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

Thursday, October 29, 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 5:34 P.M.
   All attendees appeared via teleconference.

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

   **COMMISSIONERS**
   **Present:** Mark Lopez; Cathy Gutierrez; Maribel Ferreira; Jesse Herrera; Aaron Wood;
   Linda Fosler; Anthony Ivanich; Supv. Christopher Lopez

   **Absent:** Rosa Gonzalez-Rivas; Alma McHoney; Margie Sokotowski

   **Staff Present:** Lucero Robles, Acting Behavioral Health Bureau Chief; Jon Drake,
   Behavioral Health Assistant Bureau Chief; Alica Hendricks, Management Analyst,
   Behavioral Health, Wesley Schweikhard, Management Analyst/MHSA Innovations
   Coordinator, Behavioral Health; Stacy Saetta, Deputy County Counsel; 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**
   Kontrena McPheter with Interim Inc shared Interim’s virtual workshop and job fair being
   held on November 17, 2020 a 10:00 a.m. Flyers will be made available to the
   commission and public following the meeting via email and on the Behavioral Health
   website. All in the community are welcome. In addition, Interim will be able to serve
   about 200 hot meals Thanksgiving this year; seating will not be available due to COVID-
   19 guidelines.

   Sue Parris, Executive Director, National Coalition Building Institute in Monterey County
   and a Pacific Grove resident shared her appreciation for the Behavioral Health
   Commission’s work for behavioral health services in Monterey County; urged for a focus
   on finding out what people in the community need and providing those mental health
   services in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways.

   Rory Gomez-Aarons with National Alliance on Mental Illness NAMI-Monterey
   announced NAMI California’s first virtual state conference was held October 12-13,
   2020. The registration count was 1500 and the conference featured a variety of
workshops both days. There were three (3) measures that are used throughout the
country that were positively commented on over the duration: 1) CIT training; 2)
Stepping Up Initiative; and 3) Mobile Crisis Response Units.

Lynda Kaufmann, Psynergy Programs and Governing Board Member, CALBH/BC announced that they have remained COVID-19 free across all (Psynergy) communities. Monterey County has expanded the contract to include the Sacramento County campuses to support clients from one county living on a campus in another county. She highlighted AB 17-66, the proposed bill that will increase the rate of board and care operators; this will allow for board and cares to function (and not close) for attendees’ awareness.

Jesse Herrera, on behalf of a community member who had questions regarding the flyers for the Mobile Response Team (MRT). There are differences between the English and Spanish versions: 1) page two (2) of the English version discusses the categories of situations that may require the MRT; the Spanish version states “el joven” translated as “the boy/youth” which gives the impression that the young women in the community are left out. 2) Another section discusses who is eligible for these services, the English version states “children/youth who live in Monterey County, with Monterey County Medi-Cal or are uninsured; the Spanish version says the same with additional language, “support will be available, if support is available.”

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Gutierrez, seconded by Commissioner Herrera to approve the September 24, 2020 meeting minutes with the following vote:

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

The motion did not pass.

Here, while action was taken by a majority of those present at the October meeting (five out of eight), action was taken by less than a majority of a quorum of those present at the September meeting. Accordingly, the item has been continued to the November 19, 2020 meeting.

6. INFORMATION: Receive a presentation on the Monterey County Behavioral Health Transportation Coaching Project

Wesley Schweikhard and members of Interim, Inc. presented referring to handout (Agenda Item 6) provided.

Key points included:

- The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is voter approved measure (approved in 2004) that is a funding source for programs in all counties, with the intent to transform the mental health system.
- Innovation is one of five (5) components of how money is distributed to counties (5% of total funding) and acts as the “research” arm of the MHSA model
- This project is one (1) of three (3) Innovation Projects operating in Monterey County.
• Slide 8- City of Residence graph data was also aggregated by region: 26%-Peninsula/Coastal Region; 38%-Salinas; 34%-South County
• Slide 9- Pre-Test Data: about 75% of clients have at least some difficulty; 20-25% of clients have no issues.

7. **INFORMATION:** Receive a presentation from Acting Behavioral Health Director on Community Support: Forward Together/Avanzando Juntos
   Lucero Robles presented referring to the handout (Agenda Item 7) provided.
   
   Key points included:
   • Narcotic Treatment Programs are also a part of the Substance Abuse Services delivery system listed on Slide 2 of the power point
   • Title of Slide 7 is: Substance Use Disorder Services
     o Data for Fiscal Year 19/20 data includes services to youth
     o All Monterey County Behavioral Health’s substance use disorder treatment services are contracted out to four (4) providers in the county

8. **INFORMATION:** Receive a Report from a Member of the Board of Supervisors
   Supervisor Chris Lopez shared the following announcements:
   ➢ A virtual town hall was held this week on the Opioid Epidemic with a focus in the significant impact on southern Monterey County with members of the Prescribe Safe Initiative
     o An opportunity to provide Narcan for the community of Soledad was made possible with the help of a local business used for pick-up and training.
     o Encourage those who need help to seek available resources (Sun Street Centers; Valley Health Associates)
   ➢ A reminder that Veteran’s Day is approaching and veterans in our community continue to need support and positive connections.
   ➢ The State’s Holiday guidance has been made available for the public: up to 3 families per gathering; keep outdoors if possible; maintain physical distance.
   ➢ Monterey County’s COVID-19 metrics: the County remains in the purple tier, however, the numbers are looking better each week. A focus is working to gain the tier where restaurants can resume indoor dining heading into the winter.
   ➢ The 2020 Census just concluded; the County provided a higher turnout than previous years. The County has weighed in some court battles on the side of immigrant communities where there is an intent to look at high immigrant communities and ask that they not be counted in the Census, in addition to using past data to reduce the amount of resources received.
   ➢ A disparate impact report on COVID-19 was put out and is available on the Board of Supervisors website.
     o A community engagement group is being formed using the model of the Census to try to engage with members of the community who are not typically engaged with government.
   ➢ Encouraged everyone to get their flu shot.

9. **INFORMATION:** Receive the Commissioners’ Reports/Updates
   ➢ Comm. Gutierrez reported the transportation project in South County is going well. There are two (2) Wellness Navigator positions available. There has been a great collaboration with the MCBH Soledad office, CCA and promotores to provide information and
education to a group of 10-15 community members virtually on topics such as depression and anxiety, available in Spanish and English. Proposition 47 (Prop 47) continues to be worked on. The sober living modular was placed to provide additional beds in the community.

- Comm. Fosler departed the meeting at 6:50 p.m. as previously announced.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.