1. **5:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Fosler at 5:31 P.M.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

   **COMMISSIONERS**

   **Present:**
   - Linda Fosler
   - Cathy Gutierrez
   - Jesse Herrera
   - Anthony Ivanich

   **Absent:**
   - Heather Deming
   - Maribel Ferreira
   - Sydney Johnson
   - Supv. Christopher Lopez

3. **AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND CORRECTIONS**
   Commission Clerk Andria Sumpter announced handouts for agenda item No. 6 – Update on Proposition 47 and agenda item No. 7 – Behavioral Health Director’s report was distributed to the Commission and public.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   Pamela Weston, NorCal Access Ambassador stated on October 11, 2019 from 9 a.m.-12 pm. at CSUMB, 1st Main Street, the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability will be available to take public input on how things are progressing, including in areas such as early prevention/intervention. In regard to The Cultural Relevancy & Humility Committee, the County hired a consultant, Blanca Tavares, in dealing with the MHSA, there is a general standard, Welfare Institute Code 5613.5, Section 2 that deals with nine (9) sections of Cultural Competence; this section states that, “stakeholder participation shall include representatives of un/underserved populations that deal with Title 9 California Code of regulation Section 330 and MHSA Section 2E. She asked that Ms. Tavares’ work completed in 2017 be analyzed. This information can be educational for organizations serving the community such as first responders. Ms. Weston requested that in future commission meetings the work of Ms. Tavares is highlighted in regard to the Cultural Competence Action Plan to revisit the benchmarks. The 2017 report referenced was not released as it was only completed to draft form containing recommendations resulting from focus groups with the consultant. There is still more work to be done on
the report. A good starting referencing point is October 13, 2016 from 10-12 p.m. at 404 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA where the action plan was read.

- Christina Santana with Monterey County Behavioral Health assisted with developing the write-up of the plan and will provide the 2017 draft report to provide to the commission for review.

Anna Foglia, CEO of Sun Street Centers, spoke on behalf of the Behavioral Health Contractors Association (BHCA). The Association is made up of nonprofit service providers for youth and adults, needing substance abuse and or mental health services in Monterey County. Organizations include Interim Inc, NAMI, Village Project, Kinship Center, Community Human Services, Door to Hope, Valley Health Associates and Sun Street Centers.

As the need in our community continues to increase, it is great to see support pouring in from State and County grants like Prop 47, HEAP, and Drug Medi-Cal. But what is the impact on our county as all of our nonprofit providers are growing, increasing services for our community?

The BHCA feels strongly that we are reaching a critical impasse in finding and retaining qualified staff. We are in competition with government, county, prison, and school employers. The affordable housing shortage, the vast difference in salaries, and medical and retirement benefits, means we are losing staff at alarming rates and have openings for positions that stay unfilled for months.

We are close to a point that we may not be able to meet the needs.

I don’t have an answer, but I want the commission to be aware. Perhaps the County can strongly and systematically advocate for rate increases with the State, articulating the unique needs, and limited resources in our geographically isolate area.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner M. Lopez, seconded by Commissioner Gutierrez to approve the August 29, 2019 meeting minutes with correction of Call to Order time from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. motion passed unanimously.

6. **INFORMATION:** Update on Proposition 47 (Prop 47)

Lucero Robles, Deputy Director-Access Programs with the Behavioral Health Bureau provided an overview of the meeting location: outpatient services, the new onsite residential services, and the new sober living environment to come in 2020 and gave a presentation referring to the handout provided: *Proposition 47*. Key points included:

- Services in the South County region are sparse.
- The Behavioral Health Bureau is currently in the middle of Cohort/Group 1 funding ($6 million) goes from July 2017-July 2021.
- Funding from Cohort/Group 2 ($6 million) started in August 2019 and there will be an overlap of services received from Cohort 1 & 2.
- Sun Street Center, Sobering Center-Salinas offers an alternative for jail as a place to get sober/dry with a warm bed.
- The chart on slide 11 – Preliminary Evaluation July 2017-March 31, 2019 shows preliminary data around services being delivered which was reported to the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC).
  - Date of First Admission = when a client entered program
o Unique Clients = clients that come by more than once, category prevents double counting

- Data will be continued to be collected and outcomes will be evaluated. In addition, evaluating linkage to service, recidivism and crimes, our focus is the human connection and having a warm place to get dry, equally important but hard to measure.

**Discussion and questions from those present included:**

- How effectively has the Sobering Center been in connecting clients to services?
  - Anna Foglia stated that currently half of clients are from DUI’s and half from drunk in public. There is a Recovery Coordinator and Medical Assistant (MA) available 24/7. About 10% of this group of clients went into some kind of drug treatment program after leaving. In addition, upon discharge, clients are driven directly to services or home.
  - Examples shared of a client that was connected to residential services, successfully completed and was employed as a fisherman. A repeat client who received medical care for her feet from the MA’s in addition to receiving options for recovery and followed through recovery services. Lastly, a client was able to be surrounded by her parents and daughter and get recovery instead of being in jail which positively affected three (3) generations.

- CSUMB has been an excellent collaborative partner in the Prop 47 initiative. They are responsible for the evaluation of the grant

- In regard to the chart on slide 11, for line item “Behavioral Health” is there data for the “Unique Clients Served” column (shows 0). Lucero responded that she will look into that.

- Is there data on what percentage of people coming into a Prop 47 program that have identified as having a mental health issue? Lucero responded that she will provide that count.

- What is the difference in the partnership with the Public Defender’s Office highlighted on slide 12 – New Services for Cohort 2, versus work currently being done? Lucero responded that it will be a continued partnership, but more of a diversion type program focusing on prevention. All partnerships listed in Cohort 1 will continue in Cohort 2; the Housing Resource Center will be the only new one.

- Is there a reason there is no data on slide 11 for the CRLA partner? Lucero will look into those numbers, those reported were very low.

- When is the next report (slide 11) expected to be released? It was suggested that the commission receive this data quarterly and that it can be placed on next month’s meeting agenda. Lucero will report back to the commission regarding the timing of when this data is released.

- It was asked to be clarified if this commission’s advisory role includes focus on substance use disorder (SUD) in addition mental health. Is the Prop 47 presentation for informational purposes or for the commission to action on? Lucero responded that as a Behavioral Health Bureau, we are responsible for the mental health and substance use treatment of individuals in the community. Also noted that at the State level, change is happening with efforts to better integrate, not just mental health and substance use treatment, but physical healthcare as well. There is an increase understanding of the need to treat the whole person and not just some aspects of their needs. The County’s Behavioral Health (MCBH)
system is the integration of mental health and substance use disorder services; 35% of individuals have identified with SUD needs and this number is underrepresented. MCBH has included a psychosocial assessment that integrates behavioral health and mental health. Chair Fosler asked that a statement regarding the County’s policy on this matter be brought to the commission at the next meeting.

7. INFORMATION: Receive a Report from the Behavioral Health Director

Lucero Robles, Deputy Director gave a presentation on behalf of Dr. Amie Miller referring to the handout provided: Director’s Report – 9/26/19: September is Suicide Prevention Month. In addition, the pending Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Planning Process Meeting Schedule was provided.

Discussion and questions from those present included:

- Is there an opinion on the data if this due to an improvement in outreach or an increase in the number of individuals with suicidal ideation or some combination of both? Lucero responded that the overall data for after hour calls which is the Access line for MCBH clients to call when they feel they are in trouble, also shows an increase in calls. MCBH has also seen an increase in the numbers of hospitalizations.
  - Are the outcomes for these calls known? What happened after the calls? Lucero will research to see how much of this information was provided. A number of individuals choose not to provide names or identifying information.
  - Is there a mechanism to track how clients calling in are hearing about MCBH services? The general response was it is inherently difficult to get this type of information from callers.

- In regard to the MCBH Suicide Awareness event flyer, are the primary presentations given in Spanish with interpretation for English speaking versus the other way around? There is a difference for those who are monolingual with Spanish their primary language. MCBH staff responded that the events on September 24th (adult session) and September 30th (will) have presentations in Spanish with English interpretation, all the other events were presented in English with Spanish interpretation.

- Chair Fosler encouraged the commission to work with supervisors in their respected regions to assist with promoting the MHSA community planning process meetings to help ensure each district has as much community representation as possible.

- In regard to the data for the National suicide prevention line, is it known what the age range of the callers is? Lucero will look into the numbers to see what has been reported.

- Overall, the community is not aware of the details of the MHSA community planning process and the history of the Act itself from 2004 to present. It was previously requested during the first MHSA Planning Meeting to have trainings/workshops for community members to learn about the MHSA and the response was that MCBH currently is not staffed to hold these additional detailed workshops. How will it be ensured that there is a community planning process where community fully understands what type of input/feedback to provide? It was also requested that a MHSA committee be formed that meets monthly to ensure the intent of the MHSA is followed-up with Innovation funding?
  - Chair Fosler responded that Dana Edgull with MCBH is managing this entire process and each of the 10 community planning meetings will begin with a brief overview the financial structure of the MHSA, however there is not time or staff
in this process to hold extensive trainings. Also, will follow-up with Dana to confirm that there is a MHSA taskforce already in place to gather input that meets monthly.

- Request by Pamela Weston to have an agenda item placed on the list concerning the MHSA community planning process where she can present as an ACCESS Ambassador

8. INFORMATION: Receive the Commissioner’s Reports/Updates

- Comm. Rivas started facilitating the NAMI Familia-a-Familia classes and there is a notable increase in class size. The Santa Cruz location does not have a Spanish facilitator, so families were referred to Salinas.

- Comm. Leon shared regarding the suicide prevention topic that it has become more prevalent among the senior population. She has been an advocate with this group conducting home counseling and has been asked to be a speaker for various social issues.

- Comm. McHoney attended the recent Veterans Collaborative Meeting where suicide prevention was the topic. There were 60,000 suicides committed by veterans in the last decade, more than were killed in action in the last decade. She also shared her amazing experience at a 5-day self help group for veterans with PTSD; activities included dialogue, breathing exercises and meditation. The Veterans Transition Center (VTC) has 92 units of supportive housing, with up to 24 months of residency depending on the program. The housing capacity for female veterans has increased from six (6) to 8 (eight) units.

- Comm. Gutierrez shared there is now a focus group based in the MCBH Soledad clinic working with mothers around maternal mental health. Clinical services are provided pre/postnatal, during pregnancy in addition to the 0-5 age group.

- Comm. Herrera shared that CSUMB started the MSW Cohort, full-time 2-year program; part-time, 3-year program. They have graduated over 200 Master Level social workers with a good number working the Tri-County area; about half of the graduates are bilingual. The college also just launched a Physician’s Assistant program this year. The BHC had a big role supporting, promoting and advocating for the MSW program.

- The Latino Network had its 30th annual luncheon the day before with guest speaker Ernie Camacho, a local Major League Pitcher. The Ernie Camacho Educational Foundation can be a good resource for MCBH as many local families are there for various resources.

- Comm. Leon was also recognized at for her volunteer work.

- Chair Fosler shared that outside of the commission, she is still working on the concept for an in-treatment facility for youth that are not able to be successfully treated in outpatient services and having to send them out of the County. The challenge is the high cost to treat and the relatively smaller number of individuals compared to those with mild/moderate mental illness. At the initial stages of gathering County support, then will move up to state/federal level for funding as well. If this program were to get launched, it would be from new money, not any money established for existing programs. On another project, she is looking for more information/research regarding the correlation of degree of abuse in children and their degree of resilience.

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.