



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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Local Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020

Online/Call-in ZOOM

- Members Present:** John Archuleta, Brad Anderson, Maria Simas, Jonathan Raven, Carol Christensen, Rachel Warren, Xiolong Li, Aleecia Gutierrez, Nicki King, Richard Bellows, Serena Durand, Robert Schelen (Bob), Antonia Tsuboudis, Don Saylor
- Members Absent:** Supervisor Jim Provenza, Nick Burtcil
- Staff Present:** Karen Larsen, Mental Health Director, HHSA Director
Leigh Harrington, HHSA Medical Director, Mila Green, Deputy Branch Director/Deputy Mental Health Director
- Guests:** Kathleen Williams-Fossdal, Elena Ledesma, Linda Wight, Sara Simmons, Leslie Carol, Nancy Temple, Maggie Fry, Petrea Marchand, Mavon Garrity, Marilyn Moyal, Patrick Odland

CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The May 18th, 2020 meeting of the Local Mental Health Board was called to order at 6:13PM On-line. Introductions were made.
- 2. Public Comment:**
 - Patrick Odland inquired about applications for serving on the Board and Nicki directed him to go to Yolo County Website
 - Kathleen Williams states, if we purchase Pine Tree Gardens for \$800,000 there would be \$200,000 left, could we rent with the remainder with a plan for purchase to buy?
 - Linda White expresses concerns for proposal of sale primary language of process. Community input has always been. Feels shortchanged because timeline didn't allow committee enough time to react and evaluate the proposal. I feel there needs to be some clarifying language in the memorandum of understanding. Stand firm to make sure needs of residents come first. They need our protection. Advocacy for stable housing. However, maintaining PTG as it is currently is a key component.
 - Marilyn Moyal-read her statement to BOS if the homes do remain as they are the current will need more costly care.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** with the following changes; add Nomination Committee Report and Vote Committee will reach out before next meeting to inform. The nominating committee had a Skype meeting today at 5pm. Carol moved to approve and Maria second.

4. Approval Minutes: Richard; Maria 2nd with the following corrections; note that Anaya McCann made a public comment or note the comment was unavailable if no recording. Rephrase to say nominating committee and remove the additional items that weren't covered as topics on Local Mental Health Directors Report.

5. Member Announcements:

- Richard and his wife have now made over 600 masks for donation.
- John states he got an email from someone that is suffering from PTSD who claimed that the masks were causing them difficulty, Nicki states we must follow the guidelines. John wants something to be put out about a public statement from NAMI for no public shaming, Nicki states she represents health council they can be sent directly to her.

6. Correspondence: None

7. Time Set Agenda: None

8. Mental Health Director's Report by Karen Larsen, Mental Health Director, HHSA

Executive Commission to Address Homelessness- group of elected officials from each of the cities and HPAC. The group used to be the 10-year Plan to address homelessness, they are now working together to steer the ship. The SB funds that come to the county have to do with property sales, can we pull these funds to continue Project Room Key longer than we think the state is going to fund it. Antonia wants to know if the budget is included in the Housing Stability document in the packet included with source documents

MHSA 3-year Plan- the consultant we brought in is finalizing it for posting. Hopefully you will see the report and potential vote at next meeting. Nicki will there be any kind of delay since COVID? Karen states there are advocates pushing for extensions, but we have no way of knowing if that will be successful. Nothing good unfortunately. We shared based on governors may revised. We will have our first receipts for realign dollars so we will know what's going to hit. We will be making deep cuts to several Prop Programs. The last economic downturn we laid off 40% of our staff but we are in an even worse place now. We may be able to shift realignment now that we have integrated. The last time we had a major downturn, maybe it won't be to our advantage to delay the plan. Karen states our intentions not to delay the plan.

Pine Tree Gardens/ARF-the MOU that goes to BOS tomorrow is between transfer 1 million to new hope for purchase and any needed repairs to East house. Going in with a short turnaround money is set to revert to state on June 30th. We have tried to spend the money for 6 years now on other projects. When we came to this point where we going to lose the money. Our plans are not to make changes to way we provide services, we have no intention of anything more tomorrow than getting the money out the door and improve programming. Antonia says Save Pine Tree Gardens and HHSA have had a working relationship and their requests have been made clear, we all want to keep Pine Tree Gardens as a place where people can go to live with serious mental illness, intent is for it to continue that care even as it turns over. We have two paths one where we are taking care of the physical location, separate from that there is the care of the consumers (operators' side of house) tomorrow is an agreement that county will transfer funds. Glad there is money. Brad was asked to speak tomorrow for public comment at the BOS meeting, how he understands it that he would like to express from his experience that the program remains the same and that permanent residency will still exist. Wants to know if the current operators will lose their jobs. Karen states, we issued

an RFP and awarded the contract, if they take over the operation of this home or the other one, they have offered to extend a wage to the current operators. Nicki points out that if North Valley BH does end up being the operator of record, they would have to obtain a license. Karen states facilities are already licensed. Karen not sure about the question but it's worth looking into but we aren't there yet in the process. We are just trying to get the money out the door. Antonia would like to know if there will be rent charged. How are they planning to operate? Will it function just as it is now, pay operator and then pay lease back to New Hope. Karen states right now operators pay nothing but that's not sustainable.

- **State Budget Projections-** Nicki says she saw may revise, and it is heading in draconian direction. Karen says it's going to get worse before it gets better. In terms of realignment. Its already bad we will spend all the reserves we have for realignment. Our savings will be gone by July 1st. We will be making significant additional cuts.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Board of Supervisors Report given by Don Saylor, Yolo County BOS-District 2

Tomorrow we will make a very significant step moving forward to support PTG in Davis we are in this all together. This has been around a long time we are trying to take one step at a time, and this is a very defined step. It's been a struggle to get to this point. The connection to state budget is a significant one. There are some creative people who try and scrape together and identify everything they can. We have had calls for fund balance. It's unlikely we will escape unscathed. This million will explore in June, won't go unnoticed as state will be looking for every penny. 835 low income folks, we just joined 5 years ago. That program has done so good there are few uninsured. The cost is going to pay for homeless in motels, we know the governors going to look at reserves for county medical services program. If that happens, we won't be able to serve those folks if it hits our funding. Its billions of dollars of a budget hole. The county is in the same situation. With 8 million in revenue reduction and 8 million in revenue reduction in property taxes, and sales taxes coupled with added expenses which are necessary to give stop gap to those in need. We will do hiring freezes, not pay some expenses,

Tomorrow we will also be proclaimed Mental Health Awareness Month and it sad we are unable to hold it in the special way we normally do. Respond in positive way and keep serving the people in the way we usually do.

184 confirmed COVID cases and 22 neighbors have succumbed to this virus. We have done well with our stay at home orders. A whole lot of people have had to deny themselves including those who had to deny themselves to make a living. We believe the governor has adjusted to allow us to move forward to stage 2. It will allow dine in services but not immediately. We have also opened a few other categories. Large gatherings are still high-risk situations and we are still looking at those coming in stage 3 or 4 in the next 3 to 4 months. Areas such as skilled nursing facilities, being too close together at work, those incarcerated, places of worship, or family gatherings are where infections are spreading most rapidly. As of today, we have had no cases in a jail or detention facility setting for inmates, vendors, or staff. This is attributed to the safe practices of the people who are operating those places. Population kept very low with the ability to house 450 but instead kept only 175. The were able to keep single room occupancy in county jail with an isolation area for regular population and those with

concern for exposure to virus. Pressure to open the things we love to do are mounting. Thank you for your service.

Nicki mentions that a good part of the very wonderful outcome in term of low numbers has to do with work of our health officer Ron chapman. The people on county team have been incredible as well as the volunteers like the bellows or delivering food. Asking people if they need anything, checking in on each other. It's the yolo way. Brad-everyone's been a great job.

10. Criminal Justice Report by Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney

I am glad there are a lot of member from public, you will find this report to be happy, sad, challenging but uplifting. 1st about a week ago one of our young MH court participants was arrested for assault a serious crime which was frustrating because he was doing well for 15 months. The family contacted me family were happy with the way the officer handled the case. They were caring and compassionate. We are doing well in this county with our officer getting evolved CIT training. The Department of State Hospitals is not accepting or sending out. They are transferring and transporting, we had 5 come into our jail now. Thinking about what we want to do to help these individuals. Assessments on hold for a while during COVID that was a challenge because we weren't getting the referrals. Thanks Karen, for rebooting assessments in facilities to find out who need to get help. Something really sad and hit me hard; Maria Guevarra lives in Solano County was influential in helping homeless, with a strong relationship with DA. She committed a serious crime (abuse resulting in the victim breaking ribs). Solano county asked us to help as it was a conflict of interest for them, so the case came to me and my team recognized some mental health issues. I took it because we have a lot of experience. I had only wish we had the programs in Solano County like we had here. I knew what we would do if they were here. I didn't agree with judge's decision, and shortly after she completely disengaged from services and was out in the wind. She was set to come back to court to see how we can help her. Sadly, the criminal justice is the place where we can help people with mental health. She was scheduled to be in court in a few weeks and I got an email on Friday from county counsel that Maria was hit by a train and died. It was really very sad for them. I am happy to answer any questions. We have this grant which will allow us to double the number of participants, and soon we will get funding and can hire new case workers, we will be hiring and expanding, currently its only Jasmine Gonzales. We are on the cutting edge in Yolo County. We have a long way to go in what we can do. We have these group calls with the Center for Excellence out of New York, regarding COVID with prosecutors. I was asked to talk to those prosecutors about what we have been able to do with MH Court. Couldn't believe that few were doing it by Zoom. We are trailblazers in yolo county and that's very exciting. Uplifting event last Thursday participant in Steven in addiction intervention report had 20-year career as police officer in Hawaii, he surrendered himself to the program we supported him in court, was due to graduate but kept delaying it. Last Thursday we did a zoom graduation. We were able to have people attend that wouldn't normally be able to attend. We had cake and pizza deliver. Some of you participant haven't done well but this one did. Nicki, I want to commend you in MH and drug court its really saving peoples life. You will be someone I commend tomorrow at the board. Marilyn-would like to say that if the family of the woman who was hit by a train would like to contact me, that's how my son died. I am offering that support. Thank you, she doesn't have a lot of family she has a lot of friends. As I was preparing to talk, I was thing about you Patrea, Noah and your family. It's helpful to be there to support the friend as well.

9. Chair Report

- a. Vitals App: information item only-re-write was nicely done. There wasn't pressure to get it out. The rewording allowed an emphasis on the boards concerns.

10. Future Meeting Planning and Adjournment

Planning future meeting: Put nomination/election on next agenda. Updated roster sent. Need update on our webpage to remove the lovely letter from James, we want to let them know that we do have a different chair.

Next meeting will be on June 29th by ZOOM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55pm