

**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
(Minutes of the meeting of October 5, 2016)**



<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>	
Terry Easley	Chris Daly	
Lyle McPeters	Janet Johnson	
Bill Tracy	<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	
John Leamy	Rita Austin	
Loretta Pagni	Pandora Armbruster	
Linda Postma	Scott Garrison	
Sherri Brennan	Tarah Jones	

9 Members  
(5=quorum)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson, Bill Tracy called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Seven members were present to complete a quorum for the nine-member Board.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by Board members. Non-members included: Rita Austin LCSW, Director-BH; Scott Garrison, NAMI Board member; Taralah Jones, Program Manager-Parent Support at ICES; and Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant-BH, taking minutes.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes from the September 7, 2016, Advisory Board meeting were reviewed for approval. Terry Easley motioned to approve the Minutes for the September 7, 2016, meeting as presented. Linda Postma seconded the motion. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 The September 7, 2016, Advisory Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

**V. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Sherri Brennan**

Sherri Brennan would like to thank all those involved in organizing the visit with the Centene Corporation. Second District Supervisor Randell Hanvelt also attended the

event. Sherri really appreciated hearing about the SOAR program. She felt that hearing Jason Turzai speak about his experience with the program first hand was very powerful. It took a tremendous effort on behalf of BH staff to go out and look for this type of grant opportunity and put together an application that is successful, capturing resources that are much needed in our county. Pandora was successful at putting together the catering and special arrangements for the event. Sherri extended a special thank you to Rita, Pandora and the entire staff that presented that morning.

Terry Easley commented that she, John Leamy, Bill Tracy and Loretta Pagni all attended this event. She felt it was very worthwhile to all who attended to hear about this program and the way these grants nationwide have changed peoples' lives.

Rita requested an update on the Marijuana Ballot Initiative. She felt this could impact both our consumers and our service systems and voiced her concerns regarding substance abuse. Marijuana is under reported, and substance abuse and addiction are the number one issues driving behavioral health cases and have become major problems within our community.

Sherri Brennan stated that she is Tuolumne County's representative for California State Association of CSAC. At her last Board of Directors' meeting there was a lengthy discussion of whether CSAC would support or oppose the initiative that is currently on the ballot. Many issues were discussed regarding availability, law enforcement, and environmental impacts. The CSAC group was so divided on this issue that eventually they decided to take a "No Position" on this Ballot Initiative. From Sherri's perspective, she was disappointed and felt that the group should have taken a position. There were potential implications regarding this ballot initiative that could be compared to problems now surfacing in Calaveras County. She states that there is a strong sense that this initiative will pass and believes that counties should be prepared and ready to deal with the implications of the potential legalization of marijuana.

The Board of Supervisors will continue their advocacy of marijuana regulation and education on the adverse effects in our community. They have appointed an ad hoc committee which Sherrie will be serving on. The purpose of this committee is to try and assess what potential issues could arise as a result of marijuana legalization and how to address these situations with the limited resources that are available.

**VI. AUDIENCE/BOARD MEMBERS (5 MINUTES PER PERSON)**

Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to five minutes unless the Chairperson grants a longer period of time. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

Loretta Pagni reminded the group that there is an upcoming fundraiser for NAMI at Carl's Jr. on October 18, 2016, from 6 am to 10 pm. John Leamy notes that if you bring in your NAMI coupon, 25% of your purchase will be donated back to NAMI.

John notes that NAMI would like to thank Behavioral Health for the use of the Enrichment Center.

John informs the group of an October 3, 2016, front page article in the Modesto Bee newspaper regarding a new paramedic program in Stanislaus County that allows paramedic crews to bypass the local Emergency Room and take patients directly to a Mental Health facility. There was a general discussion of this new program in Stanislaus County and how it benefits the mental health patients there.

## **VII. BUSINESS**

No new Business to report at this time.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Executive Committee: No Report
- B. Contract Committee: No Report
- C. Performance Outcome Committee: No Report
- D. Combined Advisory Board and MHSA Committee: No Report

## **IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rita would like to thank Sherri for her acknowledgment of the Centene visit. We had a very positive response from the Centene Corporation representatives. They were very impressed with us as a rural county and our use of the funding this program has provided. We have been assigning staff to the SOAR program through a county stipend.

Rita shares that in her past experience at Tuolumne County Behavioral Health, there has not been any issues with persons deemed Felony – Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST). These are people that have been deemed unfit to stand trial so they are placed in Napa State Hospital. They remain there until competency is restored or their legal sentence has been served. At the point that they are released, they are returned to the county of origin for a determination of care. Prior to last year, the state paid the cost of their time at the state hospital. This is tremendously costly. Within the last two months, three people have been returned to Tuolumne County, two of which were unable to be restored to normal competency and are seeking Murphy's Conservatorships. Recently, there has been a shift in paying these costs from state funds to county funds. It is very important for us to all be diligent and aware of things legislatively. The budget concerns are immense.

Rita was approached and has accepted to be a CBHDA Representative for CSAC. This will allow us to be more informed regarding budget monies available to us.

Richard Forrester of Amador County was very important in getting this appointment for small rural counties.

Rita and John discuss various ways that information could be disseminated to the public through the NAMI newsletter and other media sources.

Rita informs the Board of Behavioral Health's progress in Tele-psychiatry. Transitioning to tele-psychiatry has been a difficult and challenging road. However, we are working out the kinks and are now able to supply our clients with qualified psychiatrists with varied specialties, that are young, cutting edge and tech savvy. We are looking for additional supports to ensure our patients are able to make their appointments.

Kingsview has been able to refill up to 80 prescriptions a day trying to close the gap that some patients were experiencing in medication refills. Our system will be running 40 hour weeks as long as we need services and can budget for that.

Behavioral Health will not allow people to go without needed medications. We are continuing to work with UC Davis to try to get a Psych Nurse Practitioner embedded here.

Patients must have Plans of Care in order to allow Behavioral Health to be paid and the patient to see the doctor to receive medication prescriptions.

Sherrri thanks Rita for her transparency and honesty in answering questions regarding the transition to tele-psychiatry.

<b>X. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Meeting adjourned by Bill Tracy.