



# County of Fresno

ADVISORY BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS

## FRESNO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

1925 E. Dakota Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93726

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wed., December 20, 2017**

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u>	<u>PUBLIC MEMBERS –</u> <u>Continued</u>
Brandy Dickey Carolyn Evans Renee Stilson David Thorne Curtis Thornton David Weber Francine Farber	Dawan Utecht Susan Holt Connie Cha	Sharon Ross Ryan Banks Gilberto Rivas
<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>PUBLIC MEMBERS</u>	
Dr. Marta Obler Anna Allen John Duchscher Katie Lynn Rice Donald Vanderheyden	Mark Leanhart Carrie Smithson Alicia Townsend Rachel Ensom Herb Winnett Gilberto Rivas Deanna Kivett Elizabeth Escoto Rosio Laguna Scott Hollander Jorge Romero Stan Lum	
<u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u>		
Sal Quintero (absent)		

### **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Meeting called to order at 2:35 PM. Vice Chair Carolyn Evans welcomed everyone. Chair John Duchscher was unable to attend; various Behavioral Health Board (BHB) members remarked on their appreciation of John's time as the BHB Chair for 2017.

### **II. Approval of Agenda by Board**

Agenda approved.

Carolyn recommended that discussion and action for Agenda Item VIII move ahead of Agenda Item V. Carolyn noted they have a quorum needed to vote. BHB members agreed to move the item. Item VIII will reflect as Item V in the minutes.

### **III. Approval of Minutes from February 15th and March 15th, 2017**

Minutes approved with corrections.

### **IV. Vote on Executive Board Member positions for 2018**

The BHB voted on a slate for the position for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, as there were no challengers of each position.

#### BHB Executive Board for 2018

- Chair Carolyn Evans
- Vice Chair Brandy Dickey
- Secretary Katie Rice

Public comment held.

The nominations were approved as presented.

### **V. Update – Department of Behavioral Health – Director Dawan Utecht**

#### **A. Housing update**

Director Dawan Utecht recognized the BHB's request to present on Permanent Supportive Housing. Housing is a complex issue, one that requires a continuum of care. In the last few years, part of the challenges faced include stability for population served and as well as ensuring the gaps in service are addressed as a continuum of care.

Without emergency or transitional housing, clients are being asked to go from inpatient to outpatient; this can be an overwhelming task for some clients. Housing is not just housing; it provides stability for clients. The Housing Task Force focuses on the continuum of care with respect to all aspects of housing, including Emergency, Transition and Supportive Housing.

With regards to Emergency Housing, currently Fresno does not have a homeless shelter that is a "come as you are." The Fresno Rescue Mission is trying to relax their rules to accommodate homeless; however, it is not utilized broadly in the community. The Housing Task Force work includes piloting Hotel / Motel Voucher Program. Two things from this pilot will come, one is to test and grow them; two is what is referred to as a Lodge Concept, which is included in the MHSA plan. This will go beyond the Crisis Residential concept. The committee is in the process of developing scope of work by identifying capacity needs, siting, model, etc.

Transitional Housing: the committee is creating databases of room and boards and board and cares. The quality of living provided by these establishments has been discussed at length. The goal is to create standards and quality environments; therefore, the department is contracting with a consulting group the Independent Living Association (ILA). They will provide technical assistance, guidance, education, and training to providers. Further, quarterly meetings with Community Care Licensing have been established; they oversee board and cares that are regulated. The group is also discussing methods to make it an economic opportunity for those that run board and cares or room and boards, while creating a quality living environment.

Permanent Supporting Housing is being approached methodically. The group is looking at the No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding; the guidance given through the process is that the state will look favorably at counties that will contribute braided funding along with the NPLH funding. The state contemplated initially that the court testing process would conclude this year; however, that did not occur. The new target date is unknown, at this time. In the meantime, Behavioral Health has secured planning funds and identified necessary inventory. Further, a Master Leasing Program Pilot was developed. At the time of this meeting, there were 20 housed, the capacity is 25. There are three complexes with scattered units.

Multiple sites were toured and meetings with multiple developers have been done. Engaged Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to assist with a program evaluation and quality review. They will provide on-going technical assistance through the process.

Lastly, the task force will engage with a consultant(s) through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The consultants will provide services such as creating a comprehensive building / asset development plans, identify and secure braided funding, oversee capital construction, provide expertise to assist with maximizing funds and the inventory created with the plan. The department anticipates some tangible work to be complete in the coming year.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Follow-up on letters to City Council RE: Alcohol Licenses and Central Valley Opioid Coalition RE: Lock It Up Program**

This item is being heard as a follow-up to the letters regarding Alcohol Licenses and the Lock It Up Program. Curt Thornton stated there has not been a meaningful response to either of the letters. Suggestions include forming two Ad-hoc committees that would incorporate others outside of board to address both issues. Further, recommendations include the BHB request to be placed on the agenda for the City Council meetings to address the Alcohol Licensing issues. Suggestions for the Lock It Up Program included contacting the local top representative for CVS and Walgreens to discuss the matter.

Curt volunteered to chair the Ad-hoc committee to address issues of the Lock It Up program. Brandy Dickey volunteered to participate in the committee, as well.

A chair was not named for the Ad-hoc committee to address issues of Alcohol Licenses. Volunteers were requested.

Members of the public are welcome to join either Ad-hoc committee.

## **VII. New Business**

- A. Future site visits: Exodus Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) – Adult and Children’s Units (*January 2018*)
- B. Children’s PHF at Central Star (*date to be determined*)

Tina will provide the BHB with a scheduled date for the site visit of Exodus CSU, as well as the Children’s PHF.

A discussion on the use of site visit forms was held. It was decided that for each site visit a designated BHB member will be in charge of collecting input / forms from each BHB member and complete a separate form on behalf of the group. The site visit forms shall be maintained by the Secretary for record keeping purposes and future reference.

The Holistic Cultural & Education Wellness Center was suggested as a future site visit.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Adult Services**

During the December Adult Services committee, recommendations were made to develop an employment program / job development program. A representative of the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) presented on a program that assists clients in obtaining permanent employment and/or reaching educational goals towards employment. Some concerns expressed include the lack of available services to the severely mentally ill (SMI) population. Staff from the DOR work diligently to assist clients; however, there are not enough team members to provide the level of service needed by individuals with an SMI.

The committee requests that a representative from DBH attend the Adult Services meeting on February 5, 2018, to discuss the department's involvement in the program. Adult Services Committee will not meet in January.

### **B. Children's Services**

Children's Services committee will meet December 21 at 9:00 AM at the TAY. There was no meeting in November.

### **C. Justice Services**

The next Justice meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Blue Sky Wellness Center.

### **D. Other reports or announcements**

## **IX. Public Comment** *(Any person wishing to address the Board will be limited to 5 minutes or less according to the time available and the number of those wishing to address the Board)*

Public comment held.

## **X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM.

**This meeting is open to the public under the Ralph M. Brown Act.**