

Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Minutes of the Regular & ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021
5:00 p.m.

NOTICE: Requests for assistive listening devices or other accommodations, such as interpretive services, shall be made through the Executive Secretary (530) 822-7327 ext. 202. Requests should be made at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

1. **Call to Order**

Vice Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

The following members were on the ZOOM meeting or in attendance: Lupe Rose and Ateequr Rehman, Supervisor Karm Bains, Supervisor Seth Fuhrer, and Margery Hubbard.

The following members were excused: Margery Hubbard

The following members were absent: Manny Vasquez and Lesley Clarkson

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, Assistant Director of Health & Human Services and Local Behavioral Health Director; Elizabeth Gowan, Deputy Director, Adult Services and MHSA Coordinator; Myia McClendon, Adult Services Program Manager; Mai Vang – Mental Health Therapist III, Hmong Outreach Center; Phillip Hernandez, Adult Services SUDS Program Manager; Jay Kaze and, Sue Hopper, Executive Secretary.

3. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approve August 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Member Fuhrer moved to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Bains and carried as follows:

Aye votes:	Board Members Bains, Fuhrer, Rose, and Rehman
Nay votes:	None
Abstentions:	None

4. **Program Presentation: Ethnic Outreach, Myia McClendon, Program Manager and Mai Vang, Mental Health Therapist III, Hmong Outreach Center:** Ms. Vang provided a presentation on the Hmong Outreach Center (HOC) and services provided to the Hmong community through the HOC. The HOC is located in Olivehurst and staffed with a Mental Health Therapist, Mental Health Worker and Case Manager and provides:

- Full range outpatient mental health services (except for medication services)
- Education/Outreach

- Prevention & Early Intervention, including providing consultation & training to the community about the Hmong culture and mental illness in order to increase their ability to serve the Hmong population.
- Resource navigation/referrals and linkage to outside resources via in person drop-in and virtual meetings. Also provides interpretation services for clients during medication appointments.

Ms. Vang reports that the HOC typically has 70-75 families in direct services. Due to COVID-19 the HOC served 53 clients last year. The youth group was also stopped due to COVID, but it typically had 19 participants.

- In FY 20/21, the program served 53 **unduplicated** Hmong clients and their families for direct mental health services
- HOC conducted home visits and trained 28 **unduplicated** monolingual Hmong adult clients (in-person) how to use their electronic device to be able to access virtual services due to COVID-19.
- PEI Youth Outreach IMPACT served 19 **Unduplicated** FY 19/20: This program has been on hold since March 2021 due to COVID-19.
- Hmong Outreach Program Youth Outreach efforts reached a total of 117 **unduplicated** Hmong community members with outreach activities FY 19/20 before the pandemic.

Ms. Vang reports the HOC provides group meetings Monday thru Thursday that are available virtually or through telehealth. The HOC is very centrally located near the Hmong community and close to bus stops.

Cultural beliefs and stigma pose challenges to this population. The HOC works to overcome this by engaging folks with cultural activities such as gardening and sewing. HOC staff work to train clients on how to use the bus system and provide transportation when they can. Ms. Vang and staff try to provide services not related to mental health in order to reduce stigma and educate/engage people. The HOC is in the process of opening up additional office space for the center.

Ms. McClendon provided a presentation on the Latino Outreach Center (LOC). Ms. McClendon reports that the LOC has recently hired a new supervisor, Ms. Lopez-Leon.

Ms. McClendon reports that Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15, 2021 through October 15, 2021. More information on activities will be coming out soon.

The Latino Outreach Program provides specialized mental health services for the Latino Spanish-speaking/Bilingual Community of Sutter and Yuba Counties. As part of their specialized mental health services, they have three Spanish-Bilingual Mental Health Therapists who provide individual and group therapy services to youth, adults, couples, and families. Additionally, they have two Spanish-Bilingual Mental Health Workers who support our clients with transportation, interpreting, case management and life skills development to assist clients with mental, medical, educational, and social adjustments.

Treatment levels vary from low to high intensity because of limited options for appropriate cultural and linguistic support services in the community. Services include triage, evaluations, treatment planning, individual, group and family therapy, case management and referrals when available. LOC staff provide community outreach to try and engage people into services.

In FY 2021 the LOC served 106 adults and 134 youth and their families. They are currently working on revamping the way groups are run and are training clients on using virtual services.

5. **SUDS Program Update – Phillip Hernandez, Program Manager** – no new updates provided.
6. **MHSA Program Update – Betsy Gowan, Adult Services Deputy Director, MHSA Coordinator** reported on the following: Ms. Gowan thanked everyone who presented and stated that as those programs are funded by MHSA it is great to hear what they are doing. Adult Services has recently hired a new Staff Analyst for the MHSA program that will start on October 4, 2021. Ms. Gowan states they are continuing to move forward with the iCARE mobile engagement team and the new FSP program partnership. Ms. Gowan reports that the supportive housing program at New Haven is going well, all residents are still placed and doing well, and she is very happy with Telecare and the services they are providing.
7. **Behavioral Health Director’s Report – Rick Bingham, LMFT:** Mr. Bingham reported on the following:
 - SYBH was recently informed that one of the care homes in Colusa county was sold and will close. This was a privately owned home. What this means is that it will be difficult to find placement for the 12 individuals residing there; most are on conservatorship. Staff are working to find placement and have found placement for all but three right now. The home won’t close until the end of the month and SYBH hopes to have those three individuals placed by then. Affordable housing is in short supply throughout the state, so this poses a challenge. And housing that is specifically dedicated to those with mental health issues is even more of a challenge. Mr. Bingham reports that there may be some money through state initiatives that may be able to help with placement.
 - Children’s Services – FFPSA – Families First Prevention Services Act - related to Child Welfare Services (CWS). CWS will now need to provide what is known as a qualified individual, basically a therapist, to conduct evaluations on the placement of foster children. This is a specialized skill set. This regulation must be implemented by October 1, 2021. CWS is working towards having two therapists trained before then. Depending on the demand this section may need to be contracted out in the future.
 - Adult Services – the HEART team is a combination of law enforcement, behavioral health, and social services. Part of their mission is to meet up with homeless individuals and make them aware of changes in local ordinances/regulations. They offer beds at homeless shelters and services for individuals with substance or mental health disorders. This team is conducting a homeless awareness campaign during the month of November to educate on services and to help individuals overcome homelessness. The campaign will be conducted through social media and outreach to other venues.
 - New Haven Project – half of these units are devoted to behavioral health homeless clients. Services are administered through Telecare. Mr. Bingham and Ms. Gowan recently attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the Cedar Lane project. Cedar Lane is located in Yuba County and will mirror the New Haven project in Sutter County.

In response to a question from Mr. Rehman, Mr. Bingham expanded on the explanation of care homes. Care homes are typically privately owned and licensed by the state for different services. Some are for elderly and others are for individuals with mental health or developmental disabilities. The only payment that care homes receive is a board and care rate, that is typically very low. If clients receive social security, it is just enough to cover the board and care rate and is used as monthly payment for the care home. Care homes provide room, food, supports, medication administration, limited transportation, and some activities. The monthly rate received by care homes is just not enough to stay operational. Costs are high and it is difficult for them to stay in business.

In response to a question Mr. Hernandez states, yes, September is Recovery Month however due to COVID-19 no picnic will be held; hope to be back on track next year.

8. **New Business:** None addressed

9. **Old Business:** None addressed.

10. **Public Comment:** None addressed.

11. **Other Announcements/Correspondence:** None addressed.

12. **Adjournment:**

There being no further business brought forward Vice Chair Rose thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.