

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

Thursday, April 11, 2024

5:00 p.m.

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1. **Call to Order**

Chair Esemann called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

The following members were in attendance: Maggie Walker, Lesley Clarkson, Chair Heather Esemann, Vice Chair Manny Cardoza, Jay Kaze, Renick House, and Wendell Peters (via ZOOM).

Excused: Supervisor Don Blaser, Mary Page, and Supervisor Dan Flores

Absent: Supervisor Nicholas Micheli

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director; Paul Cummings, Bruce Adams, and Sue Hopper, Administrative Assistant.

3. **Public Comment:** Mr. Cummings and Mr. Adams introduce themselves.

4. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approve March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes** - Member Clarkson moved to approve the March 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member Walker.

Aye votes: Esemann, Clarkson, Kaze, House, Cardoza, and Walker.

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: None

5. **Program Presentation** – Forensics – Dustina Cordero, Program Manager – Clinical Services and Phillip Hernandez, Adult Services Deputy Branch Director. Ms. Cordero and Mr. Hernandez reported on the following:

- Forensic staff provides behavioral health services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, Sutter County Probationers, Yuba County Behavioral Health Court (BHC), evaluations for defendants in or out of custody, who have court orders for LPS Conservatorship investigations and court orders for behavioral health treatment recommendations.
- The team collaborates with Sutter County Probation Officers to provide behavioral health services to probationers who are identified with behavioral health issues. Services include intake-assessment, referrals to needed services, therapy, and case management.

- Defendants must meet Full-Service Partnership (FSP) criteria for Yuba County BHC program participation. FSP eligible defendants who are severely mentally ill is our target population. This population is referred to the SHINE FSP program who provides treatment support, case management and updates to the court, as ordered. FSP eligible defendants, who are not severely mentally ill and considered mild to moderate, are referred to the Yuba County Probation contracted therapist for treatment. The mild to moderate BHC cases are overseen by the assigned Probation Officer who provides updates to the court.
- Services for CARE Court (Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment) are being developed and should launch on 12/1/2024.
- Sutter County Data – For FY22/23 – 87 referrals were received, 58 were completed for a 67% completion rate. 29 referrals did not follow through with services. For the first half of FY 23/24, 36 referrals have been received – 18 have completed assessments and 18 have not followed through with services; 8 referrals are pending assessment.
- Yuba County Behavioral Health Court data – one client has successfully completed the program; one client is currently participating, and one client decided not to complete the program. Sutter County does not have a Behavioral Health Court program.
- The Forensic Program has a strong collaboration with both Sutter and Yuba County Probation Departments.

6. **MHSA Program Update** – Betsy Gowan, Branch Director, Adult Services. Mr. Bingham provided the following report on behalf of Ms. Gowan:

- Mental Health First Aid Movie Premier – first showing was held in Yuba County on April 4, 2024; well attended and well received. Next showing will be on April 13, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. in Sutter County.
- Prop 1 – Behavioral Health’s current system of care will change due to the passage for Prop 1. Staff from the Prevention & Early Intervention team will be impacted the most – looking into shrinking these program and re-assigning staff within the next year or so. Positions are being frozen if staff leave county employment and will be placed on hold until the future of all programs is clearer. Mental Health Services Act funding will now be Behavioral Health Services Act. Contracts with Yuba County Office of Education and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools are decreasing significantly and/or being terminated.
- Peer Mentors - Behavioral Health has utilized Peer Mentors for some time now. Recently the State made it possible for these individuals to become certified. Once certified Behavioral Health can bill Medi-Cal for services they provide.

7. **Behavioral Health Director’s Report** – Rick Bingham, Assistant Director/BH Director. Mr. Bingham reported on the following:

- CARE Court – both counties are working with a consultant for the implementation of this mandate. Phase I consists of eight counties who have implemented this program – referrals are slow right now.
- SB 43 – this bill broadens conservatorships to include drug/alcohol diagnosis. There are no facilities in California that involuntarily hold individuals with drug/alcohol issues and there

are no treatment processes in place for these individuals if conserved. Public Guardians will be highly impacted. SYBH has elected to delay implementation until January 2026.

**8. New Business**

- a. Program Presentation Selection for May 9, 2024
  - ✓ Discussion on Friday Night Live chapters – one active in Live Oak and one in Nicolaus. This is a SUDS sustained program and not heavily impacted by Prop I.
  - ✓ Camp Singer/Probation will be asked to present for the May 9, 2024, meeting.
- b. Appoint an Election Coordinator for the Election of Officers for FY 2024-25
  - ✓ Mr. Kaze volunteered to act as the Election Coordinator.
- c. Membership Requirements Discussion
  - ✓ 50% of membership needs to be consumers and family members of consumers – with one of those under the age of 25.
  - ✓ Effective January 2025 will also need an employee of a local education agency.
  - ✓ Current open positions are an At-Large from Yuba County and a Family Member from Sutter County.
  - ✓ Current members whose appointments are expiring will need to re-apply with their County Board Clerk to be re-appointed.

9. **Old Business** – none addressed.

10. **Other Announcements/Correspondence** – none addressed.

11. **Adjournment** - There being no further business brought forward Chair Esemann thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.