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

Thursday, August 27, 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 5:30 P.M.
   All attendees appeared via teleconference.

2. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS**
   Commissioner attendance verified via roll call.

   **COMMISSIONERS**
   **Present:** Margie Sokotowski; Mark Lopez; Cathy Gutierrez; Jesse Herrera; Aaron Wood
   Linda Fosler; Supv. Christopher Lopez

   **Absent:** Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas Alma McHoney, Maribel Ferreira; Anthony Ivanich;

   **Staff Present:** Lucero Robles, Acting Behavioral Health Bureau Chief; Jon Drake,
   Behavioral Health Assistant Bureau Chief; Dana Edgull, Behavioral Health Services
   Manager; Nivedita Meethan, Epidemiologist, Health Department; Marina Pantchenko,
   Deputy County Counsel; Jill Walker, Training Manager, 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**
   Pamela Weston spoke about her work with the encampments in Salinas comprised of
   individuals displaced from Industrial Sanborn. She has asked the Board of Supervisors
   for collaboration efforts and requested a subcommittee/study to assesses the situation
   with a starting point of five (5) months ago to the current date.

   Kontrena McPheter with Interim Inc provided an update on the OMNI Resource Center;
   there has been a reduction in the number of participants, however they are adapting to
   continue outreach.

   Jorge Ruiz with Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) shared updates.
   CCCIL is working with city of Salinas to provide shelter services to community members
   and offering medical supply replacement lost in the fires to Monterey and neighboring
   counties.

   Wes White a community member from District 1 spoke about providing adequate shelter
   for the homeless and inquired on the Commission assisting with addressing city and
county ordinances currently in place to help create a more nurturing and healing environment, as they contribute to trauma for community members experiencing homelessness as is.

Secretary confirmed receipt of two (2) public comment letters received from: Casey Powers, Division Director of Program Services, Interim Inc. and Teresa Sullivan, Executive Director, Alliance on Aging. Both documents made available for public viewing following the meeting.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
   
   It was moved by Commissioner Gutierrez, seconded by Commissioner Fosler to approve the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by the following vote:

   **AYES:** Sokotowski; Chair M. Lopez; Gutierrez; Herrera; Wood Fosler; Supv. C. Lopez

   **NOES:** None

   **ABSENT:** Ferreira; Gonzalez-Rivas; Ivanich; McHoney

6. **INFORMATION:** Receive a presentation from California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN)
   
   CAYEN members, Anna Mejia, Cynthia Ortiz, Emily Garcia, and Lily Tran presented referring to handout (Agenda Item 6) provided.

7. **INFORMATION:** Receive a presentation on Suicide Awareness Efforts
   
   Dana Edgull and Nivedita Meethan presented referring to the handout (Agenda Item 7) provided.

   **Key points included:**
   
   - The California Strategic Plan (Striving for Zero) was released in the recent past and outlines the suicide prevention plan for the state from 2020-2025.
     - Monterey County is in alignment with the Plan’s four (4) strategic aims

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. upon Supv. C. Lopez departure and loss of quorum.