



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
(Minutes of the meeting of July 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	E	E	E					
Cynthia Halman	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Mary Anne Schmidt	C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Valerie Shuemake	E	E	✓	E	✓	✓	✓					
Chris Daly	L	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓					
Emily Valentine	L			✓	✓	✓	E					
Jenn Salazar	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Jennifer Pastorini	D			✓	✓	✓	✓					
M. Elizabeth Marum					✓	A	E					
Maureen Woods					✓	✓	✓					
Penny Ablin				✓	✓	E	✓					
Rebekah Crotty					E	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
Amanda Lawrance, Staff Services Analyst - BH
Lynette Swanson, FSP Clinician - BH
Trish Dalman, Planned Services Clinician - BH
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant - BH
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Heather Farris, Community Member & Applicant to Advisory Board
Veronica Valencia, Patients Rights' Advocate – Catholic Charities

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Advisory Board Chair, Cynthia Halman, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. Eleven 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, Valerie Shuemake, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley, and Susie DeMassey. Per communications received

by the Chairperson, Emily Valentine, M. Elizabeth Marum, and Rebekah Crotty will not be in attendance.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by Heather Farris – Community Member & New Applicant for Advisory Board Membership, Lynette Swanson - FSP Clinician Behavioral Health, and Trish Dalman – Planned Services Clinician Behavioral Health/Child Welfare Services.

## **III. AGENDA REVIEW**

After reviewing and discussing published agenda items, the board decided that no changes were deemed necessary.

## **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Jaron Brandon and seconded by Maureen Woods to approve the minutes as presented for June 2, 2021. The motion passed. (Ayes: 9 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Valerie Shuemake, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, and Susie DeMassey. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 2 – Penny Ablin and Sherry Bradley. Members Absent: 3 - Emily Valentine, M. Elizabeth Marum, and Rebekah Crotty)

## **VI. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Board of Supervisors Representative – Jaron Brandon**

District 5 Supervisor Jaron Brandon provided an update regarding ongoing work on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Bylaws. He shared that he is also working on the bylaws for the Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee (TCHC). A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and sub-committees still need to be identified for TCHC, but progress is being made.

Jaron recently visited Camp Hope and assisted in the distribution of 15 fire extinguishers to current homeless occupants. Two Behavioral Health staff, some non-profit partners, representatives from Resiliency Village and Kellae Brown, Homeless Advocate and Outreach Coordinator, assisted in these efforts. Most identified occupants of Camp Hope now have an individualized case management plan in place and relocation efforts for those identified individuals are moving forward. He related that the 90-day notice to move out of the camp is right around the beginning of August.

Supervisor Brandon reported that the Board of Supervisors have now passed their recommended budget. They will be meeting on August 13, to discuss \$5.2 M in American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds that the County of Tuolumne has received. Additional funding will also be available soon, such as federal Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds which are designed to offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal land within the county, as well as more specific funding related to roads and broadband. The Board of Supervisors are soliciting public input on proposed ideas for the use of this funding.

Jaron noted that although he appreciated concerns brought forth during the public comment period last month regarding pay increases and/or stipends for Behavioral Health Clinicians and workers, this is not an issue that he may actively participate in and would require his recusal if pursued. A part of his role at the Board of Supervisors entails labor negotiations with collective bargaining units which prevents him from discussing or participating in action surrounding that topic before this Board.

Supervisor Brandon informed the Board that he would be leaving the meeting around 5:30 pm to attend a Townhall Meeting scheduled at the same time.

**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 she attended the Sonora PRIDE event over the weekend and was surprised that Behavioral Health had a table there. She requested that the department share when they are participating in such events so that the Advisory Board can support those efforts. Michael Wilson, Director of Behavioral Health, advised the board that Behavioral Health did not have a booth or table at the PRIDE event, but rather had shared materials with a community member who personally distributed those at the event.

Ms. Schmidt also relayed that she had met with Rebecca Espino, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, for over an hour the previous week so that they could get to know each other.

Mary Anne relayed her pleasure in the return of Sherry Bradley to the Advisory Board since her recent medical concern.

Mary Anne also requested feedback/suggestions from attendees on possible youth candidates for recruitment to serve on the Advisory Board.

She also noted that remote attendance options for meetings need to continue to be available as Covid concerns remain.

- Penny Ablin relayed her concerns with the new variant of Covid which is reported to be more easily transmitted to others. She shares in Mary Anne's concerns and feels that multiple attendance options should remain available. She recommends that Behavioral Health work with their clients to promote education and vaccination efforts.
- Jenn Salazar shared her recent accomplishments volunteering with One-Pile-At-A-Time, where she is now functioning in a leadership role. Her inspirational mental health journey and volunteerism was chronicled on the front page of the June 16<sup>th</sup> Union Democrat. Advisory Board members applauded and congratulated Jenn on her amazing efforts.
- Cynthia Halman informed the group of the recent ASIST 2-day training opportunity which was attended by 14 people. Another ASIST training is in the works which will be coordinated by Bob White, YES Partnership. Bob White is currently putting together a flyer which will provide more details.

She also informed board members of the Lantern of Light's efforts in providing local faith community leaders trainings in suicide intervention, awareness and postvention skills. A recent grant was awarded which will be used to help provide this through online trainings developed by Livingworks.

Cynthia reminded Advisory Board members of their duty to limit conversations surrounding board business during meetings only to remain in compliance with the Brown Act. Outside discussions of Advisory Board business is not allowed unless you are working on a Board assigned committee, and then only about the task or topic at hand.

**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.

Lynette Swanson, Behavioral Health Full-Service Partnership Clinician, relayed her distress regarding planned changes to client care delivery at Behavioral Health. She believes that this is not in clients' best interests. She also commented on the fact that the concerns shared during last month's public comment period were not agendaized for this month's meeting. Lynette requests that this topic be considered for next month.

Trish Dalman, Planned Services Clinician II for Behavioral Health, commented that she agrees with Lynette's statements and hopes that the board will review this topic further.

Cynthia Halman thanked those who shared their remarks during the public comment period. After meeting and speaking with Rebecca Espino, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, she relayed that the Behavioral Health leadership team is currently working with staff to address areas of concern and has requested that the Advisory Board allow these internal processes to continue. If interested, the Advisory Board can request periodic updates from the leadership team concerning these types of issues in the future.

## **IX. BUSINESS**

### **New Business:**

#### 1. Advisory Board Membership

- Recommend withdrawal of Rebekah Crotty's membership appointment to the BOS due to receipt of her resignation letter.

Jaron Brandon moves and Mary Anne Schmidt seconds the motion to accept Rebekah Crotty's resignation letter and forward to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of removal and a request to open the position for recruitment. Motion passes unanimously by all board members present. (Ayes: 11 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Valerie Shuemake, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey. Nays: 0 Members Absent: 3 - Emily Valentine, M. Elizabeth Marum, and Rebekah Crotty)

- Review new application for membership from Heather Farris and possibly forward appointment recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Cynthia introduced Heather Farris and solicited questions and/or comments from members regarding her application for appointment.

Mary Anne Schmidt inquired how Ms. Farris had heard of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Heather replied that she is an eleven-year resident of Sonora who has recently left a career in professional management and is currently looking for ways that she can give back to the community. Heather has a small photography business of her own and recently saw information regarding behavioral health on Instagram. She reached out for more information and saw a second post on Instagram advertising the open board seat. She shared that mental health issues have touched her life in any number

of ways, whether that be through personal experience, or her family and friends, either advocating or providing support.

Jaron Brandon moves to forward Heather Farris' application for membership to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of appointment. Penny Ablin seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously by all board members present. (Ayes: 11 – Jaron Brandon, Cynthia Halman, Mary Anne Schmidt, Valerie Shuemake, Chris Daly, Jenn Salazar, Jennifer Pastorini, Maureen Woods, Penny Ablin, Sherry Bradley and Susie DeMassey. Nays: 0 Members Absent: 3 - Emily Valentine, M. Elizabeth Marum, and Rebekah Crotty)

### **Ad-Hoc Committees Progress Reports:**

2. Bylaws Review Ad-Hoc Committee: Review and possible approval to move forward to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance – Mary Anne Schmidt

Mary Anne Schmidt requested feedback on the proposed revised bylaws from the membership. The group discussed clarity on several elements of the proposed bylaws and noted several needed edits before deciding to further reach out to members electronically to receive more information. After discussed elements are incorporated and additional review and comments are received from members, this item will be reviewed by the Ad-Hoc Committee and brought back to the next Advisory Board meeting for additional review and/or approval.

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

Mary Anne Schmidt presented a proposed New Board Member Orientation Program Checklist for members review and feedback. She suggested that the Ad-Hoc Committee create those new items identified in the checklist. The group agreed to review this further at a future meeting once information is gathered.

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

Mary Anne Schmidt has requested assistance from two Behavioral Health staff for at least one hour to discuss what Behavioral Health has on their webpage and any plans surrounding that. Michael stated that he, Tami Mariscal, and Lindsey Lujan will assist with this subject.

5. “Call to Action” Ad-Hoc Committee Update – Cynthia Halman

Cynthia reminds board members to email their representatives regarding recommended legislation specific to mental health and updated members on progress made through the Ad-Hoc Committee of possible plans surrounding future legislative recommendations.

The Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that one “Call to Action” item be presented to the Board of Supervisors each month, during their public comment period. It was also suggested that other board members learn to do these types of presentations so that all who wish can participate. It was also recommended that guidelines be laid out for providing these types of presentations.

The group proposed a standing item on the agenda could be created to address any upcoming potential legislation. Members could present any legislative information during the “Members Reports” section, and if needed, the topic could be added to the agenda the following month for discussion.

The committee believes that the first “Call to Action” item brought forward should be AB 988, the tollfree 988 Crisis Hotline for mental health crisis support. Cynthia relayed that the Ad-Hoc Committee suggested statistical information

regarding suicide prevention hotline calls be gathered from Behavioral Health for this presentation.

Behavioral Health Director, Michael Wilson, informed the Advisory Board group that the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) has created a spreadsheet of important legislation that is pertinent to county mental health. Mary Anne requested that a copy of this spreadsheet be forwarded to the Advisory Board members for their review.

Jaron left the meeting @ 5:30 pm.

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

Cynthia requests assistance from Behavioral Health staff to gain current information needed in the “Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.” She will send the report to Behavioral Health staff which identifies which data needs to be updated and/or reviewed. Once received, this information will be brought back for review and approval of the Advisory Board.

**Continued from June Meeting:**

7. Social Get-Together Discussion – Cynthia Halman

After discussion, the group decided to postpone this event for the next couple of months due to increased Covid-19 cases. This item will be revisited in the fall.

**Items Tabled for a Future 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.

<b>X. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Michael Wilson, LMFT - BH Director</b>
--

Director Wilson informed the Advisory Board that the Superintendent of Schools, Cathy Parker, shared that the grant that she and Michael have been working on is now funded. This Mental Health Services Student Act grant consists of \$2.4 M over the course of four years. These funds are to be used to hire a program coordinator, three mental health clinicians and a mental health navigator. It is very similar to the Innovations plan that the department was working on, so this will need to be modified or go in a slightly different direction to avoid duplication of services. A community member reached out about an innovations plan in Amador County that the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission supported expanding. This project targets prenatal and postpartum mothers, and their children, encouraging regular routine mental health screenings.

Michael shared his recent experience attending the High-Performance Organizations (HPO) Training. This training supports a philosophy of doing business which builds on the ability to continuously improve the working conditions and development opportunities if its workforce by reacting and adapting quickly to changes, as well as integrating and aligning management structure.

Michael also relayed news that Adventist Health Sonora hospital has had some recent transportation issues which resulted in the hospital enforcing policy of using ambulance transports only for those needing transfer to psychiatric facilities. Valerie Shuemaker informed the group that an internal risk assessment performed by the hospital determined that the previous safety car used for transport could not provide one-on-one observation during these transports. As a result of this finding, the hospital is now limiting these transfers to those accomplished via ambulance only.

Michael Wilson informed the group of the next upcoming community mental health forum. He would like to enlist help from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board in identifying potential panelists to participate. The focus of this next forum will be mental health services through Tribal Clinics and Children's Services.

Mary Anne Schmidt requested more details of recent changes to mental health service delivery and potential impacts to client care at Behavioral Health. Cynthia Halman suggests that this topic be discussed more at the next meeting as current time was limited. Penny Ablin requested an updated Behavioral Health organizational chart. Michael informed the group that he will send one out.

<b>XI. ADJOURNMENT</b>
------------------------

The meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Halman at 5:57 PM. The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2021, at 4:00 pm via Zoom, teleconference and in person following any public health restrictions. Meeting information will be posted on the August 2021 Agenda.