

Lake County MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD Minutes - June 9, 2022 Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was convened at 3:24 p.m. by Chair Julie Colfax and a quorum was established, following RCHDC's presentation (see Item 2, below). Members in attendance included Julie Colfax, Sheila Roseneau, Camille Monae, Trish Turner, Michelle Young, and Bonnie Blumenthal (Bonnie joined the meeting at 3:37 p.m.). Member Chelsea Newton was absent. Lake County Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS) Director Todd Metcalf (non-voting member) was present; Supervisor Tina Scott (nonvoting member) was absent.

Stakeholders present included Ryan LaRue (RCHDC), Kimbralee Guerra (Harbor on Main), Thomas Brown (Circle of Native Minds), Danny Medina (CAMHPRO), Amber Madero (LCBHS), and Betsy Cawn (Recording Secretary).

2. Guest speaker Ryan LaRue, Chief Executive Director, [Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation](#), provided an overview of the Collier Avenue housing project, which has been actively pursued by RCHDC for the last four years using funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development's "[No Place Like Home](#)" program (\$500,000), with additional funding anticipated from the state's [Low Income Housing Tax Credits program](#) (between \$10-15M), leveraging the County's funding of \$976,000.

The project consists of 40 units in total, 30 units designated "Permanent Supportive Housing," 20 of which will be for LCBHS clients and 10 units for developmentally disabled persons served by the Redwood Coast Regional Center. The three acre campus will include community facilities to accommodate office space serving a variety of agency needs and resident services. (A rendering of the architectural design is attached to these minutes for interested readers.) The Permanent Supportive Housing model is a proven cost-effective means of combatting homelessness and providing housing to some of our communities' most vulnerable populations.

The application for the Low Income Housing Tax Credits program is due by the end of June, 2022, and if funding is awarded the project could break ground in March, 2023. Additional benefits of the project include reduction in demand for emergency services from first responder agencies (Northshore Fire Protection District and Lake County Sheriff's Department) and increased access to peer support assistance programs provided by LCBHS.

3. The proposed agenda was approved (motion, Michelle Young; second, Camille Monae; motion carried by roll call vote).

4. Minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting were approved (motion, Shiela Roseneau; second, Trish Turner; motion carried by roll call vote).

5. LCBHS Director's report: Director Metcalf reported progress on filling staff positions, with the addition of Zabdy Neria as the LCBHS Mental Health Programs manager, and active recruiting for the Clinical Deputy Director position. The next infrastructure improvement project that LCBHS will launch is for facility upgrades to the Clearlake offices, now that the Collier Avenue Project is finally under way. Director Metcalf thanked MHAB Member Trish Turner for her support to help locate the missing financial records from the former Northshore Redevelopment Agency that were needed to free up the county's project funds of nearly a million dollars.

Director Metcalf will be providing an overview of the new "[CalAIM](#)" program to the Lake County Board of Supervisors on June 21, describing the new state [Department of Health Care Services](#) (DHCS) programs, including Enhanced Care management, Population Health Management, Community Supports, Behavioral Health Delivery Systems, Justice-Involved programs, Payment Reform, and Peer Support services.

Implementation of the new programs, including the long awaited Electronic Health Record System, will be funded by a \$1.8B, 5-year DHCS program for all agencies to integrate the delivery of services for co-occurring disorders that comprise roughly 80% of total cases currently handled separately by Mental Health programs and Substance Use Disorder (SUDS) programs. A major component of the new program is delivery of case management services in the county jail for eligible clients, who will be enrolled in Medi-Cal-funded mental and medical health services 90 days prior to being released.

LCBHS is continuing to provide audit services for SUDS programs initiated by DHCS reviewing county expenditures of federal funding from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#). Meanwhile, the Governor's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency ends on July 15, 2022, and all agencies are transitioning back to more in situ office work, which will result in some changes to Medi-Cal benefits provided to home-based employees to maintain their enrolled coverage.

The Lake County Board of Supervisors honored Pride Month by purchasing a Rainbow Flag which is flying from the top of the courthouse at 255 N. Forbes St., Lakeport. Chair Colfax added that there is now a nation-wide support group for gender-non-conforming and gender-expansive teens that she will add to the MHAB resource list, along with some private tele-psych providers located in San Francisco.

LCBHS Program Manager Scott Abbott will be scheduling the next Mental Health Services Act public hearing in July, which MHAB Vice-Chair Camille Monae will conduct (Chair Colfax will be out of town).

6. MHAB Management update: Chair Colfax requested member feedback on the proposed change of time for future MHAB meetings (to begin at 4 p.m.). Following discussion the change of starting time to 4 p.m. was approved (motion, Bonnie

Blumenthal; second, Michelle Young; motion carried by roll call vote with four in favor and two opposed (Trish Turner and Shiela Roseneau).

-3-

Secretary Betsy Cawn suggested organizing meetings for efficiency's sake, including regular reports submitted in "bullet point" format as part of the proposed agenda, to be provided by the MHAB's Executive Committee. Formation of the MHAB Executive Committee was approved (motion, Trish Turner; second, Camille Monae; motion carried by roll call vote).

Chair Colfax suggested the MHAB focus on the current year's Data Notebook input request, inasmuch as the request for 2021 was not completed, to be provided by the MHAB members and stakeholders already assigned to the general area of activity. The next meeting of the Data Notebook work group is scheduled for June 11 at 10 a.m.

Chair Colfax described the need for a new workgroup to be formed for the purpose of drafting the MHAB Bylaws update, and the action was approved (motion, Trish Turner; second, Sheila Roseneau; motion carried by roll call vote). LCBHS Director

Metcalf agreed to join the group if time permits. The first meeting of the new Bylaws Update work group is scheduled for June 11 at 12 p.m. Links to all work group meetings are found on the agenda for today's regular meeting.

7. Public comment: Harbor on Main program manager Kimbralee Guerra read a letter of appreciation for the [Redwood Community Services "NEST"](#) program, from a young mother who recently graduated from the program to live in her own housing unit, with an additional gift of \$500 from the Lake County [Soroptimists](#).

[CAMHPRO](#)'s Regional Representative Danny Medina requested input from everyone on the importance of peer counseling services for him to take to District 3's Assemblymember James Gallagher at the June 13 & 14 statewide mental health conference. Secretary Betsy Cawn added that she has completed the CAMHPRO application process to serve as a Subject Matter Expert for their peer support certification curricula development program, and requested that LCBHS Director Metcalf provide an introduction to their new peer support mental health service coordinators at a future MHAB meeting.

8. Announcements: The next regular meeting of the Mental Health Advisory Board is scheduled for July 14, 2022, at 4 p.m.
9. Adjourned by Chair Colfax at 4:46 p.m.

