

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
March 4, 2021 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Monica Caffey, Carol Kinzel, Jennifer Silvestri, Victoria Ogunrinu, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Veatrice Jews, Gil Navarro, Lynn Summers

Excused Absence: Catherine Inscore, Akin Merino, Lorrie Denson, Vickie Mack, May Farr, Michael Grabhorn

Absent: Christopher Masa

Guests: Jessica Montecinos, Gabriel Layseca, Crystal Ruedas, Tawon Green, Michelle Dusick, Laurence Gonzaga, Cheryl Mc Adan, Ashley Banks, Jeremy Sandquist, Teri Morrell, Dianne Wolkenhauer, Laretta Ross, Amy Telles, Lisa Ramos, William Sweet, Lourdes Avila, Miriam Clark, Erin Zamora, Toni Harris, Robyn Gantsweg

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 12:03 p.m. and roll call followed. The group agreed to re-order the agenda to accommodate the presenters. The subject matter presentation will immediately follow public comment.

Tab 6: Review Minutes of February 4, 2021.

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Veatrice Jews/ Victoria Ogunrinu

AYES: Monica Caffey, Jennifer Silvestri, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Gil Navarro, Lynn Summers Carol Kinzel, May Farr

ASBSTAIN:

ABSENT: Catherine Inscore, Christopher Massa, Akin Merino, Lorrie Denson, Vickie Mack, Michael Grabhorn

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

Tab 7: SUBJECT MATTER PRESENTATION: Community Crisis Response Teams: Past, Present and Future

Presenter: Dr. Georgina Yoshioka, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health; Deputy Steven Scranton, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

- San Bernardino County before CCRT: Fiscal Year (FY) 02/03: San Bernardino County had an involuntary hospitalization rate of 37.0 children per 10,000 compared to a state average of 18.3 per 10,000. Many hospitalizations were inappropriate and at a high dollar cost to the county. Families turned to law enforcement and hospital Emergency Departments (EDs), adding to the demand on these services. Many children were experiencing multiple psychiatric hospitalizations because the continuum of care lacked community-based services to address the behaviors that led to the crisis.
- In 2004 ARMC closes the children's unit in their behavioral health center. This resulted in fewer psychiatric beds available for children in the county. Children were inappropriately boarded in emergency departments when they were in crisis.
- Later in 2004 the Children's Crisis Response Team is developed in the east valley. This service included a mobile crisis response program that provided evaluation, crisis intervention, education and relapse prevention for children and adolescents meant to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations. The service operated seven days a week 8am to 10pm.

- In 2006 the service expanded to the Morongo area, then the high desert and west valley in 2007. Later in 2007 the service expanded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2008 the service expanded to include adults and the program changed its name to the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT).
- In 2017 CCRT reduces its hours to 7am-10pm, 7 days a week as a result of low call volume overnights and challenges staffing the overnight program. In 2017 CCRT discontinued hospital emergency department responses. DBH offers training and hold writer certification to hospital staff.
- In 2019 CCRT in the Morongo Basin transitions to remote service delivery. The Triage, Engagement, and Support Team (TEST) are present in the region to support law enforcement. Crisis Residential Treatment and the Crisis Walk In Clinic are also available services in the Morongo region.
- In 2020 CCRT responses to the hospital emergency departments resume.
- CCRT currently provides crisis evaluation and intervention, 5150/5585 consultation at hospital EDs, linkage to referrals & resources, assist law enforcement with risk assessment and transportation, and critical incident and disaster response in the community. CCRT operates 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 7am-10pm.
- CCRT currently responds to Law Enforcement, private homes, code enforcement, schools, hospital EDs, group homes, board and care and where ever there is someone in crisis.
- CCRT responds to Individuals who present as a Danger to Self (DTS), Danger to Others (DTO) or Gravely Disabled (GD), Family members who call for another family member in crisis, If the individual in crisis declines to speak with CCRT, the responding team will speak with the family, Law Enforcement calls for support, School calls for support and Immediate suicidal crises once Law Enforcement has secured the situation.
- CCRT does not respond to Individuals who are exhibiting violent behaviors (e.g., brandishing weapons, hostage situations), Behavioral concerns not related to a mental health diagnosis (e.g., oppositional children, intimate partner violence), Family members who call when the individual they are calling about is not present or Medical emergencies.
- CCRT collaborates with San Bernardino County Sheriff's department. Deputy Scranton shared information on SBCSD Decision-Making Processes, Success of Using CCRT, Challenges of Using CCRT, and the Deputy's role in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).
- The CIT Program is a community partnership that provides mental health education and training for first responders and community partners. Since 2007, almost 2,000 San Bernardino County Law Enforcement personnel have participated in the CIT 40-hr class. Since 2016, over 150 San Bernardino County Law Enforcement personnel have participated in the CIT 8-hr class.
- CCRT leadership participates in all DBH CIT trainings conducted for: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Various city Police Departments, San Bernardino County Probation Department, State Police, Other out-of-county agencies.
- CCRT is primed to be ready for any event and has been DBH's primary response to various disasters and crises in the county. CCRT has 6-12 clinical staff available daily. Staff are trained for field work and red cross and psychological first aid trained.
- CCRT responded to the December 2nd Terrorist Attack, the North Park Elementary School incident and both the Ridgecrest and Trona earthquakes.
- During COVID-19 CCRT modified field responses and introduced telehealth capabilities to evaluate consumers for crisis.
- A COVID-19 phone/ text hotline for residents and first responders concerned and stressed due to COVID-19 is available 7 days a week, 7am-10pm. CCRT also CCRT established "drop-in" Webex support meetings to allow ARMC nursing staff to check-in with a mental health professional before or after shift.
- CCRT has also been present and engages with residents as they await COVID testing and vaccination administration. CCRT provides resources for coping, information regarding COVID-19 and community support agency information for additional needs. CCRT partnered with ARMC and Public Health on a skilled nursing facility task force.

- CCRT operates 15 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays, staff work 4 10 hour shifts a week. Overtime is often required.
- CCRT is working to expand services, enhancing collaborative partnerships with hospital EDs, 911 dispatch personnel and first responders, adding two alcohol and drug counselors and procuring additional vehicles for staff use in crisis field response. CCRT will continue to utilize virtual platform services to provide face to face crisis support to the entire county, including rural areas.
- Effective July 2022 the nationwide mental health crisis and suicide prevention number will be 988. 988 has been designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 4 Trained staff will answer calls from individuals at risk for suicide as well as those experiencing other mental health and substance use related emergencies.
- For questions or more information please contact Dr. Georgina Yoshioka at gyoshioka@dbh.sbcounty.gov or Erin Zamora at ezamora@dbh.sbcounty.gov or Metra Jaber at metra.jaber@dbhsbcounty.gov.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Dr. Monica Caffey was present however, she was unable speak and did not provide a report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

First District:

No Commissioners present.

Second District:

Commissioner Carol Kinzel shared that she attended the Rim Communities for Youth meetings and Government Affairs meetings as she usually does. She will be attending an upcoming Transitional Age Youth (TAY) event and has been working with Andre Bossieux on a support group in the mountain area. The mountain homes coalition cabins are moving along, Commissioner Silvestri will provide additional information on this time.

Commissioner Jennifer Silvestri tuned into the equity vision element presentation to the Board of Supervisors, she expressed her appreciation for the graphics in the presentation that illustrated equity. At the request of the Second District office, she tuned into the mountain advisory committee meeting where she received information on calls to law enforcement due to the heavy snow fall. There often a lot of anxiety in the mountain area heavy snowfall. She also attended the Homeless Coalition Board meeting. There is a critical need for behavioral health services at the Georgia Street cabins. There are tenants that are now sheltered with behavioral health issues that are creating chaos at the cabins. She shared that she is registered for the Cal teleconference taking place tomorrow.

Third District:

Commissioner Victoria Ogunrinu shared she attended the parent empowerment seminar on coping with distance learning. She also attended the county presentation on the new county vision element on equity, which explained the difference in equality versus equity. She met with the RBEST clinic supervisor and attended a seminar on connecting families, a great parenting education program. She was able to link an individual to this resource within her church community. She attended the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee meeting where Diana Alexander also presented on equity. She attended the Black History Virtual event coordinated by the Clubhouse Program which was a highlight, this program brought a lot of joy to participants. She also just received her second COVID vaccine.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter shared she met with her Fourth District representative to review commissioner related activities and DBH activities. She started training in the "Structure Family Recovery Theory and plans to continue these trainings.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Veatrice Jews shared that she has been focusing her work on the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches in educating the senior citizen population on vaccine options. She is working with Loma Linda on vaccination clinics and is in communication with the Fifth District office on these events geared toward senior citizen involvement. She also attended the Clubhouse Program Black History event and the virtual event on the parent empowerment.

Commissioner Gil Navarro shared the requests he put forth at the Executive Session, he would like DBH to consider there are ongoing year around volunteer workshops for parents of students in the school system regarding mental health services. There are some cultures that have stigma around recommending mental health services. He believes this should be an ongoing year around effort. In his role as an advocate for students he has observed female parents have very low self-esteem. He feels parents would benefit from participating in the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee and often recommends the group to them. DBH does include cultural competency requirements in their standard contract, he is asking DBH re-emphasize this.

Commissioner Lynn Summers shared that she is registered for the CALBHBC training tomorrow. She received calls for mattresses for seniors and is contacting the united way. She is working with a local congresswoman on community needs for the homeless as there is possible funding that may become available. She is also working on assisting community members with dementia, though it is not a DBH service. She is also working with families to look for resources or solutions to assist in keeping kids moving forward at school even though they have fallen behind in distance learning.

Commissioner Carol Kinzel acknowledged the limited amount of time allotted on the agenda for Commissioners to provide their reports and asked this be discussed at the next Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Identify Commissioner to Prepare Presentation Findings:

- Commissioner Lynn Summers, volunteered to prepare today's presentation memo of findings with the support of Gil Navarro and fellow commissioners.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Dr. Veronica Kelley provided the following report:

- She acknowledged this month being National Social Worker Month and the theme this year is "Social Workers are Essential" in line with COVID-19.
- COVID-19 case rates have gone down we are likely going down to the red zone; schools are opening. We are currently at 287,055 positive COVID cases in the County, compared to 3,484,963 cases within the state. There have been 2,959 deaths from COVID in San Bernardino County, compared to 52,775 deaths statewide.
- The State has accelerated vaccine availability for student staff (teachers) and childcare workers (K-12). They are setting aside 10% of the state's vaccines for this population, the Governor also plans to set aside 40% of the vaccines for the vulnerable population this includes the focus that the state has on equity. Dr. Kelley noted it is very important to address equity issues. Vulnerable populations are the ones dying of COVID. If we look at deaths in county staff from COVID, these are all people of color. We are currently in 1B for vaccinations and that means we can vaccinate healthcare workers in the general terms, people who are 65+, education, childcare, teachers, police and emergency workers, and we are beginning food and agriculture. This varies in each county and there are more changes/updates expected to come, and more information on folks that may be included dependent on specific mental/physical health and disabilities. Healthcare Workers and any Affiliate Health Care workers will soon be eligible to be vaccinated. March 15 some additional groups are tentatively scheduled to become eligible, those ages 16-49 with comorbidities will be eligible. A serious mental illness or an addiction are classified as a disability and would fall under this group.
- DBH has signed up with CALVAX to have our clinics certified to administer vaccines. So that when the time comes, we will be able to assist in getting our clients vaccinated. We are developing a process to notify clients and the process.

- The Assembly has been holding budget hearings, we are looking to see what will be in the Governor's budget. There will be a lot of one-time monies, however we cannot use these monies for programs if there will not be a steady funding stream to sustain these programs. Dr. Kelley recently testified with the Assembly for 6 hours on a number of items related to behavioral health.
- There has been a lot of movement around Criminal Justice. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is moving folks very quickly through their system. DBH will need to be prepared to have folks eligible for Medi-cal to apply once they are released to allow us to provide a service that is billable. We will also have to develop a system for those with high needs. This is similar for State Hospitals. State hospitals are also looking to realign people who are deemed incompetent to stand trial back to County to be cared for in community, negotiations with State hospitals are taking place to determine what is appropriate and safe for the client and community as well as what is their responsibility.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

- Aimara Freeman, DBH Public relations manager asked Commissioners how many lime green items they have in their wardrobe. She reminded attendees that May is Mental Health Month. DBH will host a variety of online and outreach events to promote mental health awareness and reduce stigma
- Dr. Kelley reminded the group to visit our website and provide their comments on the MHSA annual update.
- Maribel Gutierrez informed the group that the Office of Equity and Inclusion has partnered with the Mexican Consulate to provide Spanish virtual workshops in Spanish on emotional health. A flyer will be sent out with more information.
- Robin with Disability Rights California informed the group that weekly webinars on Patients' Rights and Self Advocacy are available at www.disabilityrightsca.org.
- Commissioner Ogunrinu informed the group of the importance of COVID testing. Every Sunday at 9am-5pm at her local church at 4491 Kansas Avenue in Riverside. Dr. Kelley recommended that everyone refer to the www.SBcounty.gov/dph website for the most accurate information on COVID.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Carol Kinzel, former Vice Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Raquel Ramos
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission