

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Esemann called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

The following members were in attendance: Supervisor Don Blaser (via ZOOM), Maggie Walker, Lesley Clarkson, Chair Heather Esemann, Mary Page, Jay Kaze, Renick House, and Wendell Peters (via ZOOM).

Excused: Manny Cardoza

Absent: Supervisor Nicholas Micheli

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director; Betsy Gowan, Adult Services Branch Director; Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Health & Human Services Director (via ZOOM); Steven Leahy, HHS Assistant Director (via ZOOM); Amanda Martin, SYBH Admin Services Officer, and Sue Hopper, Administrative Assistant.

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

4. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approve January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes** - Member Clarkson moved to approve the January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member House.

Aye votes: Esemann, Clarkson, Blaser, Page, Kaze, House, and Walker

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: None

- b. **Approve February 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes** - Member Kaze moved to approve the February 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member House.

Aye votes: Esemann, Clarkson, Blaser, Page, Kaze, House, and Walker

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: None

5. **Program Presentation** – Mid-Year Budget Update – Steven Leahy, HHS Assistant Director – Finance, and Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director – Program Services. Mr. Bingham and Mr. Leahy reported on the following:

- SYBH is the only Bi-County Mental Health Plan in the State of California.
- Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act - prompted changes in our local mental health delivery system. State hospitals began to close, and services are delivered at the county level.
- California counties are required to have mental health programs, which were later organized into Mental Health Plans (MHP).
- Sutter and Yuba counties have a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) whereby Yuba County mental health funds from the state are sent to Sutter County to operate a joint mental health plan for both counties.
- Patients Served (FY 2022-23):4,561 – 51.4% Sutter County and 48.6% Yuba County
- Total FY 23/24 Budget: \$63,217,271; funded from 1991 & 2011 Realignment (30%); Mental Health Services Act (30%); Medi-Cal Reimbursement (21% includes Drug Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Admin & QA); Grants & Allocations (9%), and Fees and Other Sources (fees for services, client fees, insurance fees, provider administration fees, interest, and donations - 10%).
- Payment reform was implemented by the State on July 1, 2023. This implementation fundamentally changes SYBH from a cost-based, Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) reimbursement cost report process, to a rate-based reimbursement with no cost settlement process.
- New Model: Fee-for-service tied to IGT = FFS claims for federal funds; BH plans paid at fixed rate with no cost settlement – rate based on licensure of provider, not service category; Units of services reimbursed consistent with CPT codes; Non-federal share – Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT); New approach to reporting cost data and audits – approach is to be determined.
- New model does not add new funds to public BH system of care. Reimbursement to county BH plans will remain FFS. Rate schedule is established by Department of Health Care Services. Contracted service provider payment rates will be negotiated with the Mental Health Plan.
- With the old model of reimbursement – payment was based on the service provided – not the licensure of the staff providing the service. With the new model reimbursement is based on the licensure of the staff providing the service.

6. **MHSA Program Update** – Betsy Gowan, Branch Director, Adult Services. Ms. Gowan reported on the following:

- Proposition 1 – voting outcome has not been decided yet - will determine impact once vote is decided.
- Moving forward with Suicide Prevention Plan – working with schools on “postvention” plans – this is helping the schools identify their plan and plan for responses to incidents.

7. **Behavioral Health Director's Report** – Rick Bingham, Assistant Director/BH Director. Mr. Bingham reported on the following:
 - Mobile Crisis – State requirement was that this program be implemented by 12/31/23. SYBH has not met this mandate – mainly due to revenue. SYBH has only received payment for July due partly to DHCS's new reimbursement system and partly due to SYBH's Electronic Health Record System, which went live in May 2023. Discussions with the State are on-going, but sanctions may be levied.
 - SYBH Parking Lot – funding source that was potentially identified is no longer viable. Sump pump is currently being installed to address the issue of standing water after rains.

8. **New Business**
 - a. Program Presentation Selection for April 11, 2024
 - Probation/Camp Singer
 - Schedule tour of the new Juvenile Hall facility
 - b. Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to Develop the Annual Year-End Report for FY 2023-24
 - Ms. Esemann, Ms. Clarkson, and Mr. House volunteered to develop the Year-End report.

9. **Old Business**
 - a. Homeless Ad Hoc Committee Draft Report
 - A summarized version of this report will be included as part of the Year-End report.
 - b. Brown Act Guidance on Just Cause or Emergency Allowances
 - Encourage members to attend meetings.

10. **Other Announcements/Correspondence**
 - a. California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions Newsletter - reminder to anyone who wants to attend that hotel and travel fees are paid through the Association. Mr. Peters will see if he is able to participate.

11. **Adjournment** - There being no further business brought forward Chair Esemann thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.