



Department of Behavioral Wellness Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 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, 4th District, Behavioral Wellness Commission (BWC), Chair.

Commission Members Present: Wayne Mellinger, 1st District; Jeffrey Moore, 1st District, Vice Chair; Rod Pearson, 1st District; Jan Winter, 1st District; Gregg Hart, 2nd District Supervisor; Marcos Olivarez, 2nd District; Angie Swanson-Kyriaco, 2nd District; Bill Cirone, 3rd District; Tom Franklin, 3rd District; Mary Richardson, 3rd District; Heather Moselle, 3rd District; Sharon Byrne, 4th District, Chair; Julia Lara, 4th District; Charles Huffines, 5th District; Ann Eldridge, 5th District; Donald Casebolt, 5th District.

Commission Members Excused: Sharon Rumberger, 2nd District; Judy Blue, 2nd District; Kelly McLoughlin, 4th District.

Behavioral Wellness Department Staff: Alice Gleghorn, Director; John Doyel, Alcohol and Drug Program Division Chief; Karen Campos, BWC Program Administrator.

1. **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.
2. **Establish Quorum:** Chair Byrne established quorum.
3. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Byrne welcomed everyone and asked members of the public to introduce themselves.
4. **Chairperson Announcements:** Chair Byrne announced that Commissioner Pearson attended the recent California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards (CALBHB) training and recommended that everyone consider attending at some point as a lot of valuable information is shared. Also, Chair Byrne reports that she will be serving on the Continuum of Care panel which is a County entity that receives funding for the homeless, they are beginning the request for proposal process which is expected to be an all-day session.
5. **Review and Approve June 19, 2019 BWC Meeting Minutes**

Action: Commissioner Cirone made a motion to approve the June 19, 2019 minutes as presented. Commissioner Pearson seconded. Commissioners Swanson-Kyriaco, Eldridge, Franklin, and Moore abstained. No objections. Motion carried.

6. **Behavioral Wellness Director's Report:** handout provided, no verbal report provided this month, however Dr. Gleghorn briefly announced that her amazing Division Chief of Clinical Operations,

Ana Vicuña has resigned her position and wanted to give the Commission a heads up in case anyone wanted to wish her a farewell.

Continued Business:

7. **Conservatorships, Mandated Treatment, and Institute for Mental Disease:** Representatives from the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Stepping Up Program and Co-response team were invited to speak on the topic and share their experience and position within their department.

Vincent Wasilewski, Chief of Custody Operations with the Santa Barbara Sheriffs' Department reports that they are currently working on a contract to be able to provide mental health treatment within the jail for cases that are compliant with medications while inmates wait for a State hospital bed, they are hoping that the State funds a minimum of 10 "beds" for treatment within the jail. However he clarifies that the ultimate goal is to find solutions to divert people from ending up in jail and instead receive the mental health treatment and professional attention that they need prior to landing in jail.

Kevin Huddle with the Stepping Up program reports that the program is a nationwide initiative in collaboration with different agencies that come together to find creative ways to keep mental health clients out of the criminal justice system.

The District Attorney's office reports that they work in collaboration with the Police Department, Behavioral Wellness, Probation, and the Courts to establish a subset for individuals with co-occurring homelessness, mental health and multiple offenses. The District Attorneys goal is to ensure public safety, if they are restored to competency they participate in the criminal justice system. John Savrnoch, Chief Representative District Attorney reports on the current amount of IST cases and shares that being able to share records electronically and opening the channels of communication with the Police Department, Behavioral Wellness, Probation, the Courts and the Co-respond team has helped them improve their numbers.

The commission was pleased to hear about the work being done behind the co-response team which is a collaborative effort between the Department and the agencies present.

Dr. Lee briefly explains that the co response program entails for a mental health professional to arrive with law enforcement while responding to a possible behavioral wellness related call with the ultimate goal to connect individuals with services as opposed to arresting them. County wide they have reduced 5150's by the hundreds by being able to bring people to a different place instead of the Psychiatric Health Facility or the jail. Currently North County does not have a co response team however they are preparing in hopes of receiving funding.

Chair Byrne thanked the representatives for taking the time to attend this meeting and expressed how deeply impressed she is with the current collaboration efforts. Also thanked Dr. Gleghorn for her hard work to find grants, buildings to provide services and working with the criminal justice system. Chair Byrne asked that if there was anything the Commission could do to partner with the Department to please let her know.

The Commission discussed ideas on how to best share the information gathered from the three sessions on the Conservatorships, Mandated Treatment, and Institute for Mental Disease topic with the Board of Supervisors and share the collaboration between the different County Departments, Supervisor Hart agreed. After discussion Chair Byrne agreed to put together a report based on information gathered with the assistance of Vice Chair Moore. A draft is to be presented at the August BWC meeting and it can be decided then when it is to be reported to the Board.

The commission thanked Chair Byrne for putting together productive agendas and gathering key people to present at the meetings.

New Business:

8. **SB 1810 Grant and Prop 47 Grant** Dr. Gleghorn reports that the Department has been working closely with the criminal justice system in efforts to implement programming following two grants received, AB 1810 and Prop 47. A summary is described below as highlighted in the July directors report;

AB 1810 provides funding to establish a program to divert certain felony offenders who have been found to be incompetent to stand trial (IST) from the Department of State Hospitals. The funding will support development of a forensically-focused Crisis Residential Facility and step down housing to provide community based treatment. It will also provide additional case management positions to the Justice Alliance team as well as the Office of the Public Defender's Holistic Defense team. The funding will be available pending completion of a memorandum of understanding between the county and state with regards to the grant.

Prop 47 provides grant funding to support a variety of services aimed at diverting individuals with behavioral health problems towards treatment prior to or shortly after arrest. The grant will support behavioral health/law enforcement Co-Response Teams, a sobering center in the South County and step-down housing in both the North and South County regions. Prop 47 will also fund positions among our criminal justice system partners aimed at increasing opportunities for treatment diversion.

Action: No action.

9. **General Public Comment**

Lynne Gibbs commends the commission for taking up the subject on Conservatorships, Mandated Treatment, and Institute for Mental Disease and expressed how inspiring it has been to see the different County departments come together to address issues as families continue to share their stories of their children sitting in jail waiting for treatment beds to open up.

Another member of the public shared that her daughter received immediate mental health treatment while living in Wisconsin as they have an impressive guide to civil commitment and perhaps this County can benefit from looking at how they run their program to get ideas. It was also suggested to consider repealing or reforming the HIPAA laws so that family members are able to care for their loved ones.

Commission Business:

10. **Reports of Officers, Boards: Chair, Site Visits, Liaisons to other Committees and BWC Special Committees:**

A. BWC Site Review Committee Update: no report provided at this meeting.

B. Sheriff's Community Corrections Input Group Update: no report provided at this meeting.

C. Upcoming Agenda Items – the commission discussed future agenda items.

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:10p.m.

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