

# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

*Karen Larsen, LMFT*  
Director

MAILING ADDRESS

137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8940 • www.yolocounty.org

## Local Mental Health Board 2017-2018 Annual Report

### Membership and Duties

In the last twelve months since the last report to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (BOS) from the Yolo County Local Mental Health Board (LMHB), there has been some turn over experienced by the Board. In 2018 we have added three new board members, Antonia Tsobanoudis, Serena Durand, and Ben Rose. Our executive leadership is comprised of Chair James Glica-Hernandez, Vice-Chair Nicki King and Secretary/Treasurer Reed Walker.

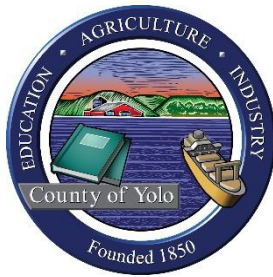
A roster of our current members is below

Member	District	Date Appointed	Expiration of Term
Bret Bandle	1	2/7/2017	1/13/2020
Martha Guerrero	1	1/24/2017	1/21/2020
Sally Mandujan	1	1/24/2017	1/31/2020
Serena Durand	2	2/20/2018	1/31/2021
Nicki King	2	2/21/2017	1/31/2020
Antonia Tsobanoudis	2	2/20/2018	1/31/2019
Richard Bellows	3	1/23/2018	1/31/2021
Laurie Ferns	3	2/21/2017	1/31/2019
James Glica-Hernandez	3	1/24/2017	1/31/2020
Ben Rose	4	1/23/2018	1/31/2021
Robert Schelen	4	1/23/2018	1/31/2021
Ajay Pal Singh	4	7/26/2016	1/31/2019
Brad Anderson	5	2/09/2016	1/31/2019
Reed Walker	5	1/10/2017	1/31/2020

The dedicated and talented members of the LMHB deeply consider all issues brought before them and engage discussions ranging from the selection of the appropriate name of the advisory body to hearing the concerns of the public regarding mental health services and making recommendations to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). The LMHB is concerned with reaching out and addressing the concerns of our diverse county from the rural to the urban centers within Yolo County.

### Growth and Action

The LMHB continues to oversee and provide support and recommendations to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). LMHB members have received presentations from various HHS department heads and receive ongoing education on the many areas of service which fall under the HHS umbrella. LMHB members have heard presentations about West Sacramento's



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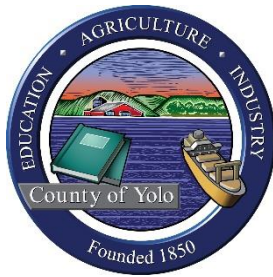
Crisis Center and the 5150 Process. West Sacramento has been a particular focus for LMHB members, as the board has noted a need for increased services to this community. The LMHB has heard presentations on the homeless population in Yolo County and HHSA's ongoing efforts to providing housing and support services for homeless individuals. The LMHB has also received presentations on Substance Use Disorder, Children's Services and particularly how HHSA and the Yolo County courts work together to protect the most vulnerable citizens of Yolo County, our children. Additionally, the LMHB received its yearly budget update, which demonstrates how HHSA provides mental health services in a fiscally responsible manner. As an advisory body, the LMHB strives to increase their knowledge and collaboration with various departments and HHSA, with an ongoing focus on Substance Use Disorder, the Public Guardian's Office, Child Youth and Family Services and Homeless Services.

LMHB members have also been working on organizing site visits to various mental health facilities and other programs throughout Yolo County. Members want to make sure they are truly reaching out to citizens to hear their concerns. After identifying the needs of the community, the board will be able to better advocate for individuals receiving mental health services, and improve the systems and quality of care they receive with the goal of improving overall quality of life. Board members feel strongly that visiting sites is of the utmost importance, and it is their responsibility to reach out to the community in this manner. Planning for site visits began this year and will be an ongoing way for the LMHB to connect with the community.

The LMHB was excited to hear presentations on the new Wellness Center in Davis with a focus on serving Transition Age Youth (TAY) and expand adult mental health services to the Davis population. Members of the LMHB were present for the opening of the StayWell center at Woodland Community College, which serves a wide range of individuals. The members of the LMHB are proponents of wrap-around services work with multiple systems of care to deliver services and address the needs of whole person care by engaging in partnerships with various local organizations. A major need within the community is adequate housing for Yolo County residents receiving services. LMHB members are exploring various models and solutions that strive to improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations within our community. The LMHB is engaging rural communities by holding meetings in smaller communities, such as happened in Winters this past May. Yolo County is also in the process of building a supportive housing model in Woodland with Mental Health Services Act Funding.

The LMHB is heavily engaged in reviewing ways to avoid the termination of a highly valued program due to cuts in state funding. The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) was a new venture for Yolo County and was heralded by not only by mental health clients, but also by law enforcement and clinical staff. Public commentary lamented the loss of the CIP Program and prompted conversation about ways to reconstruct the CIP program utilizing other funding sources to ensure the longevity of this necessary program. Fortunately, the Crisis Intervention Program was reconstituted as the Mobile Crisis Unit within HHSA.

In the interest of providing ongoing education to the board, new members of the board completed ethics training, as required by California law (AB 1234, Chapter 700, Stats. Of 2005). This year it was a great honor to have the LMHB Chair, James Glica-Hernandez, elected to the California



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Association of Local Behavioral Health Board and Commissions (CALBHBC). Also in partnership with the CALBHBC, the LMHB contributed to the Data Notebook report, which focused on the older adult population. Data analysis has been at the forefront of the board's goals and decision-making process. Data has therefore become an integrated piece of each meeting and continues to be an essential decision making tool for board members.

## Upcoming Challenges and Activities

One of the LMHB's greatest upcoming challenges is how to help Pine Tree Gardens remain a viable community-based residential program. Pine Tree Gardens was originally created by the mental health pioneers, Pat and Bill Williams. Pine Tree Gardens has a long history in Davis and is an essential housing resource for the community. Pine Tree Gardens has encountered a difficult financial situation and the operators of the facility have met with the LMHB's Pine Tree Garden's Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss possible solutions to their operational difficulties. This challenging issue has brought all parties to the table, including Pine Tree Gardens staff and leadership, HHS's director and branch directors and LMHB members in an attempt to preserve this community resource.

Looking forward, the LMHB would like to increase outreach to the community and increase accessibility to services for unserved or underserved communities, such as Spanish and Russian speakers, the LGBTQ community, and undocumented individuals who have limited access to services. In the coming year, we also anticipate increased focus on working with law enforcement, transportation services for clients, newly opened Wellness Centers and continuing to expand the "no wrong door" model. "No wrong door" means that no matter where a client enters the system, they are connected to the multitude of services that the integrated Health and Human Services system has to offer. This model will provide the highest level of care for members in our community receiving mental health and medical services.

## Summary

With the addition of our new board members, we want to build on our success and support HHS in their goals. We are also building our community engagement as we continue to reach out and listen to the needs of our clients and staff on the issues that affect them directly. The LMHB continues to be a voice and a means of action for those receiving mental health services in Yolo County. The LMHB looks forward to another year of challenges and discussions with a very insightful and talented group of individuals. LMHB members care deeply and strive to serve those who need a voice in the field of mental/behavioral health.

## Board Member Bios