



COLUSA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting was held on

August 9th, 2022

At Colusa County Department of Behavioral Health

Room 102

162 E. Carson St., Colusa, CA 95932

and via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm
2. Establish Quorum
 - a. Board Members in attendance: Rob Wilson, Debbie Hickel, Alfred Sellers Jr., Diane Bransford
 - b. Board Members not in attendance: Walter Osborn
 - c. *Quorum established*
3. Meeting Participants:
 - a. Behavioral Health staff in attendance: Mayra Puga, Tony Hobson, Haley Amundson
 - b. Others in attendance: Kent Boes
4. Public Comment
 - a. No comment
5. Old Business:
 - a. No report.
6. New Business:
 - a. Stakeholder meeting for amendment to MHSA plan for new PEI programs and extension of innovation program.
 - b. Ms. Puga stated today our stakeholder meeting is taking place and she will be informing the members about the amendment to the MHSA plan. Ms. Puga provided present members with a copy. Anyone needing a copy can request one from Ms. Puga.



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- c. Ms. Puga stated MHOAC increased our time for the innovation project extending from three years to five years. She stated a community planning process needs to take place then it will go up for thirty-day review.
 - i. Ms. Puga stated during the thirty-day review we will gather feedback from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and the public.
- d. Ms. Puga reported our next request for MHOAC is to increase the budget which is to be expected. Ms. Puga stated we are trying to add a full-time probation officer (FTE) to the innovation program.
- e. Mr. Hobson reported he has seen major success in this type of program. He stated many people do not want to participate in regular mental health services.
 - i. Mr. Hobson reported last month alone we had four people become our clients through the path program, those of which who did not usually want to be in mental health services.
 - ii. Mr. Hobson stated we will have dedicated wrap around team. Mr. Hobson stated the probation chief, Mike Rogers, is in agreement.
- f. Mr. Hobson stated another piece is that when this project was submitted it was underfunded.
 - i. Mr. Hobson stated the initial thought was that we had to stay under five hundred thousand dollars, which is not true; the threshold is one million dollars.
 - ii. Mr. Hobson stated we were taking money from other areas to fund; we will no longer need to do that. Mr. Hobson stated we are using 100% MHSA funds; we have another three years essentially.
- g. Mr. Boes asked if we can add years after the 5th year.
 - i. Mr. Hobson said no, we will have to figure out how to sustain at the point.
 - ii. Mr. Hobson stated the probation officer will draw down Medi-Cal dollars to offset their position, future sustainability.
- h. Mr. Boes stated he would like to see this program sustain; he would hate to see a successful program disappear.
- i. Mr. Sellers said we need mental health growth so badly, along with substance abuse treatment.



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- i. Mr. Hobson said substance use is more pervasive, we need to address this area.
- j. Ms. Puga stated she has one more amendment to report. She stated we are calling it “Library Services” at the moment for paperwork purposes but we are not tied to that name.
 - i. Ms. Puga stated the idea behind this added program is that we recognize libraries are a great resource for the community that not tied to mental health. Ms. Puga stated we want to promote mental health awareness and engage community in this idea. Ms. Puga stated we want to collaborate efforts for prevention, have it occur in a safe space, and create programs that strengthen community on the risk factors around mental illness.
 - ii. Ms. Puga stated the library already has different services that relate to this program such as the sensory days for youth on the autism spectrum. These services are for any community member. Parents get to interact as well not just children.
- k. Mrs. Bransford said this makes so much sense.
- l. Mrs. Hickel said it eases up general fund dollars as well.
- m. Ms. Amundson will be marketing this program in the near future. Be sure to check our Facebook page, county website, and library sites for more information.
- n. Mr. Hobson stated protective factors play a big part in mental illness and substance use. This will be a safe place for kids to go and keep them on track as to not fall behind their peers.
- o. Mr. Hobson stated we need more outreach and engagement for our PEI program. We need to embed ourselves in other towns than Colusa and this gives us that opportunity to advertise the benefit of our services and have someone there to help do it. Mr. Hobson stated we are paying library staff time to implement our services.
- p. Mrs. Hickel asked if librarians will be time studying their working hours.
 - i. Mr. Hobson said no, we are buying a service; it doesn’t pay for their salaries 100%.
 - ii. Mrs. Hickel asked if it makes them vulnerable to losing their jobs?



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- iii. Mr. Hobson stated we weren't spending MHSA funds previously; we have to spend it down or it will go back to state. We will build this into our three-year program. At that point we will have spent down our one-time funding. This is solving the problem for now, which about the next 4 years. We could look at grant funding to continue. This spends down a huge chunk of money state could have taken back which now we don't have to worry about.

- q. Mrs. Hickel said this is a great idea.

- r. Ms. Puga stated this program is not just for youth services it is for everybody. She stated in her experience during outreach events nobody wants to talk about mental health so this is a good opportunity to do outreach.

- s. Mr. Hobson stated we want library staff to provide trainings such as SIS trainings, parenting classes, Know the Signs trainings, etc.

- t. Mrs. Hickel asked if this program has been in other counties.
 - i. Ms. Puga stated this is a prevention and early intervention program (PEI).
 - ii. Mr. Hobson stated he has seen this in other counties such as Butte and Yuba/Sutter.
 - iii. Ms. Puga stated it makes sense to add a program to the library because they are already doing similar work.

- u. Mr. Boes asked about embedding ourselves in all communities.
 - i. Mr. Hobson stated we are trying to address this problem, being able to have people able to access county services in general is an area of focus. Mr. Hobson said he still wants an offsite clinic, for example, among other programming ideas for public to have easier access to services.

- v. Mr. Hobson stated we are embedding clinical staff in each school district. We are already setting up in Williams. We will be in Colusa, Maxwell, and Arbuckle as well.

- w. Mr. Hobson stated we will have an adult residential facility (ARF) in Williams. Mr. Hobson stated we don't know if we can use any of that



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space as a clinic for us. That is to be determined but we will have an offsite space eventually.

- x. Mr. Hobson stated an offsite clinic would essentially be a light version of behavioral health where they can be a referral source.
- y. All present board members said they loved this idea.
- z. Ms. Puga said feel free to reach out to her with any questions or comments.

7. Action Items:

- a. July minutes to be approved. Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve July minutes. Mrs. Hickel second the minutes. All members were in favor.

8. MHSA Update:

- a. Safe Haven Report: Ms. Puga reported that Safe Haven is doing very well. The Senior connection group ran by a Behavioral Health clinician is doing very well. There is a chair yoga group. Our group calendar is on our county website. Another staff member of Behavioral Health conducts a nutrition group and that is very well attended. Ms. Puga reported there is a total of 40 members.
 - i. Mr. Sellers asked if Safe Haven is for members only.
 - ii. Ms. Puga said it is one-time no commitment visit, the next visit you will need to sign a membership packet to continue to attend Safe Haven.
- b. Bright Vista Report: Ms. Puga reported that Bright Vista had the grand opening on June 20th.
 - i. Mrs. Hickel said the grand opening was great and very well done.
 - ii. Ms. Puga stated she has previously worked in this field and was so excited to be able to start one in Colusa. Ms. Puga stated the rules are similar to Safe Haven in regards to membership; you can check it out one time then the next visit a membership packet signed by participant and parent will need to be turned in. She stated we would like parents to come in once if possible, or have a quick phone call with them. Ms. Puga reported that there are about 10 youth that have turned in packets.



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- iii. Mrs. Bransford asked if there were bike racks; Ms. Puga responded yes, we do.

9. Director's Report:

- a. Mr. Hobson reported on the maintenance of the building. He stated the painting of the interior and exterior is complete. We start carpet on Monday which will cause a little chaos.
- b. Mr. Hobson stated we have been preparing for EQRO, which is a programmatic level review. He stated we are in good shape.
- c. Mr. Hobson stated as mentioned we are revising the three-year plan to include the two new PEI programs (Library Services and CIBHS) and revising the innovation plan.
- d. Mr. Hobson stated we are fully staffed with school-based services, the two final staff for the team started yesterday 8/8/22. Mr. Hobson stated the team met with schools and superintendents last week.
- e. Mr. Hobson stated we are ready to get all programs in full motion.
- f. Mr. Sellers asked about the school-based team.
 - i. Mr. Hobson replied the team consists of mental health specialists and therapists. The focus will be on behavioral, emotional, and social issues in youth, not really substance-use focused unless a need arises.

10. Program Integrity:

- a. Ms. Bullis-Cruz was not able to attend. She emailed her data to the board members.

11. Quality Assurance:

- a. Ms. Puga is reporting on behalf of Mrs. Rojas.
- b. Mrs. Rojas has emailed her data to the board members.
- c. There have been no major changes.

12. PRA Report:



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- a. No report.

13. State Required Contract Review:

- a. Mr. Hobson presented the Drug Medi-Cal contract at last meeting.
- b. Mr. Hobson stated IMD resource centers will be the next area of focus, what is that cost compared to what the cost will be at our ARF. Mr. Hobson stated he is working on that information.
- c. Mr. Hobson stated there are currently no new contracts but there are new MOUs in the works:
 - i. Library Services
 - ii. Probation officer position
 - iii. Stonewall Alliance (addressing LGBTQ+)

14. Chairperson's Report:

- a. No report.

15. Board of Supervisor Report:

- a. Mr. Boes stated he has been working on budgets. He said after this upcoming Thursday most of the budgets should be completed.
- b. Mr. Boes commended Mr. Hobson for his willingness to give his assistance to other departments as needed.
- c. Mrs. Hickel asked what the status is on the golden handshakes.
 - i. Mr. Boes responded that it is in the works with CalPERS and we are waiting on their report; when that happens then we can open the window for people to take the golden handshake. Mr. Boes stated this will be well into 2023. He stated we won't see savings right away but it will help in the long run and the process needs to start.
- d. Mrs. Hickel asked if other departments are stepping up to the plate.
 - i. Mr. Boes said yes, many departments are coming together and all department heads are working together. Mr. Boes stated although implementation can be tricky but we will get through it.
- e. Mr. Boes reported that our Covid numbers are very low, no hospitalizations, no recent deaths.



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16. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Next meeting scheduled for: September 13th, 2022 at 3:00pm

Minutes completed by: Haley Amundson