



## Department of Behavioral Wellness Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

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

Remote Virtual Participation Only

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Facilitator:** Sharon Byrne, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Chair.

**Commission Members Present:** Das Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor; Joan Hartmann, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor; Peter Adam, 4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor; Steve Lavagnino, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor; Wayne Mellinger, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Rod Pearson, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Jan Winter, 1<sup>st</sup> District; Marcos Olivarez, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Angie Swanson-Kyriaco, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Sharon Rumberger, 2<sup>nd</sup> District; Tom Franklin, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Mary Richardson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Bill Cirone, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Victoria King-Kondos, 3<sup>rd</sup> District; Sharon Byrne, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Chair; Kelly McLoughlin, 4<sup>th</sup> District; Valerie Cantella, 5<sup>th</sup> District; Donald Casebolt, 5<sup>th</sup> District; Charles Huffines, 5<sup>th</sup> District

**Commission Members Excused:** Gregg Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor; Jeffrey Moore, 1<sup>st</sup> District;

**Behavioral Wellness Department Staff:** Alice Gleghorn, Director; John Doyel, Division Chief, ADP; Maria Xique, BWC Interim Program Administrator; Janal Lopez, Administration AOP.

**Call-to-Order and Conduct Roll-Call:** Chair Byrne called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Maria Xique, BWC Interim Program Administrator, conducted roll-call.

1. **Establish Quorum:** Chair Byrne established quorum.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Byrne welcomed everyone in attendance. Behavioral Wellness Department Staff and members of the public introduced themselves.

**Action:** No action.

3. **General Public Comment:**

Laura Kaufmann- Reported that Psynergy has no positive COVID-19 clients or staff, she shared they have 2 two clients in isolation and waiting for results.

**Action:** No action.

4. **Chairperson Announcements:** Chair Byrne announced that Vice-Chair Julia Lara resigned, and will be looking for recruitment to fill her and other BWC vacant positions. Over the last four months she has noticed couple things; one, Governor Newsom has made a considerable deal about mental health and two, the president making statements about taking care of your mental health as well. Working in the community, Chair Byrne indicates there are people specifically seniors who have been asked to isolate themselves and struggle to stay connected. Chair Byrne asked for everyone to take care of themselves.

**Action:** No action.

**5. Review and Approve the February 19, 2020 BWC Meeting Minutes:**

**Action:** Commissioner King-Kondos made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Mellinger seconded. Commissioner Cirone and Commissioner Cantella abstained. No objections. Motion carried.

**6. Director's Report:** Dr. Gleghorn, Department Director, provided an overview of the March Director's Report and April Director's Report which included the following:

Dr. Gleghorn reported that BWELL cannot predict what the budget will be like until the Department is aware of the accurate funding levels that will be provided.

MHSA Three Year plan- Dr. Gleghorn indicated that realistically she is not sure what BWELL will be able to maintain. However, she will keep the BWC updated; right now, the Department is currently working on drafting what came out of the community input, but no promises can be made.

John Doyel and his team did an amazing job screening those who were released from jail, as a result of the Zero Bail, over the weekend.

Dr. Gleghorn urged the commission to read page 5 of the March Director's Report which highlights Governor Gavin Newsom's report emphasizing on Mental Health prior to the escalation of COVID-19.

A lot of the guidelines to do telehealth have been lifted as is now allowed. Opened sobering center in March, briefly closed when Covid-19 started and now serving more at a diversion level.

Telehealth guidelines have been lifted and is occurring now that this is allowed. The Sobering Center opened in March and briefly closed at the start of COVID-19; however, it is now being utilized more as a diversion/sobering center.

ADP EQRO- occurred via Zoom; the reviewing agency liked the way it was presented, a lot of kudos were received

MH EQRO moved to a desk review; some feedback was received but not as extensive as the one received for ADP

**Action:** No action.

Commissioner Winter complimented the department's response to COVID-19- trying to continue to provide services to clients and the collaboration with the jail in order for inmates being released to receive services. She commended the department and the staff.

Commissioner King-Kondos asked, "What about individuals who need services, but do not have access to internet and devices? Also, are all languages supported?" Dr. Gleghorn updated on how the services are being provided, and really proud of the resilience, and yes languages are supported.

"Why is no bail good for the mental health community?" - Dr. Gleghorn indicated that around 60% of those being released have a history with the department, those numbers are higher than other counties; Dr. Gleghorn is excited as people who are being released are actually getting services, the census is getting towards five hundred; three years ago, the census was about twelve hundred. The overcrowding is bad. The zero bail from judicial council decided all misdemeanants and non-violent felons will get bail down to zero. In this county, there were about 100 being released, not

all were released however, a number of them were screened; some people who didn't have a home to go to were able to go to a hotel room for stabilization after discharge from jail, probation has been very involved, yet not all need to be involved in Probation; BWELL continues to track very closely, Dr. Gleghorn is excited to see people are getting connected to service to care.

"Is zero bail a temporary measure?" Yes, but not sure for how long; but this is an opportunity to provide services and help them stay out of jail.

"Is there any study being done to see if there is an increased public risk?" Dr. Gleghorn is not sure if one is being conducted.

### **New Business:**

7. **Ratify approval to present to BOS** on BWC discussion of Conservatorships, Mandated Treatment, Incompetent to Stand Trial and Institutes for Mental Disease: Commissioner Franklin asked for clarification on which report this was and followed asking if the letter was included in the report. Chair Byrne clarified that it is the report that was provided in February with Arlene's suggestions and does not include the letter

**Action:** Vote to approve the report with edits from Arlene Dias provided at the February 2020 Behavioral Wellness Commission Meeting. Commissioner Cirone made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pearson. No discussion. All in favor. No abstentions. Motion carried

### **Commission Business:**

8. **CALBHBC Handbooks for Commission Members:**

Victoria gave the highlights of the CALBHBC handbook; the formal training was scheduled to take place this weekend, but due to the current situation is not happening. Teresa, president of CALBHBC has mentioned that if the commission want to have a private training she is happy to do that via zoom. Perhaps it can be arranged for the commission.

There is allowance in the funds that each county received to assist commission to meetings; in the bylaws there is no accommodation except for the actual offices; if an amendment can create the ability to use zoom maybe it will be a good to brainstorm and think about restructuring how meetings will take place.

Chair Byrne indicated there is a virtual training taking place this weekend, she sent the information to Maria so she can send to the BWC, it's about a two-hour training. Sharon encouraged the BWC to attend.

**Action:** No action.

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

- A. **BWC Site Review Committee Update:** Chair Byrne, Commissioners Pearson and King-Kondos conducted a very enlightening visit to CHC on February 25, 2020. John Doyel thanked the commission for visiting CHC and shared specifics about the first offender vs multiple offender programs and discussion regarding Caucasians having better access to legal representation than Hispanics, especially Mixtec.

Commissioner King-Kondos is curious about the difference of Lompoc vs what they saw in Santa Maria. John Doyel indicated they did not have a good reputation; however, now they have gotten much better; their staff is more responsive and educated in motivational

interviewing and have more up to date videos, they have more technology; Commissioner Pearson learned the director is leaving. John will find out and let QCM know.

- B. Homeless Outreach ride along-** Commissioner Pearson was looking forward to this, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- C. Jail visit Santa Barbara-** Chair Byrne leveraged with Sheriff Brown for the visit, there were eight commissioners committed to attending; the sheriff did special accommodations and coordination; Chair Byrne was disappointed that only three commissioners showed up and requested from commissioners that if they commit to doing a visit, do the visit.

Commissioner Cirone shared his positive experience while visiting the jail; they shared policies and processes that will make things better for the inmates; the tour was very depressing; an overcrowded environment; is not a therapeutic environment, perhaps the new jail will help with these matters; Commissioner Rumberger said she was pleasantly surprised; the people were very welcoming and dedicated to doing their jobs; the facilities are very old, they count with good programs; attended a woman group on life techniques; discussion with Wellpath on healthcare and was surprised with the responses for questions asked. They just started the methadone program there.

Chair Byrne indicated it is an incoherent facility, saw mentally ill who were in isolation, it was depressing; great that half have had contact with BWELL, it was a very long tour but glad the BWC got a chance to do it. Wellpath will be administering suboxone; it was much better visit than expected.

Opportunity to see the new jail, they have a whole wing dedicated to medical and mental health and the opportunities better to treat, not sure when the opening date will be taking place. The only have about 360 beds; it a much more improvement; Commissioner King-Kondos recommended for the commission to write a thank you letter to the sheriff.

**Action:** No Action

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

In May, prior to the MHSA public meeting, another BWC Vice Chair needs to be elected (add to the agenda)

**Action:** No action.

**Other-** discussion of considering youth representation as part of the Behavioral Wellness Commission , virtual meetings and meeting time was discussed; Commissioner Swanson-Kyriaco mentioned the bylaws may need to be amended in order to make it easier for others to participate; Commissioner Richardson made a suggestion to identify a Supervisor who has an opening and see if they are willing to appoint someone even if they are not in their correspondent district; perhaps Supervisor Lavagnino or Supervisor Adam. Commissioner Winter knows someone who works in a peer personnel role and can't serve as a commissioner; however, state law allows peers who are employed by county behavioral health to serve on the commission, he is very anxious to participate and someone would need to encourage him. If Chair Byrne wants his name, Commissioner Winter can ask him to fill out an application to submit to Supervisor Lavagnino or Supervisor Adam. Commissioner Winter will share the information with Chair Byrne to ask the supervisor to consider the application. Chair Byrne assigned Commissioner King-Kondos and Commissioner Swanson-Kyriaco to see what it takes to get the person on board and help with the application process. Both agreed.

Chair Byrne wants to do a hearing in June; May meeting will be used for MHSA hearing, but she would like to see June utilized to do the youth meeting on youth special needs. Commissioner Swanson-Kyriaco will need someone to help her since she lost a member; Commissioner Winter volunteered to help Commissioner Swanson-Kyriaco. Commissioner Richardson knows some wonderful Latino women who are employees of the Rape Crisis Center and would be great potential commission members.

There was a long discussion on potential commission members.

Ruth Ackerman indicated the fund for Santa Barbara has a Youth Making Change committee in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, they identify needs for 16-25 year old's and may be a good resource to reach out to.

Commissioner Huffines will reach out to Supervisor Lavagnino and reminded the Commission that 25% of the commissioner members need to be consumers.

11. **Adjournment:** Chuck Huffines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner King-Kondos seconded. No objections. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

DRAFT