director – BH
Rebecca Espino, Director - HHS
Lindsey Lujan, QI Manager – BH
Donna Fone, FSP Supervisor - BH
Amanda Lawrance, QI Staff Analyst - BH
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant - BH
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Elizabeth Marum
Maureen Woods
Susie DeMassey

I. CALL TO ORDER

Advisory Board Chair, Cynthia Halman, called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. Nine of the 10 members were present and accounted for through roll call to complete a quorum for the Board. Present were Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin, and Sherry Bradley. Excused: Valerie Shuemake

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were limited to the three candidates in attendance with pending applications under review for possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for appointment to the Advisory Board. They were as follows: Susie DeMassey, Elizabeth Marum and Maureen Woods.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The group pointed out two corrections to the minutes; a spelling correction to Penny Ablin's last name on Page 4, as well as the inclusion of a discussion of the deadline for submitting items for the agenda at least 10 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date on Page 3. A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Mary Anne Schmidt to approve the minutes for March 3, 2021, including those noted corrections. The motion passed. (Ayes: 5 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Jenn Salazar, and Sherry Bradley Abstentions: 4 – Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Penny Ablin, and Jennifer Pastorini Nays: 0)

V. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Board of Supervisors Representative – Jaron Brandon

Supervisor Brandon congratulated Emily, Penny and Jennifer on their recent appointments to the Advisory Board. They were approved during the April 6, 2021 Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Jaron informed the Advisory Board that the final membership selection for the Homelessness Advisory Committee is complete and the Board of Supervisors is quite pleased with those appointments. These candidates are very active in the community and seem to be a great fit for this new committee. The Homelessness Committee is currently in the process of creating their Bylaws, scope, and officer positions. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 19th and Jaron has asked for those interested to attend.

Supervisor Brandon relayed that the "One Pile at a Time" project near the Lowes area is now complete. This very successful project removed over 250 cubic yards of debris from that location and it is now a clean. This project was completed with the help of those that were occupying that area. Even now, the group overall is looking at creative ways that momentum can be maintained in managing this issue by researching what other cities and counties are doing to continue this work in our community.

Jaron announced that the county is hopeful that they will be returning to in-person Board of Supervisor meetings as of May 1, 2021 or Yellow Tier status, whichever comes first. Attendees will still be able to video-in or call in, depending on their preference, and Jaron encourages the community to make use of the public comment period during those meetings so that District Supervisors can accurately represent them and their concerns and needs.

Supervisor Brandon thanked Mary Anne Schmidt for her extensive work in reviewing the Advisory Board's Bylaws so that appropriate updates are made, reflecting current processes, laws, and duties. He is currently working on a Board of Supervisor's Committee and Commission reform package to engage the community and encourage participants to serve.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Members of the Advisory Board may give reports and comment on matters not on the agenda.

- Cynthia Halman – Lantern of Light Suicide Prevention Training & California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) Training for Members

Cynthia Halman shared a flyer from Lantern of Light Ministries of a free upcoming safeTALK Training scheduled for April 17, 2021 from 8:45 am – 1:00 pm. This suicide alertness training offered through the faith-based entity will be in-person. It focuses on the skills needed to make life-saving connections, in supporting people with thoughts of suicide and to choose life.

Cynthia also shared the April CALBHB/C newsletter which provided details of free available trainings for Advisory Board Members. She points out that Living Works is also recommended CALBHB/C and the safeTALK training provided by Lantern of Light is a Living Works training. She recommends an upcoming Implicit Bias training that she felt was valuable and will share that link with Advisory Board members via email after the meeting.

- Jenn Salazar requested to share during the Board Member reporting portion of this meeting, but was redirected to agenzize any topics she wishes to share for the May Meeting as Cynthia wants to assure that the meeting follows Brown Act requirements surrounding the posting of topics for discussion.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

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 comments were received.

VIII. BUSINESS

(Cont. from last meeting) Action to Approve Proposed Revisions to TCBH Advisory Board Bylaws, Article 4, Section 4 Conflicts of Interest, section b. Restrictions on Membership

Cynthia shared that Tuolumne's County Council recommended the adoption of Option 1 of the proposed amendment to the by-laws, as that option mirrors language in the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5604. Membership. Language for Option 1 is as follows:

4(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the board or the member's spouse shall not be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Department of Health Care Services, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of, a mental health contract agency.

4(b)(2) A consumer of mental health services who has obtained employment with an employer described in paragraph (1) and who holds a position in which the consumer does not have any interest, influence, or authority over any financial or contractual matter concerning the employer may be appointed to the board. The member shall abstain from voting on any financial or contractual issue concerning the member's employer that may come before the board.

Jaron motioned to recommend the above-referenced amendment to the Advisory Board Bylaws to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Mary Anne Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Ayes: 8 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Abstentions: 1 – Emily Valentine Nays: 0)

(Cont. from last meeting) TCBH Innovations Plan – Michael Wilson, Director Behavioral Health

Director Wilson shared the Innovative Project Plan packet with the Advisory Board and requested their preliminary input on areas of the packet identified in red type. He shared that this is the beginning stage of the project as additional feedback will be received through the 30-day community shareholder process. Once that is completed, this proposal will be brought back before the Advisory Board for their review before it is finalized.

Michael shared brief highlights of the proposed project and pointed out goals specific to our county's needs. Tuolumne County's Child Protective Services reports are high compared to the rest of the state and goals associated with this project would be aimed at assisting youth at school and at home, wherever the need is identified.

This venture is planned to support that concern by providing a mental health presence at our schools, especially those schools identified by need with "Mental Health Navigators." These navigators would assist youth in receiving appropriate resources aimed at their specific needs, and/or possibly train other youth as navigators themselves, to achieve sustainability of this project.

Mr. Wilson stated that he hoped to have the Enrichment Center (EC) open for youth as an after-school place for them but that the logistics and planning still need to be completed. This would entail closing to adults at a specific time and re-opening for youth after an appropriate interval to ensure that the two populations (adults and youth) to be served by the EC would be separated. The Advisory Board group discussed several options of securing access appropriate to the proposed age groups to be served at the community center.

Michael also requested input surrounding the proposed duration of time for this innovation project. Most Board members agreed that plan should be for as long as is permitted so that the project has the best chance for sustainability after the grant ends. This also allows time to educate the community and gain their approval of the benefits to children in need.

Sherry Bradley explained what an Innovation Plan consists of and shared the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) definition of an Innovation Plan for members. She inquired what exactly the county hoped to learn through this Innovation Project. Michael explained that the goal would be to determine which strategies would be the most effective at addressing service need; what level of treatment/intervention/prevention would be most beneficial, and what classification of staff would be most suited and have the best impact in providing services. Transportation, telehealth and satellite or kiosk sites (possibly Groveland) may also be a positive component of this plan.

Several other points were discussed by the group. Michael requested feedback be given to the Department at next month's meeting.

A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Emily Valentine to create an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Sherry Bradley, Jaron Brandon, and Jenn Salazar to review the Innovations Project Plan and provide feedback to the rest of the Board at May's Meeting. The motion passed by all members present. (Ayes: 9 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0)

Laura's Law – Michael Wilson, Behavioral Health Director

Michael Wilson, Behavioral Health Director, shared his recommendation for the County's response to Laura's Law (AB 1421). Laura's Law is a California state law that allows for

court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment. To qualify for the program, the person must have a serious mental illness plus a recent history of psychiatric hospitalizations, jailing's, or acts, threats or attempts of serious violent behavior towards self or others, and must also have been offered an opportunity to voluntarily participate in a treatment plan by the local mental health department, yet fails to the point that, without a Laura's Law program, he or she will likely relapse or deteriorate to the point of being dangerous to self or others.

Recent changes to Laura's Law require that counties now opt out of participating vs. opting in. This is accomplished through a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. Behavioral Health's opposition to Laura's Law is to the law itself. The law states that funding cannot reduce those dedicated to the delivery of voluntary services. The implementation of this law would directly impact voluntary service delivery funding. The possible funds saved would not necessarily positively impact Behavioral Health but would be spread throughout county programs. It is felt that this may be something that Tuolumne County may wish to participate in next year, but at this time, Michael believes that there may be shortcomings to the regulation and a philosophical concern.

Michael is requesting the Advisory Board's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to opt out of Laura's Law. Time is of the essence to this response, as the deadline to submit to the state is 60 days before the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Sherry Bradley in support of opting out of implementing Laura's Law based on the Behavioral Health Director's recommendation at this time. The motion passed. (Ayes: 8 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Abstains: 1- Emily Valentine Nays: 0)

Agenda Item Reorganization

Due to the length of this meeting and in the interest of time, a motion was made to re-order agenda items in hopes of completing actionable items. Jaron Brandon moved, and Emily Valentine seconded the motion. Motion passed by all members present. (Ayes: 9 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Chris Daly, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0)

Discuss member Rosters, Categories, number of members and Term Limits – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Appoint three members to the Nominating Committee (Article 7.3 of Bylaws) – Mary Anne Schmidt

After group discussion, this agenda item was removed as a new Executive Committee is not due for election until next year.

Discuss the creation of an Executive Board and its duties – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Discuss the duties of the Secretary – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Discuss meeting parameters: Length, time, opening Zoom before meeting time, etc. – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to create an Orientation Plan & Mentor Assignments for New Board Members – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Discussion and possible action to establish a calendar for the TCBH Advisory Board – Mary Anne Schmidt

Tabled until May Advisory Board Meeting

Valerie Shuemaker Term Expiration – Cynthia Halman

The group discussed moving a recommendation for Valerie Shuemaker's reappointment to the Advisory Board forward to the Board of Supervisors. It was also noted that Mary Anne Schmidt's term was due to expire in May. A motion was made by Sherry Bradley and seconded by Jaron Brandon to recommend reappointment to the Advisory Board for both Mary Anne and Valerie to the Board of Supervisors. The motion to move the recommendation to reappoint Valerie passed, but the motion to forward a recommendation for Mary Anne's reappointment forward did not, as this item was not agenzized properly for next month. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

Advisory Board Application from Maureen Woods – Review, discussion, and possible action

Mary Anne Schmidt inquired of Maureen Woods why she would like to be a member of the Advisory Board. Maureen responded that her many years of experience living and serving in Tuolumne County, as well as her experience with Behavioral Health would make her an asset to the Board.

A motion was made by Mary Anne Schmidt and seconded by Sherry Bradley to forward her application with a recommendation of her Advisory Board appointment to the Board of Supervisors. Motion passed. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

Advisory Board Application from Susie DeMassey – Review, discussion, and possible action

Mary Anne Schmidt inquired of Susie DeMassey why she would like to serve on the Advisory Board. Susie responded that her experience and ability to give time to this board would make her a good candidate. Many years of experience living and serving in Tuolumne County would make her an asset to the Board.

A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Mary Anne Schmidt to forward Susie DeMassey's application to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for appointment to the Advisory Board. Motion passed. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

Advisory Board Application from M. Elizabeth Marum – Review, discussion, and possible action

Mary Anne Schmidt inquired of Elizabeth Marum why she would like to serve on the Advisory Board. Elizabeth responded that she has worked in the mental health field for over 50 years and felt that her input could be valuable to the Advisory Board.

Penny Ablin moved to make the recommendation to move M. Elizabeth Marum's application forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This motion was seconded by Jaron Brandon. The motion passed. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary

Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

Advisory Board Application from Rebekah Crotty – Review, discussion, and possible action

Rebekah Crotty was not available at the meeting. The group discussed Rebekah’s application and it was noted that her experience as a mental health consumer, her exceptional organizational skills and her abilities as a social media specialist and communicator would be of benefit to the board.

Jaron Brandon moved to make the recommendation to move Rebekah Crotty’s application forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This motion was seconded by Emily Valentine. The motion passed. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

IX. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Michael Wilson, LMFT - BH Director

Director Wilson shared his pleasure in the Board’s expansion and renewed interest in Tuolumne County Mental Health. He believes that this topic is so important in our community and the Board interest and participation in promoting mental health will be beneficial to the county.

Michael announced an upcoming virtual Community Mental Health Townhall which will include community partners throughout the county and will focus on available services provided within our community and COVID. This townhall is scheduled for the first week of May and will coincide with May’s Mental Health Awareness Month.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Any items left on the agenda will be moved forward to the May Meeting. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jennifer Pastorini and seconded by Jaron Brandon. Motion passed. (Ayes: 8 - Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley Nays: 0 Absent: 1 - Chris Daly)

The meeting adjourned by Cynthia Halman at 5:48 PM. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021, at 4:00 pm via Zoom and teleconference. Meeting information will be posted on the May 2021 Agenda.