



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**

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**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS)  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)  
July 28, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. and called to order by Kathy Rupe, Chair.

Kathy Rupe led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Madalynn Baker, Megan Belair, Larry Bolton, Peter Dean, Shehu Hassan, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Charmaine Monte, Frank Ploof, Jerold Rosenthal, Kathy Rupe, Marjorie Sturdy, Keryn Whitlow, Terry Withrow.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Costin, Captain Frank Martinez, Officer Thomas Olsen, Gloria Vallin, Jack Waldorf.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Cynthia Bocage, Kara Anguiano, Sara Jacobo, Kevin Panyanouvong, Ruben Imperial, Michael Montoya.

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Daljit Grewal and Sandra Mahan.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None reported.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action: Keryn Whitlow made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of June 23, 2022. Charmaine Monte seconded the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: GENERAL, CONSUMER, FAMILY**

None reported.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT**

Supervisor Withrow reported the following:

- BOS approved the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget.
- The General Fund has increased due to the County's vacancy rate of 17%. The BOS has decided to spend about \$60 million in the next three years, specifically focusing on libraries, parks, county facilities, and employee recruitment and retention.
- The BOS toured unincorporated areas of the County to assess and prioritize funding of \$50 million to areas with the most in need for improvements.
- The old hospital on Scenic Road will be demolished. The future use of space has not been decided.
- The BOS approved Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) with a budget of \$38 million. The County could possibly allocate \$150,000 of the funding towards a program modeled after "Homeboy Industries".
- Stanislaus County Homeless Alliance presented their strategic plan to the BOS.
- Cannabis tax funds are being used to shut down illegal marijuana grows across the County.

## **PRESENTATION: 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE**

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 988 Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline:

- A three-digit dialing code, 988, has been designated to route callers to the confidential National Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.
- The lifeline provides confidential, emotional support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- California will be launching a month-long stakeholder engagement process to discuss how to improve its crisis care continuum and leverage new opportunities.
- The state of California contributed \$20 million in funding for 988 staffing.
- There has been a drop in crisis hospitalizations for children and adults due to COVID-19.
- The merger of the BHRS Access Line and Crisis Line is currently in its first rollout phase.
- BHRS is moving forward with recruiting mental health clinicians for the Mobile Crisis Response Unit.
- Additional funding has been added to the Community Access Campaign, currently promoting on English/Spanish radio and movie theaters.

A copy of the PowerPoint was distributed to the members.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Ruben Imperial reported the following:

- Mental Health Clinician vacancies are down from 26 to 13.
- Contractors now have an employee shortage.
- Overtime has been offered to clinicians, creating assessment appointments for evenings and weekends. There has been a 5% increase in the County workforce to help with recruitment and retention. Budgets have been allocated for teambuilding.
- BHRS is accepting ten interns from Stanislaus State University for their master's in social work. Stanislaus State can expand up to 50 more students, if BHRS promises to place them.

Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin counties have pledged to each take ten additional students. BHRS is working with contractors to absorb the remaining interns.

- BHRS is working on a response to the Housing Initiatives Committee recommendations.
- New BHRS Director Tony Vartan will start August 22, 2022.
- BHRS has applied for funding to partner with Probation and the County Jail to help develop strategies for inmates to receive mental health services 90 days before they are released. Medi-Cal would be billed for these services.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None reported.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be August 25, 2022, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Ste.15, Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by Mayra Mendoza, Confidential Asst III