

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
September 3, 2020 - 12:00-1:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Vickie Mack, Monica Caffey Lorrie Denson, May Farr, Carol Kinzel, Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Veatrice Jews, Jennifer Silvestri, Christopher Masa, Laure Marsden on behalf of Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood

**Excused Absence:** Michael Grabhorn

**Absent:** Susan McGee Stehsel, Catherine Inscore

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLE CALL**

Chair Dr. Monica Caffey called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and roll call followed. The group reviewed the agenda.

**Tab 4:** Review Minutes of July 2, 2020.

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Carol Kinzel/ May Farr

AYES:, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Lorrie Denson, Monica Wilson-Caffey, Akin Merino, Vickie Mack, Veatrice Jews

ASBSTAIN: Jennifer Silvestri

ABSENT: Michael Grabhorn Christopher Massa, Catherine Inscore, Susan McGee Stehsel

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Caffey shared that she and other Behavioral Health Commissioners have completed the Annual Report. She is working with the National Institute of Mental Health and is on a task force for inequity. She is also participating in monthly psychology networking meetings.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**First District:**

Commissioner Lorrie Denson shared that she was invited to participate in a workgroup with the Apple Valley Sheriff on efforts to improve law enforcement relations with the community.

Commissioner Vickie Mack shared she is conducting wellness groups and planning outings such as painting in the park, fishing, camping and whale watching tours. Her focus continues to be on wellness of consumers during this time.

**Second District:**

Commissioner May Farr shared that she did not participate in many meetings. This past month she travelled to see family and nursed a cold.

Commissioner Carol Kinzel worked with other Commissioners to complete the Annual Report and expressed her excitement to have it finalized and published. She shared that she is continuing to participate in coordinating the game of skate, the regional and local mountain homeless coalition meetings. This past month she worked on home key applications for housing the homeless in the mountain area.

New Commissioner Jennifer Silvestri was introduced and welcomed. Commissioner Silvestri thanked the group for welcoming her and shared that she has been an admirer of DBH for a while. She has a background in healthcare and hospital administration. She has worked on community health programs and became aware of the needs of those living with mental illness.

**Third District:**

No Commissioners present for the Third District.

**Fourth District:**

Commissioner Akin Merino shared that she also worked on finalizing the annual report. She continues to be very busy supporting mental health care in the community and presenting workshops on trauma informed care, racial trauma and historic trauma.

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter shared that she also worked on finalizing the annual report. She is participating in ask the expert trainings with the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She is participating on trainings for trauma for impacted youth.

**Fifth District:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews worked with Commissioners to complete the annual report. She is continuing to work with Concerned African American churches for COVID testing and procedures for reopening houses of worship. She is working with PEI on the Ministerial Mental Health program.

**Tab 5: SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTATION: COVID-19 Skilled Nursing Facility Taskforce**

Presenter: Dr. Georgina Yoshioka, Deputy Director, 24 Hour and Emergency Services

- On April 8 at the Magnolia Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Riverside, 34 patients and 16 staff tested positive for COVID-19. The County stepped in and evacuated all 84 residents of the 120- Bed facility after 12 of 13 certified nursing assistants and other licensed staff refused to report for duty two days in row. One resident died in the process and others had to transfer to three or four different facilities. Some residents called Magnolia their home for up to 20 years. Total cost of \$320,000 to tax payers.
- Less than 2 weeks following this event, San Bernardino County's Skilled Nursing Facility Outreach + Support Team (SO+S) was active, with the goal of preventing a similar crisis.
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Task Force: Collaboration of County Departments organizing, planning and mitigating needs from the SNF community and liaising with the State. Including: Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), County Administrative Office (CAO), Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Department of Public Health (DPH), Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA).
- The SNF Task Force Outreach + Support Team (SO+S) includes ARMC, ARMC Behavioral Health Unit (ended July 3, 2020) and DBH.
- The SO+S Team: Responds to SNF and other congregate living facilities daily. The ARMC Physician Assistant provides Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including gloves, gowns, goggles, face shields, N95, KN95, surgical masks and hand sanitizers and conducts training on appropriate donning and doffing of PPE. They provide information on COVID-19 and support in establishing COVID-19 units in the facility, assess supply chain and operational needs, provides linkage to PPE providers, and staffing resources (registry lists). The DBH Clinical Therapist is present for staff morale development and maintenance for facility administrators, provides emotional support and counselling, coping skills for stress and anxiety, grief support and provides community resources for staff and their family
- Some of the resources DBH provides are Hotels for Health Care Workers (many staff members expressed fear of 'taking COVID-19 home'), DBH COVID-19 call/text hotline, Grief Following the Death of a Patient, Grief Following the Death of a Colleague, Talking with Children about COVID-19, Coping with Stress and Tips for Healthcare Professionals Coping with Stress and Compassion Fatigue.
- San Bernardino County has 171 state-licensed Skilled Nursing facilities caring for at least 6,600 of the county's most at-risk residents; 600+ Residential Adult and Elderly Care Facilities; Board and Cares, Memory Care Facilities, IMD Facilities, Depended Adult Care Homes. 95 Facilities have been identified as Outbreak/Hot Spot facilities.
- The SO+S Team has completed over 400 visits to facilities- some facilities requiring multiple visits, distributed over 2 million pieces of PPE and met with hundreds of staff, providing information on coping skills for stress and anxiety.
- Some challenges faced include: Staffing shortages due to administrator walkouts (Director of Nursing/Clinical Directors), staff walkouts (licensed & non-licensed), staff sick with COVID-19, staff required to isolate or quarantine; PPE shortages

in the facilities; Lack of facility preparation; Lack of staff training on PPE guidelines; Staff working at multiple facilities and creating cross contamination; and low COVID-19 testing supplies and long turn around for results.

- Successes for the team include: being recognized as a “model” for neighbouring counties, added SNF updates to the County COVID-19 Public Health Dashboard; all partial and full evacuations have been prevented; provided resources for emergency staffing needs and staffing education; provided licensed staff to administer IV antibiotics to COVID-19 positive residents, preventing emergency room visits/hospitalizations; facilitated improved communication between administration and staff; supported administration in morale and team development strategies; prevented staff walk-outs in the moment and provided counselling and resources for staff, administrators, and their families

### **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS**

Identify Commissioner to Prepare Presentation Findings:

- Chair Caffey, volunteered to prepare today's presentation memo of findings.

Establish 2020 Data Notebook Ad Hoc Committee:

- Commissioners Veatrice Jews, Dr. Monica Caffey, Carol Kinzel and May Farr volunteered to participate in the 2020 Data Notebook Ad Hoc Committee.

#### **APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Lorrie Denson/ May Farr

AYES: Carol Kinzel, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Monica Wilson-Caffey, Akin Merino, Vickie Mack, Veatrice Jews, Jennifer Silvestri

ASBSTAIN:

ABSENT: Michael Grabhorn Christopher Massa, Catherine Inscore, Susan McGee Stehsel

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Veronica Kelley acknowledged September as Recovery Month and asked Aimara from the Public Relations and Outreach team to provide her report to meeting attendees:

- Wear a purple ribbon to acknowledge Recovery month.
- DBH is hosting many events to acknowledge and celebrate recovery. The DBH website, news and events web page lists all activities including the virtual art gallery, the Recovery Process Panel, Recovery Happens. This year's new events include a play DBH is partnering with San Bernardino Valley College on and the Recovery Process Panel. This year DBH was able to secure Danny Trejo as the Recovery Happens 2020 keynote speaker.

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

- She thanked DBH staff and Commissioners for continuing to work during the pandemic.
- In support of providing crisis management during COVID and social unrest, DBH is hosting wellness Wednesday webinars for all HS departments.
- She thanked Commissioner Mack for participating in the interview process for the Deputy Director for Criminal Justice and Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (CJSUDRS). The new Deputy should be onboard by October.
- She reminded everyone September is also national suicide prevention awareness month. Make sure to start the conversation, reminding everyone suicide is preventable. Aimara Freeman played a video that was recorded in recognition of suicide prevention.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

- No reports.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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*Monica Caffey, Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Raquel Ramos*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission