

Lake County
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes - March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was convened at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Julie Colfax and a quorum was established. Members in attendance included Julie Colfax, Sheila Roseneau, Chelsea Newton, Camille Cummins, Trish Turner, and Bonnie Blumenthal. Member Michelle Young was absent. Lake County Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS) Director Todd Metcalf and District 4 Supervisor Tina Scott (non-voting members) were present.

Stakeholders present included Ravon Wilczewski, Elizabeth Arnold, Carrie Manning, Veronica Pantaleon, Lori Carter-Runyan, Thomas Brown, Lee Zeledon from Orange County, and Betsy Cawn (Recording Secretary).

2. The proposed agenda was approved (motion, Trish Turner; second, Chelsea Newton; motion carried by roll call vote).

3. Minutes of the February 10, 2022, meeting were approved (motion, Trish Turner; second, Chelsea Newton; Trish Turner abstained because she was absent on February 10; motion carried by roll call vote).

4. MHAB work group reports:

a. No new templates, policies, or procedures to be reviewed.

b. Ongoing "Organized Delivery System" stakeholder meetings: Director Metcalf reports that the AODS/SUDS staff is working on a survey to follow up on the most recent meeting, and will keep the MHAB board informed of what they are finding out.

Member Chelsea Newton reports that she has reviewed the available information and did attend the recent stakeholder meeting, but she has many questions as a service provider, for which she is hoping to receive solid information on how it will be implemented and the anticipated impacts.

Director Metcalf explained that LCBHS staff is having further conversations with Partnership Health Plan and the state Department of Health Care Services; the final decision will be made by the Board of Supervisors, but there is more work to be done before taking the proposal to that level of review/authorization.

c. The next meeting of the MHAB "management and data collection" work-group will be conducted on March 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5. LCBHS Director's report: Director Metcalf reported ongoing struggles with staffing (currently 21% vacancy rate, more so on the Mental Health Services side), for which they are working with county Human Resources department to come up with new recruitment strategies, including the option of posting open positions on the websites of their various professional associations. Management staff is also working with Chico State and local community colleges, but most of the open positions require at least a 4-year degree.

Further staffing changes are anticipated with the departure of Clinical Deputy Director Jim Isherwood in two weeks, and existing vacancies in the Mental Health Compliance division. The department is continuing to support the proposed Collier Avenue housing project, led by the Rural Community Housing Development Corporation, which is in the process of applying for financing changes from the county's Redevelopment Agency successor board of directors.

Director Metcalf has been asked to serve as secretary to the California Mental Health Services Association, which has taken an aggressive approach to supporting the work of Behavioral Health programs throughout the state to develop an improved Electronic Health Record system (the Anasazi system will be obsolete in the next year or so) and answer questions about "outcomes" asked by the Board of Supervisors and the community (such as the annual Data Notebook project).

Director Metcalf has been elected to chair of the Behavioral Health Directors Association's LGBTQ Committee, and will be participating in the Board of Supervisors annual governance meeting tomorrow (March 11), explaining what individual departments are doing to further the mission described in the Supervisors approved "Vision 2028."

Director Metcalf also reported potential planning for expansion of the Older Adult Services team (including forensic capacity) and the impacts of losing their Clinical Deputy Director, as well as the absence of a Mental Health Program Manager, for which they are making some structural changes in the department.

Director Metcalf also sits on the County Behavioral Health Association's legislative committee, which is currently dealing with chronic Mental Health problems experienced by Older Adults with co-occurring dementia or other cognitive impairments.

Member Trish Turner asked Director Metcalf to provide an overview of the Collier Avenue housing project at a future meeting, so that the MHAB can understand the issues.

Director Metcalf explained that the Older Adult Services are funded through the Mental Health Services Act (for Prevention & Intervention, for example) and they are planning to bring a positive approach to working with the senior centers for delivery of new programs.

Carrie Manning added that the department is recruiting for a prevention specialist and outreach person to work with the Older Adult population, for which the job description is posted on the county website.

Member Sheila Roseneau explained that the MHAB is supposed to participate in the contract management process, and that would include the Older Adult Services contracts. Member Bonnie Blumenthal suggested contacting Member Camille Monae, whose private business focuses on older adult services, as a possible subcontractor for that position. Chair Julie Colfax suggested inclusion of a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) chapter here in Lake County (she is a member of the Mendocino County chapter), which focuses on progress instead of perfection. Chair Colfax works with students who have experienced the loss of family members, along with Lake County Hospice service providers (who also provide counselors in nursing homes, bereavement events, and other forms of support).

6. Announcements:

a. March 19, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., MHAB ad hoc workgroup for review of the proposed "Organized Delivery Services" project led by the LCBHS AODS/SUDS staff.

b. March 19, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Data Notebook workgroup meeting.

c. March 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., MHAB "management and data collection" workgroup for agenda review and planning of April MHAB projects.

d. Member Sheila Roseneau will begin a 2-week vacation on April 15.

e. Chair Julie Colfax will be on her honeymoon beginning April 16.

f. The next regular meeting of the MHAB will be held on April 14, 2022, at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

7. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colfax at 4:24 p.m.