



**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)**

*Regular Meeting*

Via teleconference

April 21, 2021 – 5:00 -7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Chair Tasso Kandris  
Vice Chair Patricia Barrett  
Carolyn Cooper  
Gertie Kandris  
John Weston  
Supervisor Miller  
Joretta Burlington  
Cary Martin

Board Members Absent/Excused:

Douglas Vigil  
Jeff Giampetro  
Karen Ivy  
Sabrina Flores-Eng  
Dr. Mudalodu Vasudevan

Also Present:

Greg Diederich, Director HCS  
Tony Vartan, Director BHS  
Isabel Espinosa, Office Secretary

Guests:

Michael Fields, Executive Director, Peer Recovery Center  
Edna Ealey-Fields, NAMI  
Karen Walker, Manteca Wellness center  
Betty Wilson, SJ Business Council  
Tony Anderson, Valley Mountain Regional Center

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Board meeting was convened on Wednesday April 21, 2021 via zoom teleconference. Chairperson Tasso called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting began with a moment of silence, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions began with audience members.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – OPEN TIME**

Michael Fields of Peer Recovery services updated the board on the success of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) sponsored LEAD (Lived Experience, Advocacy, and Diversity) Summit and listening sessions. There were over 100 participants. Thank you to Supervisor Miller, BHS Director Tony Vartan, the Behavioral Health Board, Tasso and Gertie Kandris, and Angelo Balmaceda for attending. San Joaquin County's feedback will be taken to the State in August. The Stockton Wellness Center re-opened on Monday April 19. The Manteca Wellness Center will open April 26.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Patricia Barrett made a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes. Carolyn Cooper seconded the motion.

#### V. PRESENTATION

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

#### VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- *Tony Vartan*, MSW, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director

Thank the board for their continued hard work and advocacy, and collaboration with the department.

Telepsychiatry and in person appointments are available.

Over 100 consumers were vaccinated onsite. Staff did a great job coordinating transportation for those in need. Most clients in residential facilities are vaccinated.

BHS went to the Board of Supervisors and requested to opt out of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program. The implementation of this program would result in reducing services in other areas due to staffing levels. AOT will be reassessed next fiscal year. Thank you to BHB Chairperson and NAMI Chairperson for the letters of support sent to the board. The Board of Supervisors voted to opt out. BHS offers a similar program, with similar outcomes called Inspire. That program was expanded last year with four full service partnerships. Like the AOT program they have access to 24/7 response, 11 BHS staff members working with the courts, and outreach teams.

Our Whole Person Care team continues to target consumers with high utilization. Our Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion team continues to engage BHS clients with services in collaboration with the Stockton Police Department.

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) and Mobile Crisis Support Team (MCST) continue to receive referrals and work in the community.

The Progressive housing program has four levels of housing, with wrap around services. The program assists clients in working towards work skills, and building rental history.

I would like to design some town hall meetings in each city to meet with City Administration, and the community to discuss issues and needs of the community and residents. One of the big issues is staffing. The board has offered support on how to resolve staffing needs. Thank you to the BOS.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Legislative Committee
- C. Children's Committee

There will be a zoom meeting tomorrow with Senator Eggman regarding Children's issues. We have upcoming, California Behavioral Health Board and Commissions (CALBHB/C) coming up on 04/23. California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) will hold a seminar on 04/27 and 04/28.

- D. Grievance Committee

January had two grievance regarding staff behavior. February had thirteen grievances; four are regarding staff behavior, two regarding quality of care and lost property, one regarding treatment issues and confidentiality. March had seven grievances regarding staff behavior.

- E. Housing Committee
- F. Substance Use Disorder

Report at the next meeting.

## IX. ADJOURN TO MAY 19, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.