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

Thursday, May 28, 2020  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 Chair M. Lopez at 5:37 P.M.
All attendees appeared via teleconference.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

COMMISSIONERS
Present: Heather Deming; Maribel Ferreira; Linda Fosler; Cathy Gutierrez; Jesse Herrera; Anthony Ivanich; Supv. Christopher Lopez; Mark Lopez; Alma McHoney; Margie Sokotowski

Absent: Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas; Cortland Young (resigned); Hailey Dicken-Young (resigned)

Staff Present: Amie Miller, Behavioral Health Bureau Chief; Jon Drake, Behavioral Health Assistant Bureau Chief; Alica Hendricks, Management Analyst, Behavioral Health; Dana Edgull, Behavioral Health Services Manager, Marina Pantchenko, Deputy County Counsel; Stacy Saetta, Deputy County Counsel; Wesley Schweikhard, Management Analyst, Behavioral Health; Jill Walker, Training Manager, Behavioral Health; Michael Lisman, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health; Lucero Robles, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health; Andria Sumpter, Secretary, Behavioral Health

Announcement of the Interpreter: Spanish Interpreter present and announced Spanish interpreter services.

3. CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA
None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
Marisol Beas, Project Coordinator, California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN) submitted a public comment letter via email on behalf of CAYEN. Her statement was read out loud and entered into the record.

Jorge, Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) provided an update on CCCIL’s work with consumers.

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director, CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C) will be sharing information gained from local commission meetings with the CALBHB/C governing board and the MHS Oversight and Accountability Commission in a show of support for individual county’s situations. She shared that CALBHB/C’s website has a resource page for counties to report on their
MHSA performance data and encouraged Monterey County to use this platform to share and learn.

Barbara Mitchell, Program Director, Interim Inc. provided an update on Interim’s services and programs. The OMNI Resource Center is currently functioning solely as a warm line with plans to reopen in the near future. She also asked the Commission to consider input from local providers during its decision-making process.

Daniel Gonzalez, Executive Director, Center for Community Advocacy (CCA) provided an update on CCA’s interaction with the community and stressed the importance of the community’s access to services during this pandemic.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

   It was moved by Supv. C. Lopez, seconded by Commissioner Fosler to approve the April 30, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by the following vote:

   **AYES:** McHoney; Sokotowski; Chair M. Lopez; Gutierrez; Ferreira; Herrera; Deming; Fosler; Ivanich; Supv. C. Lopez

   **NOES:** None

   **ABSENT:** Gonzalez-Rivas

6. **ACTION:** Public Hearing to review the Draft Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 2020/21 to 2022/23 Three-Year Plan and recommend adoption by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

   Amie Miller, Bureau Chief, presented referring to handout of power point:

   *FY20/21 to 2023/24 MHSA Three-Year Plan with Summary of Public Comments & Substantive Changes to Draft*

   **Key points included:**
   - Funds can be withheld by the State if the MHSA plan is not approved by the Board of Supervisors by July 1, 2020.
   - The final plan will have MHSA funding levels will be updated on page 35 of the plan, inadvertently omitted in the draft plan.

   **Identified Edits to Draft:**
   - Adjust numbering and title of Strategies to conform with fiscal structure.
     - This change to be reflected in narrative titles and budget worksheet

   **Public comments received at the meeting:**
   - Barbara Mitchell requested that the original public comment documents submitted during the 30-day comment period be provided in full to the commission for review, instead of just the summarized version of the comment to capture the full details. Also suggested a review of MSHA regulations to consider how to process public comment received moving forward at the local level.
   - Theresa Comstock spoke towards the Welfare & Institution Code, regarding the commission and the MHSA plan. The process being the commission holds the public hearing but is not required to vote to approve the plan. She provided a reminder that
documents shared with the commission also be provided to the public, and any substantive recommendations made for plans or updates be voted on by a majority of the commission’s membership.

Commissioners comments received at the meeting:

- Comm. Deming raised the question if the original public comment statements are pertinent to view prior to the commission providing its decision at this meeting. She recognized that the current plan should move forward as is and that moving forward, she would like to be able to read public comments in their entirety.
- Comm. Ferreira recommended for this meeting, following the current regulations set forth and view public comments submitted in their summarized versions and forward onto the Board of Supervisors. Moving forward as a commission there can be discussion to have public comment presented in both summarized and original forms. However, there must be uniformity for processing all public comments received.
- Comm. Fosler recommended adhering to the current guidelines for this plan and accept the summarized versions of public comment submitted; discuss taking the initiative to provide the State with public comment in its entirety on an agenda at a later date but in advance of the next public hearing process. Also stated moving forward, she would like to review public comment received in their entirety.
- Comm. Sokotowski recommended viewing Barbara’s original submission, however, the submission to the State contain the summaries only.
- Comm. Herrera recommended it is most respectful to the community to see their words in full included in the plan both presented to the commission and submitted to the State. For this meeting the summaries should stand with a reference to the original comment and the original comment document be submitted with the plan.
- Comm. McHoney recommended moving forward for this meeting with the summarized comments, however, have another discussion on the topic at a later date. She would also like to be able to read all comments in their entirety.

It was moved by Commissioner Ferreira, seconded by Commissioner McHoney to approve the Draft MHSA FY 2020/21 to FY 2022/23 Three-Year Plan to include the summary of substantive recommendations received during the 30-day public comment period and at the Public Hearing, as modified at the Public Hearing to identify full three-year Fiscal Year period and to include retitling and renumbering changes noted, for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The motion passed with the following vote.

AYES: McHoney; Sokotowski; Chair M. Lopez; Gutierrez; Ferreira; Herrera; Deming; Fosler; Ivanich
NOES: None
ABSENT: Gonzalez-Rivas
ABSTAIN: Supv. C. Lopez

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

Dr. Amie Miller shared the following announcements:

- Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) has been working on renewing contracts beginning July 1, 2020 which will include cuts in response to budget cuts.
• Many MCBH vacant staff positions have been frozen, which has resulted in increases of current staff’s caseloads.
• It is important for MCBH to build out programs that bring in as much Medi-Cal as possible.
• Medi-Cal enrollment is rising and will continue to do so for the next several months. However, as enrollment increases, MCBH revenues decrease significantly, as there is no increase in match required for Medi-Cal reimbursement.

8. INFORMATION: Receive a Report from a Member of the Board of Supervisors
   Supervisor Lopez shared the following announcements:
   • The Board of Supervisors (BOS) budget hearings begin next week.
     o The data full impact of COVID-19 on our economy is still unknown
       ▪ The gas tax, full impact from the State and other key budget numbers are still unknown
   • The BOS submitted an attestation form on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 to the State to inform that Monterey County has met the criteria to move further into Stage 2 of the State’s reopening plan.
     o A challenge the County is experiencing is very little notice given by State government when it moves items within the phases/stages (ex. religious services moved from stage 3 to early stage 2)
   • The County’s plan to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic has mechanisms in place to address should numbers exceed those predetermined in the plan.

9. INFORMATION: Receive the Commissioner’s Reports/Updates
   • Comm. McHoney thanked the BOS for their hard work. Reported that within the local VA clinic the older veteran population is struggling with shelter-in-place. The clinic moved all appointments to telehealth which will continue through August 15, 2020.
   • Comm. Sokotowski acknowledged that telehealth appointments have been a challenge for the veteran community.
   • Comm. M. Lopez reminded everyone to remain vigilant in following the hygiene guidelines for COVID-19.
   • Comm. Gutierrez reported for South County, the MCBH-Access numbers remain high, and the Substance Use Disorders (SUD) program continues to see incoming requests for assistance. Thanked MCBH staff and contract providers for their continued hard work.
   • Comm. Ferreira shared that the County juvenile court system pivoted quickly in coordination with MCBH-Children Services to adapt to the changes brought forth by COVID-19. Thanked MCBH for their efforts to provide stress relief for county staff and the community.
   • Comm. Herrera asked MCBH for a future agenda item to provide clear criteria that will be used during decision making as reductions are made to county programs to address the issue of disparities (how will funding reductions impact the level of disparities). He also shared that CSUMB recently received an eight-year certification from the Council on Social Work Education and their MSW program graduated another cohort of students who are now working in the community in addition to students from the Physician’s Assistant and Nursing programs. Noted focus needs to remain on prevention services especially as communities are struggling through this pandemic.
   • Comm. Deming shared this is her last meeting as a commissioner and thanked everyone for their work and support. Her experience on this commission has affected her
positively and deeply and she will continue to work to help work on hospital discharge planning programs and reduction of the recidivism rate.

**ADJOURN**
The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.