Monterey County Behavioral Health Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
Mark Lopez, Chairperson
Cathy Gutierrez, Chairperson Elect

Thursday, January 30, 2020 5:30 PM 1270 Natividad Road, Salinas, CA 93906
Monterey County Health Department

1. **5:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order by Chair Fosler at 5:47 P.M.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
Chair Fosler welcomed all attendees and introduced the 2020 BHC Chairperson Mark Lopez.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Present:
- Heather Deming
- Anthony Ivanich
- Linda Fosler
- Mark Lopez
- Cathy Gutierrez
- Alma McHoney
- Jesse Herrera
- Margie Sokotowski

Absent:
- Maribel Ferreira
- Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas
- Sydney Johnson
- Cortland Young
- Supv. Christopher Lopez
- Hailey Dicken-Young
- Mario Ramirez

3. **CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**
Commission Clerk Andria Sumpter announced handouts for agenda items No. 7 – 10 were distributed to the Commission and public.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Rory Gomez-Aarons, Board Member & Advocacy Chair with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-Monterey) shared two topics: (1) NAMI’s new program Conversations On Mental Illness (COMI); a two hour class, once a month, developed by two NAMI members. COMI requires less of a time commitment for attendees than current programs. (2) Handout for a webinar on the Stepping Up Initiative

Kontrena McPheter, Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator with Interim Inc. spoke on behalf of stakeholders on Interim’s Recovery Taskforce. In recognition of Mental Health Awareness (May), Interim is working to coordinate with Each Mind Matters to screen, “The S Word,” a documentary addressing suicide. Hartnell and California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) to host screenings each of their campuses. Additional information will be sent out over the upcoming months.

Jessica Rodriguez, Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) shared CCCIL data for current fiscal year (July 2019-current).
5. **NOMINATE & ELECT COMMISSIONER TO SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON-ELECT**
   Commissioner Deming nominated Commissioner Gutierrez who accepted. It was moved by Commissioner Sokotowski, seconded by Commissioner Fosler to elect Commissioner Gutierrez as Chairperson – Elect, passed unanimously.

6. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
   It was moved by Commissioner McHoney, seconded by Commissioner Herrera to approve the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes, motion passed unanimously.

7. **APPROVE BHC 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:**
   It was moved by Commissioner McHoney, seconded by Commissioner Sokotowski to approve the 2020 meeting schedule with the addition of Soledad City Council Chambers as the location for the September 24, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Vote on BHC 2020 Meeting Topic List**
   Commissioners reviewed a list of proposed topics for this year’s meetings. They voted on top priorities.
   - Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Data Report – 5
   - Maternal Mental Health (MMH) – 5
   - Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan/Roadmap for Monterey County – 4
   - Innovation Projects Updates – 3
   - Juvenile Sex Offender Response Team (JSORT) – 0
   - Post Hospitalization Services for Children – 6
   - Parent Education Groups (PEG) for families involved with Child Welfare – 4
   - Youth Mobile Crisis Services – 7
   - Homelessness – 7
   - Prop 47 update (The Safe Neighborhoods & Schools Act) – 4
   - ACCESS Timelines (Shifts in Demand) – 4
   - Psychiatry – 2
   - Stepping Up Monterey County: System Mapping – 7

9. **INFORMATION:** FY20 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update: Mid – Year Adjustment
   Jon Drake, Assistant Bureau Chief gave presentation referring to two (2) handouts provided:
   1. Power Point (PP): *FY 2019-20 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update **Mid – Year Adjustment*** and

   Key points included:
   - Slide 6 of PP- Revised Funding Summary is also provided in larger print in the *Draft Mid- Year Adjustment* handout. The numbers were put together conservatively at both the state and local levels which was appropriate at that time. This update allows for explanation of the process.
   - MCBH has been doing well in collecting revenue from claims through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medi-Cal which saves MHSA money.
- MCBH’s budget projection (over past few years) has accounted for the threat of ACA going away, resulting in severe reduction of the reimbursement rate for children.
- MCBH staffing challenges, vacancy rate changes monthly (current vacancy rate 19%) has contributed to lower expenditures.

10. INFORMATION: Receive a Report from the Behavioral Health Director
Dr. Amie Miller gave a presentation referring to the handout provided:
1. PP: Medi – Cal Healthier California For All (Formerly CalAIM).

Key points included:
- Dr. Miller is actively involved at the state level as the state works on negotiating it’s waiver with the federal government. Some of the state’s current goals are:
  o To have every Behavioral Health Department fully integrated with substance abuse by 2026.
  o Modernize medical necessity to significantly reduce the amount of paperwork required of MCBH staff and clients.
  o The state will audit the bureau in a different way with potentially less audit takebacks.
  o Payment reform will move from Certified Public Expenditures (CPEs)- per minute billing with cost settlements after the fact to; Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs) where money received from MHSA, 1991 and 2001 realignments, and Child Welfare can be used to bill Medi-Cal. MCBH will also be able to set rates above the cost of doing business to allow for reinvestment in the mental health system.
  o The allowance to bill without a diagnosis for an extended amount of time.
- The full integration pilot is a potential drawback. The state will test with a few counties and involves taking the behavioral health system offline and have it work for the managed care plan for the county.

11. INFORMATION: Receive the Commissioner’s Reports/Updates
- Comm. Sokotowski shared an experience of a local family who has been unable to get care for their elementary aged child because they have private insurance.
- Comm. Herrera shared that the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)-Central Coast Chapter licensing development workshop will be held on two (2) Saturday’s in February. MCBH could benefit from partnering with groups that are conducting such trainings. There is also a need for volunteer drivers to transport veterans to/from appointments in Palo Alto.
- Comm. McHoney shared that preparations are underway for Monterey County’s annual Stand Down for veterans in August at the Monterey County Fairgrounds.
- Comm. Gutierrez attended the National Association of Social Workers (NASWs) training on advanced clinical care for transgender people including those with eating disorders. They were great trainings, offering six (6) continuing education units (CEUs). The new King City residential program has 17 of the 70 beds filled. There are three (3) Spanish speaking and two (2) English outpatient groups currently active and growing.
- Comm. Fosler met with the CEO of a new group, the Child Mind Institute located in San Mateo. It is a large, well-funded nonprofit originating on the east coast and migrated to the west coast. They actively treating patients and are integrated in half a dozen school systems. Treatment is provided on a sliding scale allowing for insured, uninsured and undocumented clients.
Chair M. Lopez reported that Maria Leon resigned her position on the Behavioral Health Commission due to health reasons. The Chair would like to initiate the practice of sending a thank you letter from the Chair for those Commissioners who resign and a welcome letter for new Commissioners.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.