



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
(Minutes of the meeting of June 2, 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	E	E						
Cynthia Halman	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Mary Anne Schmidt	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Valerie Shuemade	E	E	✓	E	✓	✓						
Chris Daly	L	✓	E	✓	✓	E						
Emily Valentine	L			✓	✓	✓						
Jenn Salazar	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Jennifer Pastorini	D			✓	✓	✓						
M. Elizabeth Marum					✓	A						
Maureen Woods					✓	✓						
Penny Ablin				✓	✓	E						
Rebekah Crotty					E	E						
Sherry Bradley			✓	✓	✓	E						
Susie DeMassey					✓	✓						

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

14 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Michael Wilson, Director – BH
Tami Mariscal, Deputy Director - BH
Rebecca Espino, Director - HHS
Lindsey Lujan, Agency Manager – BH
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant - BH
Amanda Lawrance, Staff Services Analyst - BH
Steve Roos, FSP Clinician - BH
Lynette Swanson, FSP Clinician - BH
Trish Dalman, Planned Services Clinician - BH
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Several other attendees were also present who chose not to identify themselves.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Advisory Board Chair, Cynthia Halman, called the meeting to order at 4:24 pm. Eight of the fourteen members were present and accounted for through roll call to complete a quorum for the Board. Present at that time were Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, and Susie DeMassey. Per communications received by the Chairperson, Chris Daly, Penny

Ablin, Rebekah Crotty and Sherry Bradley will not be in attendance. Valerie Shuemake and M. Elizabeth Marum had not yet arrived at the time the meeting was called to order.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by those Advisory Board Members present and several others in attendance as follows: Cynthia Halman - Advisory Board Chairperson, Mary Anne Schmidt - Advisory Board Vice-Chair, Jaron Brandon - District 5 County Supervisor, Emily Valentine - Advisory Board member, Jenn Salazar - Advisory Board member, Jennifer Pastorini - Advisory Board member, Maureen Woods - Advisory Board member, Susie DeMassey - Advisory Board member, Rebecca Espino - Health & Human Services Director, Michael Wilson - Director of Behavioral Health, Tami Mariscal - Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, Pandora Armbruster – Administrative Assistant Behavioral Health, Steve Roos – Full Service Partnership (FSP) Clinician Behavioral Health, Lynette Swanson - FSP Clinician Behavioral Health, Kalindi Botto - Planned Services Clinician Behavioral Health and Trish Dalman – Planned Services Clinician Behavioral Health. Several other attendees were also present who chose not to identify themselves.

III. AGENDA REVIEW

After reviewing proposed agenda items, the chairperson noted that items #1 and #2 under Section IX. - Business, would be tabled until the July 2021 meeting as the presenter, Sherry Bradley, is not in attendance at this meeting.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Cynthia Halman pointed out that a correction was needed on Page 3, Item 7, paragraph 3, first sentence, second line, to remove the words “with the” from the May 5, 2021 Advisory Board Minutes. A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Emily Valentine to approve the minutes for May 5, 2021, with that noted correction. The motion passed unanimously by all members present at that time. (Ayes: 8 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, and Susie DeMassey. Absent: 6 - Valerie Shuemake, Chris Daly, M. Elizabeth Marum, Penny Ablin, Rebekah Crotty and Sherry Bradley)

VI. SUPERVISOR’S REPORT: Board of Supervisors Representative – Jaron Brandon

District 5 Supervisor, Jaron Brandon, reported that the Board of Supervisors are currently working on their budget process and completing the 3rd Quarter Review. Jaron shared that due to an increase in TOT and sales taxes, the budget does not appear to be as bad as in past years. Some adjustments to allocations are being made. The county was previously looking at a \$1.6 million deficit but is now looking at a \$600,000 shortfall. The current improvement to the budget does not indicate any concessions, layoffs, or reclassifications may be necessary at this time. Overall, progress is being made with the budget.

After receiving a presentation by Cassandra Jenecke, Tuolumne County District Attorney, Supervisor Brandon relayed that the Board of Supervisors have declared June 2021 to be Elder Abuse Month. Assistant District Attorney, Eric Hovatter, had also given a presentation about a year ago on that topic that Jaron had been able to attend. This topic is important to the District Attorney’s office as Tuolumne county has very high incident rates of child abuse and elder abuse, almost double of what is seen on average throughout the state.

VII. 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 five minutes.

- Mary Anne Schmidt shared that Advisory Board member, Sherry Bradley, sent via email that she will be out on medical leave for an unknown amount of time.

Mary Anne also noted that the Board of Supervisors have recently approved her renewal application to serve on the Advisory Board.

- Cynthia Halman shared that Lantern of Light Ministries is hosting a suicide prevention training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training-ASIST) on June 10-11, 2021 as noted last month. At this time, the training is full, but those still interested in attending are being placed on a waiting list in case openings become available due to last minute cancellations.

Cynthia also relayed information regarding a new grief group starting up at Hospice. There are no participation restrictions in place regarding suffering a loss of someone utilizing hospice services. You may attend if you have experienced any kind of grief or loss of a loved one. Please call (209) 536-5687 for more information.

Advisory Board member Valerie Shuemake arrived at the meeting via Zoom at 4:37 pm.

VIII. 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.

Cynthia Halman invited members of the public to comment on any items not already on the agenda.

Steven Roos, Full-Service Partnership Behavioral Health Clinician, shared his concerns around the current staff shortage at Behavioral Health. He suggested that the FSP program be used as a model for the Planned Services program to alleviate some of the feelings of staff surrounding communication. He theorizes that some of the recruitment and retention issues of new clinicians is a contributing factor to current staff shortages. He acknowledges that recruitment change efforts are not within the hands of the clinicians or the department as it involves wages, qualifications, interests, etc. and are bound by county agreements. He feels that other areas within Behavioral Health could be improved upon though with clearer communication within the department. Steve recognizes the effort put into recent department Stay Interviews and believes that these are a good sign of management's concern over these issues. He remains optimistic that changes will materialize, encouraging clinicians to stay and enticing others to seek employment within the department.

Lynette Swanson, Behavioral Health Full-Service Partnership Clinician, thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to share her experience. While working for Tuolumne County Behavioral Health she primarily serves severely mentally ill children and has for over a year. She relayed her concerns surrounding departing staff and the need to increase training in the Planned Services program, potentially modeling their program after the FSP program. Lynette addressed problems at Behavioral Health and advocated for change to model other programs after the FSP program and to increase hourly wages for clinical staff.

Trish Dalman, Planned Services Clinician II for Behavioral Health, introduced herself to the Board and described her three-and-half-year work history within the department. She shared her concerns surrounding Behavioral Health and her role. Additionally, she addressed wage discrepancies of clinicians as compared to other counties. Trish advocated for change in receiving pay increases.

Cynthia Halman thanked those who spoke out during the public comment period. She shared her appreciation of the dedication and work described during the public comment period. Mary Anne Schmidt requested that this topic be added to next month's agenda.

IX. BUSINESS

Tabled from Last Meeting:

1. (Cont. from May meeting) Review of Government Code Section 54954.2, subsections as they pertain to Internet Website Posting of Agendas. – Sherry Bradley
This item was tabled until the July Meeting as Sherry Bradley was not present.
2. (Cont. from May Meeting) Report from CBHPC Planning Council's Performance Outcome Data & Fiscal Information Planning – Sherry Bradley

These items were tabled until further notice as Sherry Bradley was not present due to medical concerns. If appropriate, these will be brought back upon her return.

New Business:

3. Youth on Board: Age Limit for Board Members – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne shared information gained through her attendance at a webinar presentation through CALBHB/C regarding mental health support for schools. The topic of youth serving on Advisory Boards came up and Mary Anne spoke with Therese Comstock about using youth members on our Advisory Board. Therese supported the idea but noted that the age of youth appointed are usually between 16 and 25, with the most common ages between 18-25. She also noted that a three-year commitment can sometimes be a challenge for young people in that age group. She suggested that youth be asked to serve for as long as they are able during their 3-year term. If life changes required that they step down, that would be supported in the same manner as is adult members who cannot complete their term.

Mary Anne felt that it is important to involve youth and suggested that whenever possible, interested youth be invited to come and speak to the board on mental health issues specific to them. This would be one way to interview and recruit for appointment to the Board. Currently, the chairman of the Fresno Behavioral Health Board is a very dynamic, 25-year-old who is very involved in youth mental health issues in that region.

Mary Anne has several topics that she would like the Board to discuss: What can youth bring to the board? What are the board's expectations of them? And how do we recruit?

Emily shared her belief that having youth participate would be wonderful and suggested that social media and Facebook could be a positive way to draw younger people in. Emily suggested that behavioral health clinicians or therapists working with youth could solicit their interest in serving on the board.

Valerie also suggested school counselors be asked to refer students who may be interested, either through their mental health services or through their interest in pursuing a career in counseling.

Susie DeMassey suggested reaching out to high school seniors to see if students would be interested in utilizing this for extra credit or as a senior project.

Jennifer Pastorini suggested soliciting interest from students attending Columbia College.

4. “Welcome to the Board” Event – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne relayed that several Board members have expressed interest in getting to know each other better, but with Brown Act concerns it limits what get-togethers could be arranged. Meeting at Behavioral Health could cause a challenge as it could be considered mental health business. Supervisor Brandon shared that Board members can meet if they were not meeting to speak about any mental health business or current issues or concerns. An offsite luncheon with other members to get to know each other better would be acceptable.

Valerie Shuemake suggested that Mary Anne choose a date and venue and see how many board members could attend. Mary Anne agreed to set something up and reach out to other members of the Advisory Board regarding their ability to attend.

5. Request for Speaker/Presentation on Community Cultural Collaborative – Cynthia Halman

A motion was made by Supervisor Brandon and seconded by Maureen Woods to request that BH Director Michael Wilson arrange a speaker and presentation from the Behavioral Health Community Cultural Collaborative for the August 2021 meeting or later. Motion passed by all members present. (Ayes: 9 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Valerie Shuemake, Emily Valentine, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, and Susie DeMassey. Absent: 5 - Chris Daly, M. Elizabeth Marum, Penny Ablin, Rebekah Crotty and Sherry Bradley)

Ad-Hoc Committee’ Progress Reports:

6. Bylaws Review Ad-Hoc Committee – Mary Anne Schmidt

The Bylaws Review Ad-Hoc Committee met on May 17, 24 and 26 where it became apparent that a complete review of the bylaws was in order as several items were intertwined. The bylaws were updated to reflect the committee’s suggested edits and reviewed by Sarah Carrillo with Tuolumne County Counsel’s office. County Counsel’s edits will be reviewed by the Bylaws Ad-Hoc committee on June 21, 2021 and brought forward to the July monthly meeting for review and approval to move forward by the Advisory Board. Once discussed and possibly approved to move forward, the bylaws will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance at the next opportunity. Board members are asked to review the edited bylaws which will be provided with the July agenda packet prior to the meeting.

7. Orientation & Mentoring Ad-Hoc Committee – Mary Anne Schmidt

The Orientation & Mentoring Ad-Hoc Committee met on May 18, and May 25 to create a plan. The committee would like to bring the Orientation and On-Going Education Plan forward at the July meeting for a 30-minute review and discussion period with the rest of the Advisory Board. Board members are asked to review the plan provided with the July agenda packet prior to the meeting.

8. Social Media & Calendar Ad-Hoc Committee – Mary Anne Schmidt

The Social Media & Calendar Ad-Hoc Committee met on May 19, and 25 to review what a proposed communication plan would look like. The committee came to the realization that the plan would need to be reviewed further with Behavioral Health staff. The committee asked for a one-hour meeting with two staff members that could work on Behavioral Health communications.

Jaron Brandon inquired whether Behavioral Health had staff dedicated to outside communications or whether this was something that would be picked up by staff already assigned to other tasks. Michael clarified that there were no staff specifically assigned to communications for Behavioral Health. Jaron informed the group that the Board of Supervisors were currently in communication regarding a \$100,000 contract with Archer and Hound, a public relations communication group based out of Fresno, CA. The group discussed the need for assistance with social media, townhalls, etc. Jaron suggested that the Advisory Board could gain information through that contract and possibly sit in on those early discussions.

Michael will arrange identified staff to meet with Mary Anne regarding the Ad-Hoc Committee's communication ideas and plans sometime within the next month.

9. Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors Ad-Hoc Workgroup Committee – Cynthia Halman

Cynthia informed the Board that the other members of her Ad-Hoc workgroup are currently suffering from medical conditions and solicits interest from other members that wish to join to move this forward. Jaron Brandon offers to assist.

Call for Action: Items 10-14 identified below from CALBHB/C Recommendations – Cynthia Halman

Cynthia suggested that the group investigate the Assembly Bills listed below and be sure to send in letters of support through the following identified CALBHB/C website link: <https://www.calbhbc.org/legislative-advocacy.html> The website is easy to use and walks you through the submission of sample letters for each bill to representatives.

The group discussed the possibility of combining efforts into one letter or soliciting support through the Board of Supervisors, but the consensus determined that individual statements of support could be more impactful.

A Call-To-Action Ad-Hoc Committee was created consisting of Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman and Mary Anne Schmidt to review these Assembly Bills and determine how best to move forward. Jaron requested Michael or Rebecca supply a brief summation of each bill and their potential positive or negative impacts to the department for their review.

- 10. AB 988 – Mental Health Crisis Support, 988 Crisis Hotline
- 11. AB 32 – Telehealth, Expanding Healthcare Accessibility
- 12. AB 552 – Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership
- 13. AB 816 – Homelessness Accountability
- 14. SB 224 – Pupil Instruction

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michael Wilson, LMFT - BH Director
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Director Wilson relayed that the department has been busy with the independent term review of the mental health block grant program. The final EQRO (External Quality Review Organization) report has also been received. These are all reports that the Advisory Board may wish to review. He shared that some counties have their Advisory Boards

review contracts, which helps educate them on what they do, how business is conducted and their plans to move forward.

Tami Mariscal, Deputy Director, informed the Advisory Board that they can look forward to the department sharing the final EQRO report soon.

Several large Behavioral Health contracts are coming up, one specific to the electronic health record which Michael feels may be interesting to the board.

Mary Anne requests an update on the Innovation project and was informed that there is no new information to share now. Michael hopes to have more information out prior to the new school year starting but does not wish to additionally impact staff currently taxed because of the staff shortage.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Halman at 5:59 PM. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2021, at 4:00 pm via Zoom, teleconference and in person following any public health restrictions. Meeting information will be posted on the July 2021 Agenda.