

Monterey County Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Cathy Gutierrez, Chairperson
Valerie Maturino-Lopez, Chairperson-Elect

Thursday, April 28th, 2022, 5:30 PM

Teleconference via Zoom
No Physical Location Provided

1. 5:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gutierrez at 5:31 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

COMMISSIONERS

Present: Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas, Cathy Gutierrez, Linda Fosler, Valerie Maturino-Lopez (phoned in)

Absent: Supv. Christopher Lopez, Mark Lopez, Alma McHoney

Staff Present: Katy Eckert, Behavioral Health Bureau Chief; Jon Drake, Behavioral Health Assistant Bureau Chief; Stacy Saetta, Deputy County Counsel; Melanie Rhodes, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health; Wesley Schweikhard, Management Analyst, Behavioral Health; Dana Edgull, Behavioral Health Services Manager, Behavioral Health; Marni Sandoval, Deputy Director CSOC, Behavioral Health

Announcement of the Interpreter: Spanish Interpreter (Joseph Harvin) present and announced Spanish interpreter services.

Staff Comments:

After consulting with County Counsel, Behavioral Health Bureau Chief Katy Eckert announced that, as their terms have expired, Jesse Herrera and Margie Sokotowski cannot serve as commissioners during this meeting. They can participate in this meeting, but only as members of the public.

3. CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kontrena McPheter, invited the public to Frank Warren's PostSecret Event on May 11th Zoom. This event is a collaboration with Monterey County Behavioral Health and Interim, Inc. and it will have Kontrena McPheter and Dana Edgull as panelists. McPheter also invited the public to the Interim Service Recognition Awards and Agency Picnic on May 20th. The link can be found on the Interim website under the [Omni calendar](#).

Rory Gomez-Aarons announced that NAMI's national annual convention, a.k.a. NAMICON, takes place virtually Jun 14th – 16th and is open for registration. NAMI's California Annual Conference will be held in person at Newport Beach Marriott Hotel August 25th – 26th. The "super early" registration is still open and will change to "early" registration on May 1st. "Early" registration will cost a little more than the "super early" registration. Gomez-Aarons encourages the public to join the family support groups and connections support group; it is free to join, and one can join anytime. Their peer-to-peer class and family-to-family class is currently registering new participants.

Staff Comment:

Dana Edgull shared that Monterey County Behavioral Health was invited to co-host a mental health summit in King City. This event will be held in the evening of May 25th for community members. Monterey County Behavioral Health has also been invited to Soledad to co-host another summit. Edgull commended Rosemary Soto from the County Administrator and CEO's office for facilitating these events. Edgull also shared that the [Monterey County Behavioral Health website](#) was updated to have resources for grief and loss and for suicide.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Public Comment:

Rory Gomez-Aarons provided corrections regarding the number of AB 1424 forms. There are 9 forms from 9 different counties throughout California, instead of 19 as previously noted in the March Minutes of Hearing.

It was moved by Comm. Fosler and seconded by Comm. Maturino-Lopez to approve the March 31, 2022, meeting minutes.

AYES: Rivas, Fosler, Maturino-Lopez, Gutierrez

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Public Comment:

None

It was moved by Comm. Rivas and seconded by Comm. Maturino-Lopez to approve the March 31, 2022, Special meeting minutes.

AYES: Rivas, Maturino-Lopez, Fosler, Gutierrez

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

7. APPROVE FINDING PURSUANT TO AB 361:

Comm. Maturino-Lopez thanked Deputy Counsel Stacy Saetta for outlining how to continue to hold these meetings virtually.

Chairperson Gutierrez stated that it seems wise to follow the Health Officer's social distancing recommendation.

Comm. Rivas shared that it is sometimes difficult to view all the documents related to the Behavioral Health Commission on the computer and asked if there was someone to reach out to help understand the content.

Chairperson Gutierrez offered to work with the Commissioners to review content as necessary.

Katy Eckert suggested that Commissioners (and members of the public) write down any questions that they may have and bring them to the Commission for public discussion.

Comm. Fosler shared her process with the Commissioners. She stated that when going through the documents on the computer, she copies and pastes sections that she has questions or comments about into another document and has that with her during the Commission meeting.

Public Comment:

Kontrena McPheter suggests that a hard copy of the agenda documents be sent out weeks ahead of time for Commissioners to review. Katy Eckert clarifies that these documents take time to prepare and, unfortunately, are not completed weeks ahead of time.

It was moved by Comm. Fosler, seconded by Comm. Rivas, the Behavioral Health Commission finds the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom is still in effect; the Behavioral Health Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and the Monterey County Health Officer continues to recommend social distancing measures for the meetings of legislative bodies.

AYES: Rivas, Fosler, Maturino-Lopez, Gutierrez

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

8. APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF JESSE HERRERA TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Chairperson Gutierrez asked the Commission to consider recommending Jesse Herrera to be reappointed to the Behavioral Health Commission as a Commissioner.

Comm. Rivas iterated that the Commission needs more Commissioners and stated that the Commissioners should recommend that Herrera be re-appointed.

Chairperson Gutierrez expressed her agreement and iterated the importance of having a person like Mr. Herrera who has much history in the county, community, and system, and who is bilingual and bicultural.

It was moved by Comm. Maturino-Lopez and seconded by Comm. Fosler to approve the recommendation of reappointment of Jesse Herrera to the Behavioral Health Commission.

AYES: Rivas, Maturino-Lopez, Fosler, Gutierrez

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

9. APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF MARGIE SOKOTOWSKI TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Chairperson Gutierrez asked the Commission to consider recommending Margie Sokotowski to be reappointed to the Behavioral Health Commission as a Commissioner.

Comm. Fosler shared that Ms. Sokotowski has long history and experience in the county and that it is valuable to the Commission.

It was moved by Comm. Rivas and seconded by Comm. Fosler to approve the recommendation of reappointment of Margie Sokotowski to the Behavioral Health Commission.

AYES: Rivas, Maturino-Lopez, Fosler, Gutierrez

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

10. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT FY 2022-2023 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) ANNUAL UPDATE

Chairperson Gutierrez shared that the Behavioral Health Commission had an obligation to post the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update draft for 30 days for public comment and review. Chairperson Gutierrez explained that the MHSA team will be presenting the MHSA Annual Update, the public will be able to make comments, and the Commission will review, make any recommendations, then approve the Draft Annual Update.

Jon Drake, Assistant Bureau Chief, Wesley Schweikhard, Innovation Coordinator, and Dana Edgull, Prevention Manager presented (referring to **Agenda Item No. 10**). Commission Secretary has added the presentation slides to the [BHC Website](#).

Key Points Included:

- Monterey County's current approved 3-year plan covers fiscal years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23.
- Annual Update covers fiscal year 2022 from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.
- The 30-day public review period occurred between March 25 – April 25, 2022
 - Four (4) public comments were received
- Key Takeaways from Community Outreach Efforts were:
 - Continued focus to increase availability and timely access to a broad spectrum of services, included prevention services to treat anxiety, chronic stress, depression, and substance abuse
 - Maintain / expand sensitivity towards impacts caused by financial insecurity, housing insecurity and homelessness, childhood trauma, language, and culture
- Proposed changes to the MHSA Three-Year plan:
 - CSS Component:
 - Expansion of Intensive Day Treatment Services (\$431k), Wellness Navigator Program (\$232k), and Transportation Coaching Services (\$36k)
 - Restoration of Homeless Outreach & Treatment Services (\$169k)
 - Establish Peer Partners for Health, Client Support System (\$306k)
 - Re-Establishment of Day-Rehab Program (\$728k)
 - **TOTAL Dollars added to CSS programs: \$1.9 mil**
 - PEI Component:
 - Establish SUD Peer Outreach and Navigation (\$236k), Referral Navigation Program (\$100k), Youth Advocacy Program (\$80k), Street Outreach TAY (\$300k), Bullying Prevention Program (\$75k), Home Visiting Program (\$647k), Family and Youth Peer Programs (\$231k),

- SUD Prevention Program (\$250k), Mental Health First Aid (\$35k), Maternal Mental Health Peer Program (\$500k)
- Expand After-School Services (\$10k), Short-term Therapeutic Services (\$285k), Outreach & Engagement (\$60k), Community Advocacy (\$102k), Youth and LGBTQ+ Services (\$30k), School-based Counseling (\$129k), Early Psychosis Program (\$308k), Senior Peer Counseling (\$200k), Family Support Services (\$170k), Suicide Prevention (\$166k)
- Restart Stigma Reduction Program (\$234k)
- **TOTAL Dollars added to PEI programs: \$4.15 mil**
- Innovations Component:
 - Approved Projects (*TOTAL \$2.78 mil added to programs*)
 - Psychiatric Advance Directives (\$2 mil)
 - Already underway
 - Residential Care Facility Incubator (\$780k)
 - Pending Projects (*TOTAL \$4.3 mil pending approval*)
 - Trauma Healing Community Initiative (\$500k)
 - Rainbow Connections (\$2 mil)
 - Eating Disorder Treatment Team (\$1.8 mil)
- CFTN Component:
 - Project proposed to be added: Monterey Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)
 - No programmatic changes to the WET component
- MHSA Revenue Allocations from the State have far exceeded initial conservative estimates
- MHSA Expenses have not kept pace throughout the pandemic with the unprecedented revenue
 - Prompted an increase in MHSA fund balance
- Employment conditions throughout the pandemic have contributed to lower-than-anticipated expenses
 - This includes a high vacancy rate (15-20%), recruitment and retention, temporary hiring freeze, social distancing, and virtual meeting issues
- Unspent funds from prior fiscal years will help augment future MHSA allocations to enable adequate funding for these changes
- Unexpected allocation of revenues has restored ability to transfer funds from CSS to CFTN and WET components
 - CFTN fund transfer increased to \$3.4 million; WET transfer remains at \$1 million annually
- Public Comments Received
 - **Robin McCrae, CEO of Community Human Services (CHS):** Advocates for MHSA support of street outreach services to homeless youth

- MHSA Team Response: Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) intends on continuing MHSA support of the Street Outreach program offered through CHS
- **Tara Crampton, Monterey County Office of Education:** Advocates support for the proposed “Rainbow Connections” Innovation Plan to improve interagency collaboration between MCBH, Monterey County Clinical Services, MCOE, and community-based Transitional Age Youth and/or LGBTQ+ service providers
 - MHSA Team Response: MCBH intends on submitting this Innovation Plan in Spring / Summer of 2022
- **Barbara Mitchell, Executive Director of Interim, Inc.**: Expressed concern over the accuracy of descriptions for CSS-14: Homeless Services and Supports FSP and CSS-15: Homeless Outreach and Treatment
 - MHSA modified the program descriptions as follows:
 - The Homeless Services and Supports FSP [CSS-14]:
The Homeless Services and Supports FSP is an **Outpatient Program** to be operated by a contracted service provider, offering wrap-around services, and conducting outreach for adults with a psychiatric disability who are currently experiencing homelessness or who are at high risk of becoming homeless. Services will include mental health and psychiatry services, case management services, assistance with daily living skills, *as well as referrals* to supported education and employment services.
 - Access Regional Services [CSS-07]:
The clinical support offered through ACCESS clinics will be supplemented by community, education and therapeutic supports found at a **Wellness Center** included as part of this CSS Strategy. Located in Salinas and serving TAY and Adult populations, the Center is a peer and family member operated facility that will assist participants in pursuing personal and social growth through self-help groups, socialization groups, and by providing skill-building tools to those who choose to take an active role in the wellness and recovery movement through various initiatives, e.g., Success Over Stigma. *The Wellness Center also provides supported education services to those who are thinking of enrolling in school or are already enrolled in school and need extra support to be successful in their education endeavors.*

- **Barbara Mitchell, Executive Director of Interim, Inc.**: Expressed concern over the implied use of MHSA funds for capital costs associated with a locked mental health rehabilitation facility (MHRC)
 - **MHSA Team Response**: MCBH is aware of regulatory requirements that only allow MHSA funds to be allocated towards voluntary services. As such, MCBH will only seek to apply MHSA funds towards voluntary treatment services that may be offered at the proposed MHRC.
- **Oscar Flores, of First 5 Monterey County**: Offered extensive comments and suggestions related to programming to support the needs of children and families in Monterey County, including the following: emphasizing young child wellness at forefront of stigma reduction efforts, adapting services to meet linguistic/cultural needs, building Community Health Worker workforce, continuing/expanding maternal mental health and perinatal services and partnerships, promoting interdisciplinary training between medical and behavioral healthcare providers, and improving interagency collaboration to aid in creating easier access for clients.
 - **MHSA Team Response**: MCBH appreciates and notes these suggestions for future program planning discussions as opportunities arise.

Commissioner Comments / Input:

Comm. Fosler: Expressed her excitement to see mental health first aid included in the plan because it's a way to help reduce stigma and get more people involved. She mentioned that this is labor-intensive, and that she understood progress was not possible last year. She suggested that to ensure progress, she strongly encourages partnering with other groups. She specifically mentioned AIM which is partially funding mental health first aid themselves for the public; she said that this may be a profitable collaboration for both AIM and MCBH.

Comm. Fosler: Expressed her concerns that Stigma Reduction will not get enough support behind it to make a significant impact in the community. She iterated that for approximately six years, stigma has been a major issue each year. She strongly encouraged MCBH to fund this program and staff it as best as possible to ensure that an impact is made.

Dana Edgull thanked Comm. Fosler for her suggestions and explained that it is MCBH's intent to partner with other groups and organizations as MCBH is unable to take on all the components of mental health first aid. MCBH is looking for organizations that can offer it in Spanish and English so that the mental health first aid can be provided to the Spanish-speaking community as well.

Dana Edgull also expressed her agreement with Comm. Fosler's suggestions about Stigma Reduction efforts. She explained that MCBH did issue a request for proposal (RFP) in the prior fiscal year, and it was awarded in the current fiscal year. There are additional efforts in communities where organization that are working with particularly ethnic, racial, and cultural groups to develop stigma reduction messaging and campaigns; these are already funded, so they did not show up as changes.

Comm. Maturino-Lopez commended the MHSA-MCBH team for their thoroughness in the presentation. She expressed her concerns that the allocated funding for School-based Mental Health Services, while a big number, isn't enough. She urges the MHSA-MCBH team to increase the funding as there are waiting lists everywhere and having this in the school system can reduce the barriers to accessing these services. She also echoed Comm. Fosler's comments regarding the Mental Health First Aid. She suggested partnering with the Monterey County Office of Education or with master's degree programs and encouraging the students that that level to participate in the training.

Marni Sandoval thanked Comm. Fosler for her comments and suggestions and explained that regarding the School-Based Mental Health Services, MCBH is providing mental health services for the SELPA-related special education services in all 25 school districts; as of this fiscal year, MCBH has agreements with 17 school districts for general education services. The additional funding that the MHSA-MCBH shared about is to increase the ability to meet the need for additional campus-based training, consultation, and support to the schools – to further develop the positive climate culture, to help address behavioral health issues overall within campuses and to meet crisis needs on campuses.

Comm. Rivas shared that the community has recently lost a teacher to suicide. She mentioned that this raises a concern: it is important to also provide support to staff as well, not just families and students. She suggested a system of referrals where, if someone notices a staff member or coworker is experiencing a hardship with mental health, they're able to refer someone to them to connect to. She iterated that the system created should have some one-on-one contact, not just sharing resources such as a phone number or a website.

Marni Sandoval expressed her support and shared that MCBH sent five clinicians to the campus to provide support to the students, staff, and administration as best as possible. MCBH has been preparing debriefing sessions to support the staff and administration as it has been a difficult three months for the school district. Dana Edgull has been helping to create a long-term approach to help the school districts prepare for suicide prevention in more proactive ways.

Dana Edgull expressed her support and offered to further discuss actions being taken after the Commission meeting.

Public Comments:

Kontrena McPheter, expressed that she and many of her peers have been waiting for this psychiatric advanced directive; they have asked for something that will stand in court as a DNR. She expressed her support of MCBH and her happiness that this request is coming into fruition.

Beth Reeves-Fortney, Director of Programs at First 5 Monterey County, expressed her concern for early childhood educators who are often more isolated, especially in-home providers. First 5 has been taking action by reaching out with the reflective supervision groups that it holds virtually. Regarding stigma reduction, First 5 connects its early educators with the MCBH team and therapists as it is important to discuss mental health to its mental

health providers and ensure that the providers are approachable and accessible; she hopes that First 5's efforts are contributing to MCBH's work regarding stigma reduction. Reeves-Fortney offered help from First 5 for any early childhood-related programs.

It was moved by Comm. Rivas and seconded by Comm. Fosler to approve the Draft FY 2022-2023 MHSA Annual Update to include the summary of substantive recommendations received during the 30-day public comment period and at Public Hearing, for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors.

AYES: Rivas, Maturino-Lopez, Fosler, Gutierrez

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Supv. Lopez, M. Lopez, McHoney

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion passes.

11. RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) FUND BALANCE

Received a report from the Behavioral Health Bureau Chief. Katy Eckert presented on the MHSA fund balance. Commission Secretary has added the presentation slides to the [BHC website](#).

Key Points Included:

- MHSA Historical Allocations
 - Revenues are highly variable because they are based on millionaire's income taxes
 - Allocations have increased steadily since the inception of MHSA with a substantial increase in fiscal year 2020 – 2021.
- Process to Spend MHSA
 - MCBH has collected input from 476 members of both the provider and residential communities during the Community Outreach step
 - After the BHC's approval, MCBH will present to the Board of Supervisors for approval in May
- Historical MHSA Expenditures
 - MCBH did not grow its expenditures as the MCBH team had anticipated a decrease in funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- MHSA Revenues vs. Expenditures
 - Provisions of MHSA services and related expenses have not kept pace with the unprecedented revenue allocation
 - This has significantly contributed to the increase in the MHSA fund balance, especially in Fiscal Year 2020 -2021
 - MCBH is currently catching up on expenditures due to these significant increases in revenue

- Katy Eckert noted that, although the Governor's Budget says to expect dramatic increases in revenue in the coming fiscal years, she is cautious as there have been times where revenues have dropped by as much as 40%
- Historical & Projected MHSA Fund Balance
 - Fiscal year 20-21 has a \$50 - \$60 million fund balance that is anticipated to grow in the coming fiscal years
- Community Services & Support (CSS)
 - 76% of MHSA funds are allocated to CSS
 - 51% of these funds must be allocated to Full-Service Partnership services
- Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI)
 - 19% of MHSA funds are allocated to PEI
 - At least 51% of these funds must be used for individuals up to 25 years of age
- Innovation (INN)
 - 5% of MHSA funds are allocation to INN
 - Challenging source of funding because, to be an Innovation program, the program(s) need(s) to be something new and creative that isn't evidence-based.
 - Projects must be approved by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) which is a lengthy process
 - There is currently an estimated 6-month waiting list to get on the agenda
 - Most restrictive funds to spend as there is a reversion period of three to five years from project acceptance
- Capital Facility Technology Needs (CFTN)
 - Funds are transferred from CSS revenue
 - A max of 10% of CSS revenues can be transferred each year
 - Reversion period is 10 years after transfer
 - Projects:
 - Spent \$2.5 mil of transferred funds on Marina HVAC Replacement project
 - Completed
 - Planning to spend \$4.5 million on a new children's clinic on Alisal
 - Planning to spend approximately \$4.0 mil on renovating a facility in Salinas on Pearl Street
 - This will be used for the Access team to increase their accessibility
 - Planning to spend approximately \$5.0 mil on Monterey Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)
- Workforce, Education & Training (WET)
 - WET does not get a direct allocation of funds
 - 10% of CSS revenues can be split between CFTN and WET each year

- Thoughts / Concerns
 - MCBH teams in the community need more support than is currently being offered, so MCBH is requesting additional team members to offer support where needed
 - Some MHSA funds will be used to partially fund this
 - MCBH receives about \$500k of county general funds
 - This is not MHSA; this is a required match for realignment dollars
 - The State and many other people are constantly seeking to reallocate MHSA funds
 - MCBH team is asking the Commission and the Board of Supervisors to keep the money in county as program needs exist here, MCBH just needs a year of lead time –when revenues come in at a higher level than anticipated– to go through the MHSA required processes to get the funds into the programs that serve the community.
 - The 15 – 20% vacancy rate is a major challenge as there is an increased demand for behavioral health professionals
 - MCBH is currently advocating for help from the State, education partners, and as many other organizations as possible to work systematically to grow the workforce
 - In the meantime, MCBH is budgeting to fill these vacancies as the community has needs that need to be addressed
 - Fund balance money can be used in the future in case revenues drop

Commissioner Comments:

Comm. Fosler expressed her discontent with the fact that, during a less prosperous time a few years prior, Monterey County did the “absolutely legally required minimum in terms of contributing to behavioral health.” Monterey County was one of four counties that drew the absolute minimum from the general fund. Although the money isn’t needed at this time, she expressed her concerns regarding the county’s priorities.

Bureau Chief Katy Eckert explained that the amount is based on the legislature in 1991. She believes that people are beginning to realize the value and need for behavioral health at both the State and Federal level. She believes there is a strong commitment to behavioral health from Monterey County’s Board of Supervisors; this has not yet translated into money, but MCBH currently has money to contribute to the community.

Comm. Fosler mentioned that nursing is an occupation that is currently in scarce supply in the United States; a solution that’s been used in the past is hiring abroad from leading schools and obtain permanent work clearance for them in the United States. She asked if MCBH is planning on trying something similar for the psychiatric social worker positions as it is a difficult position to fill.

Bureau Chief Katy Eckert stated that is a place for discussion as she has not heard about that for psychiatric social workers. She shared that the Governor’s Budget put approximately \$600 million for the behavioral health workforce. This has not yet been adopted; however,

she believes that MCBH will gain traction to have a focused approach on increasing the pipeline of individuals entering the behavioral health system.

Chairperson Gutierrez mentioned that when Simone Salinas was Supervisor, before Chris Lopez, there was discussion with Natividad Medical Center about whether it would be possible to hire some social workers from Mexico to help with the labor shortage.

Comm. Fosler expressed her hope that this discussion would open again as there are several places with strong educational systems.

Comm. Maturino-Lopez suggested looking into something like Hartnell's Teacher Pathway Program (TPP) for those that want to become social workers. There is a cohort of students starting in South County cohorts and having cases that go from Hartell to California State Monterey Bay (CSUMB). CSUMB offers classes in South County because psychology is one of the largest majors at Hartnell. She suggested that having that support and guidance to their education systems would be beneficial and offered her assistance.

Bureau Chief Katy Eckert explained that CSUMB currently has enrollment caps at about 45 students for their Master's programs and there is work to be done from an infrastructure standpoint at CSUMB and other colleges to allow more students into the programs.

Comm. Rivas asked if the new facility on East Sanborn Road mentioned in the presentation has a director yet and if any information has been released regarding the treatments/therapies that will be offered there.

Bureau Chief Katy Eckert shared that the Pearl Street on Sanborn facility will be an Access point; the MCBH Access team will be placed there so the community can have walk-in appointments. The Access team will be continuing to provide access via telemedicine mechanisms.

Comm. Rivas asked if there was anything that the county offers regarding neurofeedback.

Bureau Chief Katy Eckert responded that she would be able to inquire one of the behavioral health teams after the Commission meeting.

Public Comments:

None.

12. INFORMATION FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUREAU CHIEF

Received a report from the Behavioral Health Bureau Chief. Katy Eckert presented referring to the handouts (**Agenda Item No. 12**) provided.

Key Points Included:

- Janet Hernandez Barajas has been promoted to manager of Quality Improvement
- Care Court AB2830 is a new sweeping and ambitious program being proposed by Governor Newsom and Assemblymember Bloom

- Proposes a new method for delivering mental health and substance abuse disorder services to the most severely impaired Californians suffering the impacts of untreated mental illness, including homelessness and incarceration
- Monterey County Behavioral Health would be central to the enactment of Care Court and would be the sole entity held responsible by the courts for the creation and implementation of care court plans.
- This proves to be problematic for the following reasons:
 - It is key for people to have the desire to be in recovery; having court ordered requirements for treatment can be viewed as coercive and an infringement on individual civil rights.
 - In addition, some inequities in treatment for individuals of color have been identified.
 - These individuals have a much higher incidence of being diagnosed with psychotic disorders than other populations
 - It doesn't solve the issue of inadequate housing available throughout the state
 - It would increase involuntary commitments and demand for inpatient beds when there is already too little capacity
 - It does not provide funding to Behavioral Health to provide the additional services outlined
 - It allows judges to make medicinal decisions that they have no training or licensure to perform
 - It would exacerbate the existing workforce shortage as it would take clinicians out of the field to sit in court
- MCBH is hoping to refine the Care Court proposal so that it would better benefit the individuals enrolled and would be something possible for Behavioral Health to implement
- Free Zoom Presentation on May 12th by Frank Warren, the creator of the PostSecret Project
 - Behavioral Health is partnering with Interim, Inc. and providing Spanish interpretation of the event
- The 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is planned to go live on July 16th
 - People can dial this lifeline if they are worried for themselves, loved ones, and others
 - The local suicide prevention hotline, Family Service Agency of the Central Coast, will be answering some of those local 988 calls, so MCBH will be looking at developing more protocols on how to coordinate care between the 988 line, the 911 system, and MCBH Community Crisis teams
- Bureau Chief Katy Eckert invites the public to the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement meetings
 - March's QI newsletter includes the Monterey County MCHOPES Final Roadmap, Clinical Documentation for Assessment, and information regarding CBT Skills Guided Discovery.
- May is Mental Health Matters Month
 - The statewide *Take Action for Mental Health* campaign recently launched and provides the resources to equip everyone to support their own mental health
 - Materials can be found at the [Monterey County Behavioral Health website](#)

- MCBH will be supporting the following events in May
 - May 11th – PostSecret Project
 - May 14th & 15th – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Workshop
 - May 19th – Mental Health Summit in King City
 - May 21st – Seaside’s Family and Community Support Program’s first Community Resource Fair

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Staff Comments:

None.

13. INFORMATION REPORT FROM THE MEMBER OF THE BOS:

No Supervisor’s Reports/Updates were provided to the Commission.

14. INFORMATION REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Comm. Fosler invited the public to a Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop starting May 14th. The workshop is held via Zoom. More information can be found at aimymh.org

Comm. Rivas shared that she is working with Dana Edgull to get some lime green ribbons to distribute to district staff for Mental Health Awareness Month. There are also some small local groups that gather, such as families or workout groups. Many of these groups will be having a mental health workshop for their communities during May.

Comm. Maturino-Lopez shared that, over Spring break, Hartnell was able to provide two mental health first aid trainings to about 30 students. They are interested in giving more trainings; there are five instructors for mental health first aid at Hartnell. The Veterans Club is having a mental health awareness giveaway to support mental health where the public can buy some tickets to bet on some prizes.

Chairperson Gutierrez shared that last Saturday, May 23rd, she participated in an open house in King City for the Sober Living Environments. The committee was able to purchase bedding and furniture for the residents. Sun Street Centers opened a new Sober Living Environment in Salinas.

Commission Secretary briefly shared the documents on behalf of Comm. McHoney (referring to **Agenda Item No. 14a-c**).

Public Comment:

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.