

**Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Advisory Board**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023

5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Clarkson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

The following members were in attendance: Chair Lesley Clarkson, Mary Page, Heather Esemann, Tom McWhorter, Renick House (via ZOOM) and Maggie Walker.

The following members were excused: Supervisor Don Blaser, Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer and Manny Cardoza.

The following members were absent: Jay Kaze

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director, and Behavioral Health Director; Phillip Hernandez, Program Manager SUDS; Betsy Gowan, Branch Director – Adult Services; Parminder Heer, Mental Health Therapist III, and Sue Hopper, Executive Secretary.

3. **Public Comment:** No public comments were provided.

4. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approve March 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes.** Due to a lack of a quorum this item will be heard at the May 11, 2023, meeting.

5. **Program Presentation** – Adult Urgent Services – Parminder Heer, Mental Health Therapist III. Ms. Heer reported on the following:

- The Adult Urgent Services program provides mental health services to community members who have moderate to severe behavioral health conditions aged eighteen and up. A key component of this program is Open Access Clinic where community members seeking behavioral health treatment can access same-day services three days a week between the hours of 8am to 2pm.
- Clinicians provide triage assessments to community members seeking behavioral health treatment to determine the appropriate level of care for treatment. Clinicians provide medication support services, individual therapy, and group therapy.
- The program also consists of a Healthcare Access Coordinator who assists community members with linkage to community providers. They are currently providing services in-person, over the phone, and using telehealth platforms such as Doxy.me and Zoom.
- During fiscal year 2021/2022, Adult Urgent Services served a total of 652 unduplicated clients. A total of 1,367 assessments, including triage, intake, and reassessments, were completed. A total of 870 therapy appointments were provided during this fiscal period.

- Some difficulties include contacting community members seeking mental health services for a triage assessment via phone. The program makes at least three attempts to contact individuals seeking services. There are also some challenges in referring and transitioning clients with mild to moderate mental health needs to community providers. Providing individual therapy services in a timely fashion has been another challenge for this program.
 - Inadequate staffing has been ongoing issue for this program which has resulted in delays in providing individual therapy services, as well as availability of group therapy services. An increase in therapists would help reduce wait time for clients seeking such services.
6. **SUDS Program Update** – Phillip Hernandez, Deputy Branch Director, Adult Services. Mr. Hernandez reported on the following:
- SUDS Staffing – Intervention Counselor has been embedded in the Youth Services program two days per week for now with the goal of improving engagement with youth struggling with addiction.
 - First Steps – Program will have two participants graduating at the end of this month.
7. **MHSA Program Update** – Ms. Gowan, Adult Services Branch Director, MHSA Coordinator reported on the following:
- Both Sutter and Yuba Counties Boards of Supervisors have approved the MHSA 22/23 Annual Update.
 - MHSA 23/24 Annual Update – public comment period will be posted May 9, 2023, and Public Hearing will be scheduled for June 2023 BHAB meeting.
 - MHSA 2-Year Plan – shooting for October 2023 for public comment period and November 2023 for Public Hearing.
8. **Behavioral Health Director’s Report** – Rick Bingham, Assistant Director/BH Director. Mr. Bingham reported on the following:
- Friday Night Live – local chapters include Marysville, East Nicolaus, and Live Oak High Schools.
 - Sutter County Probation – one therapist is embedded in this program and serves fifty-one clients; and a case manager that manages fifteen clients.
 - Lindhurst High School Incident - SYBH clinicians responded and continue to provide support as needed. Mr. Bingham and other community agencies participated in a community forum on how to access community resources/services. Forums will also be held at Marysville High School and Yuba Feather Elementary School.
 - In response to board queries regarding suicide rates in Sutter and Yuba counties, Mr. Bingham reviewed the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commissions’ dashboard showing statewide and individual county suicide rates. This is a publicly accessible website.
 - Governor Newsom is putting an initiative on the ballot that will change the allocation of the MHSA funding. He is proposing about a 30% cut that would be re-routed to homeless housing. This would be a significant impact to Behavioral Health funding/programs.

9. New Business

- a. Adult Urgent Services Site Visit Report – Ms. Page reports that overall, she was impressed with the program and their work considering everything that they deal with, such as staffing shortages. Staff seem to love what they do and where they work.
- b. Site Visit Attendees for Ethnic Outreach, BEST, PATH, HEART - Ms. Clarkson, Ms. Walker and Ms. Esemann will conduct the site visits for the Ethnic Outreach, BEST, PATH and HEART programs.

10. Old Business

- Ms. Clarkson is continuing to work on the BHAB Annual Report.

11. Other Announcements/Correspondence

- a. California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions Quarterly Meeting and/or Training Notice – informational only.
- b. Ms. Clarkson announced that Tri-County Diversity is holding fundraiser at Panda Express on April 27, 2023.

- 12. Adjournment** - There being no further business brought forward Chair Clarkson thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.