



Commented [CR1]: [@Kristie Lui](#) When you list the names for others present online, it should be in the same format as the others listed for the meeting. I sent it to you that way because I had just written a list during the meeting of those online. Let me know if you have questions.

Behavioral Health Commission

Unadopted Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Hybrid Meeting – College of San Mateo, Millbrae Library and Online

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Rasmussen, Frieda Edgette, Paul Nichols, Ryan Lopez, Yoko Ng, Victoria Yu, Jean Perry (Millbrae Location), Michael Lim (Millbrae Location)

STAFF: Jei Africa, Chantae Rochester, Kristie Lui, Doris Estremera, Maria Lorente-Foresti, Sofia Recalde (online), Sylvia Tang (online)

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused: Kristina Bell, Allen Bustos, Leticia Bido, Daniel Keohane

Un-excused: None

OTHERS PRESENT (in-person): Gina Beltramo, Ally Hoppis

OTHERS PRESENT (online): Bill Silverfarb, John McMahon, Kevin Jones, Lisa Berendrick, Robert Taylor, Tracy, Alexandra Hagner, Twila Dependahl, Sue Cortopassi, Robert Taylor, Jo, Pat Willard,

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Chair, Chris Rasmussen

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda with the following change:

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/Ng

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the following meetings:

- Standing Committee for Older Adult Services should state “our county continues...”
- Standing Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services should remove last two bullet points

▶ **M/S/C** Nichols/ Perry

Correspondence, Announcements, and Public Comment

Yoko Ng

- 3/25 - Adult Mental Health First Aid Training held in newest library in SSF. Commissioner Yu joined as a participant and Commissioner Ng was the instructor. Fully engaged in public education and reaching communities for mental health awareness.

Michael Lim

- StarVista event on Youth Mental Health & Wellness called "Spring Through Transitions" for teens navigating life transitions. Apr 10th, 6-8, Burlingame High School. Register at: [SIT24.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium on May 2nd. Register at: <https://connect.ncoa.org/products/7th-annual-older-adult-mental-health-awareness-day>
- Webinar recording on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness: A Webinar on The State of The Issue with Dan Mistak. Link is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOi2MnogXTk&t=7s>

Robert Taylor

- NAMI's 50th Anniversary Gala is April 27, 2024 at South San Francisco Library Banquet Hall

Chris Rasmussen

- Commissioner Brar has resigned from the commission. Hopefully we will plan sometime in the upcoming months to honor her.
- Commissioners Perry and Nichols will be appointed Vice Co-Chairs until voting in September.

PRESENTATION

CARE Court (See attached slides)

Presented by Ally Hoppis, Clinical Services Manager, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services and Gina Beltramo, Lead Deputy County Attorney, County of San Mateo

- CARE Court is a community-based behavioral health service and supports those living with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders through a new civil court process. It is intended to address revolving-door homelessness, short term hospitalization and incarceration. This is a new law and incredibly complex.
- Presentation includes how to make a referral, eligibility, court process, BHRS' role, services and goals & challenges.

Public Comment on Presentation:

Comments and response to questions

- Laura's law will not be impacted. The two programs will be blended. If someone is with AOT and they're ready for a step down, they could even step down through CARE Court if that seems appropriate.
- Even if someone is not eligible, our goal is to give people the proper hand off. Our team spends a lot of time with anybody who comes our way, and that is our plan for CARE as well. What is great about AOT and hopefully with CARE is that it is a great catch-all for people who just don't know how to connect to services.
- We are working with law enforcement, as they already do with AOT, so they can send us names and referrals. We'll work with field crisis and then offer it to other law enforcement agencies.
- Everyone who is referred gets legal counsel. Staffing will be part of Ally's BHRS team.
- Re: people who are repeatedly hospitalized for mental health reasons but don't feel they are ill: the hospital has reached out on many occasions and their team will work with the client and their family to try to get the person connected. Neither AOT or CARE Court force a person to do anything, but a lot of times it's the connecting of resources and engaging the clients in order for them to voluntarily accept services. We also get a lot of referrals from NAMI.
- The client number of 300 comes from Medical Center, correctional health and AOT ineligible list.
- There are a lot of exits in place throughout this program. If they are not engaging the judge might decide to dismiss. If a respondent wishes to extend the program, they may also request that.
- The team may spend an average of 2-3 months to persuade patient to services. Sometimes quicker, sometimes longer.
- We are just receiving the first sets of data from counties that are part of 1st phase to the state and waiting for a lot more. We've seen other participating counties seem to be getting more voluntary engagements. Majority are seeing petitions are coming from families. A month ago, out of 8 counties, there were about 300 petitions.
- Re: Private insurance: It won't prevent anyone from receiving services. The law states MediCal is the last billing resort, but insurance will not be a barrier.

- Re: What staffing looks like for building trust with people to connect to CARE Court: This is why blending with AOT is important because they do this difficult work already. AOT has a license clinician, a mental health counselor, and a part time deputy public guardian. They are accustomed to working with this population and the team will also add a peer support worker and two more licensed clinicians.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee for Children & Youth Services

Reported by Freida Edgette

- Series of studies asking youth what is a healthy and safe online environment
- Youth Action Board applied for a mini-grant for their pathways session and were accepted. They are working on refining their budget line items.
- Launching application for next year's cohort soon.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting:

In-person at 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo

Virtual: [Zoom](#) or dial 669-444-9171 Meeting ID: 990 0971 9684

Commented [JA2]: We should list what they reported on

Committee for Adult Services

Reported by Yoko Ng

- Small team worked on annual report
- 2024 Fiscal Year Goals: Discussed more touring and growing attendees

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Hybrid meeting:

In-person at 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo

Virtual: [Zoom](#) or dial 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 983 9161 3998

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Committee for Older Adult Services

Reported by Jean Perry

- Great showing of community members
- Discussed 2024 goals and needs changing with age
- Talked about how to get people info on their benefits and reducing barriers to using Serenity House

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Hybrid meeting:

In-person at 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo

Virtual: [Zoom](#) or dial 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 944 8158 6160

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Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services

Reported by Paul Nichols

- Met on 3/13; visited First Chance, sobering station and detox facility; very impressive what they do with their services
- Visiting Voices of Recovery on 4/10
- Originally hadn't planned on doing this many site visits but it has been working out

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Mental Health Services Act

Reported by Jean Perry

- No March meeting

Next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

Commented [JA6]: List what she reported on

Director's Report

See attached slides.

- EQRO came to do a review which they do annually.
 - One thing that stood out is the recommendation to continue building our IT infrastructure to strengthen our data capabilities
- Continue to work with Telecare to get the mobile crisis up and running: 1 team in May, 5 teams in September
- Continue to look for locations to find any opportunities for housing clients with behavioral health issues; looking at hotels
- 2024 Mental Health Month's theme is Heal Through Connection #SMCAgainstLoneliness to align with Board of Supervisors declaration of the loneliness emergency.
 - Their next meeting will be in-person on 5/2 at 310 Harbor Blvd, Belmont.
- Prop 1 has passed; we have enough time to come up with a plan to align with the regulations; no changes will happen until 2026.
- We hired our permanent OCFA Manager, Jana Spalding

Past issues of the Directors Update can be found [here](#).

Public Comment on the Director's Report

- Re: Prop 1 passing, MHSA bylaws do not need to change yet. We cannot do any changes without a community planning process. With the passing, one area (MHSA) will no longer be the focus, we have to really look at the system as a whole. We may need an external sort of support because this is a massive review.
- Youth SOS will not go away. It will be combined with the mobile crisis so there are not three different numbers to call. Just one number. Peer Specialists will be part of that team response for mobile crisis.
- Gap in the mobile crisis team that these teams will not be able to be dispatched by city law enforcement to provide a clinician only response to the CWCRT program.
- SMMCR should consider a more compelling, wholesome, attractive name.
- Have clinicians to have radio capability to talk to 911. Team is figuring out the rules around confidentiality, do they carry radios or not, etc. Have lots to learn as we pilot.

Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees

Suicide Prevention Committee

Reported by Yoko Ng:

- New co-chair Walter Ng to join Sylvia Tang & Martha Cervantes
- Info session on partner activation kit; key components of kit and how to distribute

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 2024 1:30PM-3:30PM via Zoom

Virtual: [Zoom](#) or dial 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 410 362 485

Legislative Committee

Reported by Chris Rasmussen

- No updates

New Member Committee

Reported by Michael Lim

- Hopefully meeting next week to talk about next steps; two candidates to be interviewed
- Luncheon for Veterans Services Providers to pitch for new members

QIC Committee

Reported by Jean Perry

- No meetings for a couple months
- Voted on five BHRS policies

Site Visits Committee
 Reported by Chris Rasmussen

- Focus of site visit committee is on evaluation instead of inspection
- Developing procedure for what we'd like to see and do
- Finding a way to give meaningful feedback to Board of Supervisors

Old Business

Vote to Close 30-Day Public Comment Period for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update

- No additional public comments, no substantive comments
- If any come up prior to 4/6, Doris will share with the commissioners
- Adding Serenity House and BEAM to MHSA budget
 - Comment on BEAM's funding amount of \$500K.
 - Anytime there is wrap-around service, it requires a lot of funding

► **M/S/C** Edgette/ Nichols

Vote to submit the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update to the Board of Supervisors

► **M/S/C** Edgette/ Perry

NEW BUSINESS

Tony Hoffman Community Award Nominations being accepted.

- Deadline 4/17. Awards presented on 5/1.
- This recognition is public, and you may nominate several people.

Meeting Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.
 by Commissioner Chair, Chris Rasmussen.

Next MHSARC Meeting:

May 1st, 2024, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 College of San Mateo, 1700 Hillsdale Blvd.
 College Center, Building 10, Room 468, and
 Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave, Study Room B

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, June, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
 College of San Mateo
 College Center, Building 10, Room 468, and

Millbrae Library, 1 Library Ave, Study Room B

PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT CHANTAE ROCHESTER AT 650.573.2544 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER THE BHC OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three-day notice. Please call 650.573.2544.