

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
June 4, 2020 - 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Lorrie Denson, May Farr, Carol Kinzel, Veatrice Jews, Ravenal Wimberly, Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter

**Excused Absence:** Michael Grabhorn, Vickie Mack, Troy Mondragon, Monica Caffey

**Absent:** Catherine Inscore Christopher Masa

**Guests:** Not available, guests attended via webex.

Minutes recorded by Raquel Ramos, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC).

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLE CALL**

Commissioner Carol Kinzel called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and roll call followed. The group reviewed the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bruce Wheatley of the Wheatley Institute provided public comment via email submission. His comments were regarding the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2023, public health concerns due to COVID 19 and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) increasing access to services. He made recommendations on how to allocate Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and Innovation funding.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No chair present.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**First District:**

Commissioner Lorrie Denson advised that she has nothing to report for the month of June.

**Second District:**

Commissioner Carol Kinzel thanked everyone for their support with virtual meetings. She is continuing her work with San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership Mountain Regional Steering Committee. She is learning how to work with new technology. She also shared that Commissioner Troy Mondragon has submitted a letter of resignation as a commissioner effective June 2020. She thanked him for all the work that he has done with the Commission and for the residents of San Bernardino County and expressed excitement for his new ventures..

Commissioner May Farr shared that she is in good health and has not been involved in many meetings this past month and thanked everyone for their support.

Commissioner Ravenal Wimberly greeted everyone on the webex and advised he has nothing to report.

**Third District:**

No Commissioners present for the Third District.

**Fourth District:**

Commissioner Akin Merino thanked everyone for their work. She looks forward to making changes in her schedule based on how technology has been used during this time of social distancing. She has completed many mental health webinars and is involved in health disparity projects and establishing resources for those in rural areas. The Minority Psychology Network is hosting a zoom meeting June 13, 5pm. Jonathan Buffong will share more information.

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter is continuing to take webinars and linking people that need services to DBH. She attended the virtual Evening with the Stars event and Directing Change.

**Fifth District:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews has been attending meetings via zoom and webex. She is working on projects with African American Churches on COVID testing and racism as public health issues.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Veronica Kelley provided the following report to meeting attendees:

- Commissioner Troy Mondragon has given his resignation effective June 2020. She thanked him for his time on the Commission and asked attendees to join her in wishing him well.
- DBH presented to the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission on the Innovation Projects: Cracked Eggs and Eating Disorder Collaborative. She thanked DBH staff for their support in this project. DBH secured 12.6 million dollars for this project.
- DBH did not close during COVID 19. We have continued to provide services during this time. During this time we implemented measures to ensure the safety of the community and staff, such as temperature taking and requiring masks. As staff return from telecommuting, we will ensure they have personal protective equipment.
- The Board of Supervisors has shared they plan to declare racism a public health crisis. DBH is working with members of the black community to assist with supporting this declaration.
- The National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded DBH with awards for the following programs: Call for Art, InnROADs, Leadership Development Program, Listen-Empathize-Agree-Partner Implementation and the Placement After Stabilization Program.
- Dr. Brad Gilbert formerly from the Inland Empire Health Plan has announced he is leaving his position as Director for Department of Health Care Services.
- The Governor's May revise reflects a 19 billion dollar deficit. The revise includes cancelling Medi-Cal expansion. There are impacts to the criminal justice system, including closing jails. Juvenile Justice department is now shifting under county probation.
- DBH is working with partner providers in requesting COVID funding assistance.
- Dr. Kelley thanked all staff for the work they continue to do during this time of social unrest and during the pandemic.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No reports provided.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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*Carol Kinzel, Vice Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Raquel Ramos*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission