



## **Department of Behavioral Wellness Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara Children's Clinic Large Conf. Rm  
Lompoc Childrens Clinic New Port Harbor Conf. Rm.  
Santa Maria Adult Clinic Annex Conf. Rm

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Facilitator:** Sharon Byrne, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Behavioral Wellness Commission (BWC), Chair.

**Commission Members Present:** Wayne Mellinger, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Jeffrey Moore, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Vice Chair; Rod Pearson, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Jan Winter, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Gregg Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor; Judy Blue, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Sharon Rumberger, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Marcos Olivarez, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Bill Cirone, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Tom Franklin, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Mary Richardson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Heather Moselle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Sharon Byrne, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Chair; Julia Lara, 4<sup>th</sup> District; Charles Huffines, 5<sup>th</sup> District.

**Commission Members Excused:** Angie Swanson-Kyriaco, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Kelly McLoughlin, 4<sup>th</sup> District; Ann Eldridge, 5<sup>th</sup> District; Donald Casebolt, 5<sup>th</sup> District.

**Behavioral Wellness Department Staff:** Dr. Ole Behrendtsen, Medical Director; Lindsay Walter, Deputy Director of Administration & Operations; Karen Campos, BWC Program Administrator.

**Call-to-Order and Roll-Call:** Chair Byrne called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Behavioral Wellness Commission Program Administrator, Karen Campos conducted roll-call.

1. **Establish Quorum:** Chair Byrne established quorum.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Byrne welcomed everyone and asked members of the public to introduce themselves.
3. **General Public Comment:**

Member of the public/Peer Support Specialist working for the Recovery Learning Center (RLC) brings up concern with the percentage of people who suffer from mental health and are incarcerated. She would like to know what percentage of first responders are trained in mental health first aid.

Ms. Gibbs shares concern with the number of people being conserved as people don't become gravely disabled overnight and it would be helpful to look at the continuum of

care. One of the biggest problems is that the most in need are sitting in jail waiting for a hospital bed. Looking forward to an in county IMD.

Member of the public suggests that perhaps the amount of people being conserved in this County is not the main concern rather the amount of money that it's costing.

Member of the public comments that 5150's are not easy to get and believes that the criteria needs to be reevaluated; what members of the community may consider a danger, law enforcement may not. Also shares concern with people who are incarcerated so often and go untreated; and also how do those with a long history of interactions with law enforcement get reintegrated into the community.

Member of the public shares that son is severally mentally ill and is a classic example of all the flaws in the system. Son has been incarcerated for three years now over a fight for a pack of cigarettes. Severe charges were placed upon him when arrested as he incriminated himself. This is the family's 11<sup>th</sup> trip to Santa Barbara to visit/address son's issues. Family members have been asking for assistance getting son into treatment. When initially incarcerated no one believed he was mentally ill. He was sent to Atascadero to get evaluated, conservatorship was granted February 2019 which granted access to hospital but no beds have been made available since then and no one is able to indicate when a bed will open up, it could be tomorrow or maybe in a year. This person has been allowed to be in jail for three years untreated. The family only hopes that something productive comes out of them sharing their experience.

4. **Chairperson Announcements:** Chair Byrne announced that Commissioner Pearson will be attending the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC)/Los Angeles/Southern Region Meeting and Training in Santa Ana on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. **Review and Approve April 23, 2019 and May 30, 2019 BWC Special Meeting Minutes** (Attachment 6a and Attachment 6b)  
**Action:** Commissioner Cirone made a motion to approve the April 23, 2019 and May 30, 2019 special meeting minutes. Supervisor Hart seconded. No abstentions. No objections. Motion carried.
6. **Behavioral Wellness Director's Report:** handout provided, no verbal report provided this month.
7. **Conservatorships, Mandated Treatment, and Institute for Mental Disease:** Commissioner Byrne opens up the second session of this topic by providing a brief summary of the last discussion on this item. Dr. Behrendtsen, Behavioral Wellness Medical Director joins the discussion and provides insightful information on how the system works when handling conservatorships, mandated treatments and institutions for mental disease (IMD's). There was discussion on law enforcements inability to write 5150's and how that came about as it is believed that Santa Barbara is the only County that does not allow for that, however some believe that it may be a good thing for them to have that ability to write

them. Administering medications in a less restrictive setting by the ACT teams also was discussed and the plan for an in county IMD.

The commission discussed next steps which included more data points needed, find out a way to share information with the Board of Supervisors, how can BWC advocate for families and finding out why law enforcement cannot write 5150's.

Supervisor Hart recommended that the BWC request a presentation from the Co Response team as they are actively working to address some of the concerns discussed today. The Commission agrees with the recommendation.

Follow up discussion on this item to follow next month.

**Action:** No action.

8. **Mental Health Services Act Plan Discussion** Chair Byrne asked for two volunteers to serve in the Departments upcoming MHSA three year planning stakeholder process. After brief discussion, Commissioners Winter and Huffiness volunteered.

**Action:** Commissioner Cirone made a motion to appoint Commissioners Winter and Huffiness as the two BWC representatives. Commissioner Mellinger seconded. No objections. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Chair Byrne asked the Commission if they were interested in forming a Behavioral Wellness Commission MHSA Planning Subcommittee to look at the most recent plan and draft recommendations to give to the MHSA planning team to consider. After brief discussion, Commissioner Lara, Richardson and Byrne volunteered to serve on this committee.

**Action:** Commissioner Cirone made a motion to form the BWC MHSA Planning Subcommittee and appoint Commissioners Lara, Richardson and Byrne to serve. Commissioner Blue seconded. No oppositions. No objections. Motion carried.

### **Commission Business:**

9. **Reports of Officers, Boards: Chair, Site Visits, Liaisons to other Committees and BWC Special Committees:**
  - A. **BWC Site Review Committee Update:** Commissioner Pearson reports that they are working towards putting together data collected from site visits. More information to come in July.
  - B. **Sheriff's Community Corrections Input Group Update:** Commissioner Pearson reported improvement in the amount of medical grievances being submitted by

inmates, in January there was 36 and this month only 19. Well path is doing a great job of taking care of grievances and engaging more with inmates suffering from mental illness. Statistics to be shared soon, and in October they will be presenting to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Commissioner Pearson confirmed that the MAT (medically assisted treatment) program is being implemented. Also, this group is putting together a medical handbook for inmates to reference, it should be ready in the fall.

**C. Bylaws Ad Hoc Subcommittee Update:** Commissioner Winter reports that the amendments to the bylaws voted by this Commission have been submitted to County Counsel for review before they are presented to the Board of Supervisors. An update should be available next month.

10. **Upcoming Agenda Items** – the commission discussed future agenda items.

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.