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

   The meeting was called to order by Chair M. Lopez at 5:30 P.M.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

   **COMMISSIONERS**

   **Present:**
   
   Heather Deming          Supv. Christopher Lopez
   Maribel Ferreira        Mark Lopez
   Linda Fosler            Alma McHoney
   Cathy Gutierrez         Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas
   Jesse Herrera

   **Absent:**
   
   Anthony Ivanich
   Margie Sokotowski
   Mario Ramirez
   Cortland Young
   Hailey Dicken-Young

3. **CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

   None.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

   Pamela Weston, Cal Voices State Access Ambassador submitted documents of public statement which included request to present before the Commission on the March agenda. In addition, Ms. Weston requested an amendment to the November 21st minutes to have her name added to replace the “member of the public” that requested to make a presentation, along with wording to clarify statement regarding the public as first responders.

   Kontrena McPheter, Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator with Interim Inc. gave a verbal save the date for the screening of the documentary “The S Word,” at Fox Theatre on May 14, 2014, 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Registration will be required through Eventbrite.

   Jorge Ruiz, Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) shared updates on their Whole Person Care program.
Miriam Gonzalez-Gomez, Division Director of Program Services for Interim, Inc. provided an update on The Bridge House in Marina.

Roxanne Rossiter, a community member requested a subcommittee for the Mental Health Services Act for Cultural Competency as a monthly meeting, governed by the Behavioral Health Commission.

Betty Davis, a community member shared that better communication is still needed between the community, city and County during sweeps.

Rita Acosta, a community member shared that her quality of life is negatively affected by the lack of coordination between the community, city and County during sweeps.

Wes Wyatt, community member and Co-President with Salinas Homeless Union stated that the City is not following guidelines currently in place for sweeps.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Ferreira, seconded by Commissioner Fosler to approve the January 30, 2020 meeting minutes, with correction to page three, under Commissioner Guiterrez’s update, change: “…17 of the 70 beds filled” to “…17 of the 20 beds filled. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **ACTION:** Public Hearing on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY19/20 Annual Update Mid – Year Adjustment

Chair M. Lopez read the opening comments.

Jon Drake, Assistant Bureau Chief gave presentation referring to handout of power point: FY 2019-20 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update **Mid – Year Adjustment**

Key points included:

- Staff report is same document distributed before the 30 – day comment period and at the January 30, 2020 meeting: FY 2019-20 Mental Health Services Act Annual Update **Mid – Year Adjustment** Draft For Public Review & Comment, January 21, 2020. The document has remained unchanged.
- No comments were received during the public comment period between January 21, 2020 – February 24, 2020.

Commissioners comments received at the meeting:

- Commissioner Fosler asked for clarification on the use of the new facility on East Sanborn Street.
- Supv. C. Lopez suggested a conversation regarding the potential to partner with First 5 at the East Sanborn facility. He also commented on the State Loan Prepayment Program (SLRP); there are certain programs which help offset the cost of school, but by the time one reaches the ability to get money back, the amount of money owed has significantly increased, and asked about analysis that has been done to allow for the possibility of other programs or developing another program. In regard to, the MCBH having high
vacancy rate, if that also means high turnover, completing exit interviews to determine challenging factors and how to keep employees with the County will be beneficial. It was confirmed with MCBH staff that the $800,000 being transferred under Workforce Education & Training (WET) will be applied towards the bulleted items under the “Training” section on page 3 of the staff report.

- Commissioner Herrera suggested an issue with the vacancy rate (in relation to) the push for Cultural Competence Inclusion and language accessibility, is that there are few bilingual/bicultural professionals coming out of schools. Therefore, the competition for Spanish speaking graduates is high. He recommended looking at the salaries for the master’s level psychiatric social worker/social worker positions; the bilingual differential is not sufficient.
- Commissioner Gonzalez-Rivas suggested considering additional incentives for employees in the social worker position such as childcare services.
- Commissioner Ferreira expressed concern regarding if $800,000 is sufficient to fund the SLRP program.
- Commissioner Fosler shared that in working with a variety of groups/agencies (police, sheriffs, teachers), the largest challenge in hiring and retaining employees identified is (affordable) housing. Also, the option of a childcare stipend for employees (as a follow-up to Commissioner Gonzalez-Rivas statement).
- Chair M. Lopez raised point in regard to Capital Facilities & Technological Needs (Slide 8) to provide consideration for local contractors during the bidding process for these projects.

Public comments received at the meeting:
- Pamela Weston, Cal Voices State Access Ambassador raised concern regarding the November 2017, Board of Supervisor approval of the 3-year Program & Expenditure Plan and read the requirements from the document; the focus is on the Latino population when South County encompasses a more diverse population. There also needs to be a PEER component to the WET program to allow for PEER specialists to be another level of support int the community on behalf of MCBH through the MHSA. In regard to technology and renovation of buildings, in areas such as South County, there is no access within the district. There needs to be another 3-year Expenditure Plan that address the unmet needs of the underserved/unrepresented population.

Commissioners’ further review and discussion of Draft FY19/20 Annual Update Mid-Year Adjustment & Public Comments Received:
- Supv. C. Lopez thanked MCBH staff for their work on this report. He also stated that when the report is brought before the Board of Supervisors (BOS), if it is a consent item, he will pull the item to address Commissioner Ferreira’s suggestion regarding further analysis of the dollar amounts being allocated to the Loan Forgiveness Program in acknowledgement that the report addresses the program as a starting point.
- Comm. Fosler thanked MCBH staff for their work and approved the way the money has been allocated. In addition will be looking forward to impact measurements surrounding the Loan Forgiveness Program as it starts out as a pilot program.
- Comm. Ferreira expressed concern regarding the low figure ($400,000) allocated towards the Loan Forgiveness program; asked MCBH staff to revisit the numbers in the future/now to determine if the current amount is realistic, and sufficient to make an impact on staff recruitment and retention.
Comm. Gutierrez suggested gathering data from established Loan Forgiveness Programs (Federal Government) to determine dollar amounts that have been allocated to MCBH staff that have applied for their program(s).

Comm. Herrera expressed concern about no public comments being received during the 30-day open comment period and suggested looking at ways to make sure the community is notified and able to provide comment; such as asking for time to speak at existing meetings/events being held throughout the communities.

Comm. McHoney noted that not everyone accesses social media. She suggested advertisement via a banner at the movie theaters.

It was moved by Supv. C Lopez, seconded by Commissioner McHoney to approve the Draft FY19/20 Annual Update – Mid Year Adjustment, to include the summary of substantive recommendations received during the 30-day public comment period and at the Public Hearing, for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The motion passed unanimously.

7. INFORMATION: Receive a report on Maternal Mental Health

Dana Edgull, Prevention Manager and Relindis Diaz, Behavioral Health Service Manager for Early Childhood Services Team gave presentation referring to handout provided:

1. Power Point (PP): Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders-Far Beyond The Baby Blues

   Key points included:
   ➢ MCBH plans to work closely with the County’s Department of Social Services to help recognize when a mother in the community may be communicating that they need assistance.
   ➢ Reference materials for the Parenting Connections Warmline (referenced on Slide 13) were provided for attendees to take
   ➢ The “Week of the Mother” is May 4-8, 2020, with more information to come

8. INFORMATION: Receive a Report from a Member of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Lopez shared the following announcements:

➢ The Board of Supervisors (BOS) initiated some unique things in relation to financing and housing in January 2020, which is a first for Monterey County.
  o A significant amount of money was put towards new projects in cities: Marina-The Veteran’s Transition Center (70 additional beds); Greenfield-300 units with 20-30 beds being permanent supportive units and including Transitional Age Youth housing

➢ Governor Newsom released Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) figures to push jurisdictions to build additional housing which does not incentivize counties to work with cities.
  o The BOS decided that if housing is going to be built in Monterey County, it will be prudent to build in or near the cities (instead of building new cities) due to the significant need for housing.

➢ Outcomes (for last year) presented by the County’s team to address Opioid use were quite unfavorable.
  o On March 10, 2020, the BOS will receive a presentation and public training on Narcan.
Natividad Medical Center will also be presenting on their new a program that offers a medication similar to Methadone to transition off of Opioid use.

9. INFORMATION: Receive the Commissioner’s Reports/Updates
   - Comm. Gutierrez shared news about a fundraiser being held in King City (Casino Night), sponsored by Rancho Cielo, Friday, April 3, 2020; contact her for tickets. Greenfield has concerns for people ages 15-24 and substance abuse. March is Social Worker Appreciation Month; there will be a Social Work Celebration at the Kinship Center (River Road), March 13, 2020.
   - Comm. Deming thanked Dana and Relindis for their presentation on Maternal Mental Health.
   - Comm. Gonzalez-Rivas suggested the Maternal Mental Health team could partner the local schools and their weekly parenting classes, “Positive Discipline.” She also shared she heard outreach from MCBH being aired on a Spanish radio station.
   - Comm. Herrera shared information about an ongoing T.V. series called, “What’s Eating America?” It airs on Sunday, 9 p.m. (EST) and is also available on YouTube. The first episode highlighted the importance of farmworkers’ jobs and their lifestyle.
   - Comm. Fosler attended the Monterey County Stepping Up Initiative meeting. The state challenged counties to join the Stepping Up Initiative which focuses on the treatment of prisoners in the jail system and following their release.
   - Comm. Ferreira shared she has been reassigned to the Juvenile Court system. She thanked the MCBH staff for their engagement and responsiveness for juveniles in/out of custody.

ADJOURN
The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.