



**Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)**  
**(Minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2023)**  
**FINAL**

<u>2022 BHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaron Brandon - BOS	<b>Meeting Cancelled</b>	✓	<b>Meeting Cancelled</b>	✓								
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt		E		E								
Mary Anne Schmidt, Chairperson		✓		E								
Sherry Bradley, Vice-Chairperson		✓		✓								
Heather Farris, Secretary		E		E								
Elizabeth Marum		✓		✓								
Jenn Salazar		✓		✓								
Maureen Woods		✓		✓								
Valerie Shuemake		✓		✓								

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

8 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Tami Mariscal, Director – Behavioral Health Department
Brock Kolby, Clinical Deputy Director – Behavioral Health Department
Lindsey Lujan, Quality Management Deputy Director – Behavioral Health Department
Donna Villanueva, Substance Use Disorder Program Supervisor – Behavioral Health Department
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Assistant – Behavioral Health Department
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Terry Garcia, PhD – Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Private Practice
Cathie Peacock – Executive Director, Interfaith Community Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Behavioral Health Advisory Board Vice-Chairperson, Sherry Bradley, announced to attendees that the meeting was being recorded.  
 The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm. Six of the eight members were present and accounted for at the time of roll call to complete a quorum for the Board. Behavioral Health Advisory Board members introduced themselves as roll call was taken. Those present were Jaron Brandon, Sherry Bradley, Elizabeth Marum, Jenn Salazar, Maureen Woods, and Valerie Shuemake. Mary Anne Schmidt and Heather Farris were not in attendance.
- The Mission and Vision Statements for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board were not read into the record as they were not readily available.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by Tuolumne County staff in attendance, as follows: Tami Mariscal – Director, Behavioral Health Department, Dr. Brock Kolby - Clinical Deputy

Director, Behavioral Health Department, Lindsey Lujan - Quality Management  
Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Department, Donna Villanueva - Substance Use  
Disorder Program Supervisor, Behavioral Health Department, and Pandora  
Armbruster – Administrative Technician, Behavioral Health Department.

Others in attendance introduced themselves as follows: Terry Garcia, PhD., Cathie  
Peacock, Interfaith Ministries. One other community member was in attendance but  
did not introduce themselves.

### III. CORRESPONDENCE

Pandora Armbruster noted that an email had been received from Heather Farris  
announcing her resignation from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board effective  
April 5, 2023.

Behavioral Health Advisory Board members recommended forwarding her letter of  
resignation to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance and posting a notice of  
vacancy for the position. A letter acknowledging Heather for her time and efforts  
serving on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board will be requested to be sent out.

### IV. AGENDA REVIEW PERIOD

There were no suggested changes to the order of agenda items.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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 **three minutes**. Comments by members of the public on any item on the  
agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

No public comments were received.

### VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approving Draft Minutes of the Feb. 2, 2023, Behavioral Health Advisory  
Board Meeting
- B. Approving Behavioral Health Advisory Board Member Assignments to  
Community Meetings

Jaron Brandon moved, and Valerie Shuemake seconded to approve all items on  
the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda  
passed unanimously by those members present.

(Ayes: 6 – Jaron Brandon, Sherry Bradley, Elizabeth Marum, Jenn Salazar,  
Maureen Woods, and Valerie Shuemake. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Members  
Absent: 2 – Mary Anne Schmidt and Heather Farris)

### VII. TUOLUMNE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF REPORTS:

- A. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program in Tuolumne County presented by  
Donna Villanueva, MFT – SUD Program Supervisor

Donna Villanueva, SUD Program Supervisor delivered a PowerPoint  
Presentation describing services available through the SUD Program to all in  
attendance. A **copy of the presentation** will be included within these  
minutes.

The group discussed details of substance use treatment, treatment duration, insurance coverage, treatment of minors, and the danger of detoxing from alcohol.

B. Tuolumne County Suicide Data Report presented by Lindsey Lujan - Quality Management Deputy Director

Lindsey Lujan, Quality Management Deputy Director, shared detailed information on the Tuolumne County Suicide Data Report 2005-2022 published by Tuolumne County Public Health. A **copy of that publication** will be incorporated into the minutes.

The group discussed details of the statistics provided and the potential serious impacts to the community from the rising incidence of suicide.

## VIII. BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Jaron Brandon, Supervisor District 5, updated attendees on the Board of Supervisors recent work and activities. Jaron shared that he traveled to meet Marie Alvarado-Gil, the new State Senator District 4, representing Tuolumne County. She is also the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

Supervisor Brandon conveyed his appreciation of the Behavioral Health Department and Behavioral Health Advisory Committee's participation in this year's Volunteer Fair. He felt that this was a positive fun event with a very healthy turn out.

The Board of Supervisors are currently looking at purchasing property which had previously been a 24 Unit, Long Term Memory Care Facility in Soulsbyville. This property would be used as housing and a navigation center.

There was a kerfuffle at the Board of Supervisors level regarding a recent "Queens and Vaccines" event. Jaron relayed his opinion and support of Public Health and other County staff to put on these types of presentations to reach out to those that may not otherwise participate in these outreach and engagement events, especially surrounding health concerns within the community.

Jaron spoke about Columbia College's recent grant award in the amount of \$18M to improve their workforce training program for healthcare workers.

Jaron shared California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) recent support of an amendment to the language in SB551. More information can be found on the CALBHBC website. See following link: <https://www.calbhbc.org/legislative-advocacy.html> He responded to their request suggesting additional language surrounding youth serving on mental health boards.

Several CA counties are now collaborating on the "AT HOME" Plan to address homelessness. This plan outlines clear responsibilities and accountability for all levels of government and assures more consistent funding.

Supervisor Brandon relayed that he currently sits on the Technology Telecommunications Committee at the National Association of Counties. One of the topics under discussion is the lack of a national resolution for 988. He requests that those interested reach out to him to provide input in preparing a draft.

## IX. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tami Mariscal provided an update on Behavioral Health staffing. Lindsey Lujan was recently promoted to Deputy Director over MHSA and Quality Improvement. Roxy Lemus was recently promoted to Program Supervisor for Children's Outpatient Services. These promotions help fill some longstanding vacancies on the leadership team. The department has had two recent resignations (a Behavioral Health Worker and a Substance Use Recovery Counselor), and one full time Staff Analyst that has moved into relief employee status. These resignations are the result of employees following their passion and moving forward in their careers. None of these vacancies are the result of unhappy staff. The clinical side of the department is still 6 positions down, for a total of 53 of 66 position filled within the department.

Sonora Area Foundation's "Not My Kid" event is fast approaching. The Behavioral Health Department has recently partnered with them on this great event which will complement the Superintendent of Schools "True Hope" program which focuses on suicide prevention as well. A flyer for this event will be shared with Advisory Board members and is posted on our website.

Governor Newsom recently announced his plan for the Modernization of the California Behavioral Health System and More Mental Health Housing. [A flyer detailing this ballot initiative](#) was shared with the group and will be incorporated into these minutes. The group discussed potential concerns about this change and Tami will provide a more detailed fiscal analysis and strategies as things move forward.

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Valerie Shuemake left the meeting at 5:35 pm.

## X. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Maureen Woods thanked Pandora Armbruster for her assistance in getting the booth and information together for the Volunteer Fair. She shared her appreciation of this fun event and both Mary Anne and Jenn who put in their time to make this successful for the BHAB.
- Jenn Salazar shared concerns over social media posts that appeared to place Tuolumne County Behavioral Health in a bad light. The group discussed the county's inability to regulate these type of posts. Tami stated that she would investigate further and contact county support if it was determined to be necessary.
- Elizabeth Marum shared information on her recent attendance at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. They had a guest speaker which she felt was very informative.

## XI. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

Several suggestions were received from those in attendance.

- Jaron Brandon requested that 988 Draft Resolution be moved to the next month's agenda so that he has time to start drafting language and gain feedback from the group.

- County Counsel has requested time at the next meeting to provide a presentation on CARE Court.
- Sherry Bradley expressed the need for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board to review the Mental Health Services Act 3 Yr. Plan for FY 23-26 prior to the Public Hearing set for the June Meeting. She has asked for a calendar of departmental obligations/deadlines, allowing the Behavioral Health Advisory Board to prepare in advance of these important presentations.
- Supervisor Brandon also requested a presentation covering the housing element from the Behavioral Health aspect by the Planning Commission.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The April 5, 2023, Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

The next Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2023, at 4:00 pm at the Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Enrichment Center, 105 Hospital Road, Sonora, CA 95370. Detailed meeting information will be posted on the May 2023 Agenda.