

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
Behavioral Health Services Division



**MENTAL HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**DATE: January 19, 2021  
TIME: 4:30 – 6:00 PM**

**Video:** [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)  
**Call-In:** [+1 323-457-3408](#) USA, Los Angeles (Toll)  
Conference ID: 279 728 969#

**Mental Health Advisory Board Present:** Supervisor Monica Brown (late), Denise Coleman, Daniel Cotton, Jules D. Hatchett, Rachelle Jackson, Heather Theaux-Venezio, Chair and Michael Wright.

**Behavioral Health Services Division Present:** Tracy Lacey, Senior Mental Health Manager and Sandra Sinz, Behavioral Health Director.

**Absent:** Emery Cowan, Behavioral Health Services Administrator and Leticia De La Cruz Salas, Behavioral Health Services Administrator.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

I.	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b> The meeting was called to order by Heather Theaux-Venezio at 4:34 pm. A quorum was attained.</p>
II.	<p><b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC</b> There were no items from the Public on matters not listed on the Agenda.</p>
III.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES</b> Heather Theaux-Venezio motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 Minutes. The motion was properly moved by Denise Coleman and seconded by Rachelle Jackson. The motion carried with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.</p>
IV.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2021 AGENDA</b> Heather Theaux-Venezio motioned to approve the January 19, 2021 Agenda. The motion was properly moved by Michael Wright and seconded by Denise Coleman. The motion carried with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.</p>
V.	<p><b>PRESENTATION: HOUSING PROGRAM, MIRANDA RAMIREZ, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER</b> Miranda Ramirez provided an update on the Behavioral Health housing programs initiatives. Ms. Ramirez talked about Behavioral Health’s role, partnerships and collaborations we participate in, the homeless outreach efforts alongside local law enforcement, and plans for an electronic housing database to streamline current housing process for staff and agencies. For more information, you can reach out to Miranda Ramirez and her team at <a href="mailto:Housing@SolanoCounty.com">Housing@SolanoCounty.com</a>. Attached is the presentation for your review.</p>
VI.	<p><b>SCHEDULED CALENDAR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Routine Business             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Laura’s Law Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Referrals Sandra Sinz provided an update on AOT and diversion referrals and mentioned that the Laura’s Law Renewal will be on the consent calendar at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 26, 2021                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ms. Sinz will send MHAB members the BOS report on Friday.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>b. MH Related Legislation Sandra Sinz provided updates on mental health legislation and shared that DHCS information notices for peer certification are being implemented.</p> <p>a. c. LPS/PES Meeting Discussion Heather Theaux-Venezio says she is attending the meeting taking place tomorrow, January 20, 2021 and will provide an update at the next MHAB meeting.</p> <p>2. New Business No updates to report on.</p>
VII.	<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b> There were no items from the Public on matters listed on the Agenda.</p>
VIII.	<p><b>STAFF REPORTS</b></p> <p>1. Director's Report Sandra Sinz provided information on affordable housing (attached is the document for your review), budget update and COVID19 hospitalizations.</p> <p>2. MHSA Report Tracy Lacey was provided a couple of updates around DHCS MHP Audit for MHSA being postponed, suicide rates down compared to a year ago from 60 to 48, the MHSA 3-Year Plan and MHSA Annual Update will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2021, Mobile Crisis launch moved to February, Diversity &amp; Equity plan in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ms. Lacey will ask Marisol Lopez to forward the Diversity &amp; Equity Plan when it is completed.</li> </ul>
IX.	<p><b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p>1. Executive Board There were no updates at this meeting.</p> <p>2. Membership There were no updates at this meeting.</p> <p>3. Outreach and Education There were no updates at this meeting.</p>
X.	<p><b>BOARD DISCUSSION</b> Board members had roundtable discussion of hot topics they would like to explore to help community.</p> <p>Supervisor Brown working on getting future guest speakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ms. Brown working with Lobbyist to see about attending a future meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Coleman asked if County can provide a van to go out to see during the pandemic to provide care for clients, including the homeless population. Ideal to be designed to maintain client confidentiality and while protecting both, the clients and staff from coronavirus exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ms. Tracy will ask Public Health if they can partner with them about sharing their van for BH outreach purposes.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Coleman provided an update on behalf of the Alcohol &amp; Drug Advisory Board (ADAB) regarding the Substance Use Disorder Navigators. She also wanted to know if Peer Support</p>

	<p>Specialists could apply for those positions. Ms. Theaux-Venezio said that is being handled by third parties, not the hospitals.</p> <p>Mr. Hatchett wanted to discuss sheds/beds allotments and wanted to know how many beds/sheds are being allotted for clients with Mental Health needs versus individuals with HIV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Brown is going to follow up with Mr. Hatchett.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Wright is happy with the current advancements with homelessness, upcoming mobile crisis launch, and individuals receiving mental health services and not in the criminal system. He wanted to know if money that is saved through various programs can be redirected for mental health services purposes. Per Ms. Sinz, outcomes to decrease costs to criminal costs is the objective and does benefit the criminal system. However, funds are not redirected for behavioral health services.</p> <p>Ms. Theaux-Venezio wanted to share that EMS, has a designation called EDAP (except Sutter in Vallejo) which stands for Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics. Specialty Coordinator will do a dashboard and focus on pediatric issues. The four hospitals except Sutter in Vallejo (they are not EDAP) all agreed to submit data to get a quarter report about pediatric behavioral health patients coming in for 5150s. This includes privately insured patients. In July – September of 2021 there were a total of 83 reported, the same time prior year is unknown. Ms. Theaux-Venezio sent to Ms. Sinz and Ms. Lacey for review and recommendations.</p>
XI.	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm by Heather Theaux-Venezio.</p>



# Community Integration Services Unit

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Housing Resource Coordination

Homeless Outreach

Wellness & Recovery

# Unit Development



- Historically, housing/homeless programs have been scattered across the Department
  - There had been difficulty coordinating efforts, streamlining processes and avoiding duplication and gaps.
- This is a newly organized unit, focused on coordinating the Housing/Homeless initiatives across Behavioral Health, Department of HSS divisions and community organizations.
- Overall, our purpose is to promote fully integrated independent living, self-sufficiency and resilience for the people we serve.

# Homeless / Housing Initiatives

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Across BH programs, HSS Divisions  
and Community Organizations

# Partnerships and Collaboration

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- Coordinated Entry (Caminar Resource Connect)
- JPA Strategic Planning Committee
- Project Roomkey
- City Leadership
- National, State and Local Homelessness Forums and Committees
- SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Network
- Grant initiatives



# System Navigation and Referrals



# Role

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**We serve individuals who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. Our support includes:**

- Responding to community referrals for outreach
- Providing linkage to County benefits and services
- Tracking to monitor outcomes (via HMIS)





# Youth & TAY

Under the BH Children's System of Care

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## Target Population:

- Youth ages 15-24
- LGBTQ Youth Community and those who are victims or at-risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

## Referral Sources:

- Child Welfare
- Probation
- Behavioral Health
- Schools
- Law Enforcement
- Community Partners

# Role and Activities

We serve individuals who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. Our support includes:

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Outreach

Engagement

Community Referrals

Behavioral Health Referral for Services

Reconnecting individual with Service Provider

Presentations

Tabling Events

Member of Internal and External Meetings

Provide linkage to County benefits and services

Track data & monitor outcomes (via HMIS)

# Homeless Outreach alongside Law Enforcement

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Multidisciplinary – Multiagency  
approach

# Weekly outreach

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- We coordinate with Law Enforcement in Fairfield and Vallejo to do outreach at homeless encampments.
- Other agencies involved include (quarterly), include: Animal Control, Fish & Game, FD Code Enforcement, etc.
- We distribute water, food, personal hygiene kits, dog food, etc.
- We assist with the Point in Time (PIT) count





# Bringing BH Services to our Homeless Residents

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- **Bimonthly, Dr. King and a clinician (Freddy Ford) partner with Fairfield law enforcement's Homeless Intervention Team (HIT)**

- **Activities include –**

- Mental Health assessment & Service Plan in homeless encampments
- Intake
- Medication evaluations & Rx orders
- HIT officers coordinate delivery of medications

- Project began in December 2019
- Individuals served so far: 40
  - 35% agreed to treatment

- **Next Steps –**

- Caminar FSP HOME to participate
- Expansion of provider & clinician participants.
- Field-based nursing staff for injections
- May replicate in other cities

# Housing Data System

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Housing resource and referral management

# SHINE

## Solano Housing, Information, Navigation and Engagement

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- Housing resource directory
- Electronic referral process + task management
- Rental assistance authorization and accountability
- Provider portal
- Bed Management and Gatekeeping
- Tracking

**Platform → Microsoft Dynamics**





# Contact info

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**Housing@SolanoCounty.com**

**Miranda Ramirez**

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**707-784-8142**

## BH Housing Projects – update to MHAB January 2021

### **Mental Health Diversion Project – Beck board and care**

- Will house 32 mentally ill adults, homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Two beds will be set aside for homeless youth age 18-24.
- Will be licensed as an Adult Residential Facility with 16 permanent, supportive beds and 16 treatment beds.
- California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) funds the build of the residential treatment site; clients must have some history of criminal justice interface.
- County Diversion funds through General Services grant award from the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program fund the developing the regular board and care.
- Site development is scheduled to begin in April 2021, following the completion of building construction and program licensing.

### **Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) in Vallejo**

- 75-unit project, Sacramento Street apartments, is being developed by Eden Housing.
- No Place Like Home (NPLH) grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has funded 23 units specifically designated for the seriously mentally ill (SMI) clients — also supported by Section 8 project vouchers.

### **Multifamily Housing Programs (MHP) in Fairfield (Fair Haven Commons and 212 E. Tabor)**

- Fairfield's Fair Haven 72-unit project, Fair Haven Commons, is being developed by MidPen Housing.
  - 34 units designated for SMI clients—as funded by NPLH grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has funded 23 units in Vallejo and 34 units in Fairfield — also supported by Section 8 project vouchers.
- Fairfield's 212 Tabor project is a 72-unit project being developed by EAH Housing. A NPLH grant is being submitted in January 2021 to fund a minimum of 20 units for SMI clients — also supported by Project 8 vouchers.

### **Affordable Housing planned for Vacaville**

- Eden Housing is developing an additional affordable housing project in Vacaville, formerly planned for Brown Street.
- The project will rehab existing apartments to create more housing units.
- It is not as far along as others as initial plans focused on a different location.

### **Expansion of BH's Transitional Housing beds**

- Caminar "Gateway" maintains 4 transitional housing beds, length of stay 30-90 days for SMI adults (in place for several years).

- New contract with Caminar “Gateway Bridges” for a 12-bed transitional housing (TH) program at the site of their former Laurel Creek Crisis Residential Treatment property. Clients’ stay can range from 30-90 days. Support during placement focuses on skills development and on identifying a more permanent housing plan. The program began admitting clients on 8/18/20.

#### **Townhouses Transitional Housing beds**

- 8 units each with two bedrooms, overseen by Bay Area Community Services (BACS).
- Section 8 vouchers are not used in order to enable BH to house two unrelated adults in each unit for a total of 16 beds for SMI clients. Clients stay can range from 6-12 months.

#### **Shelter Transitional Housing beds**

- 15 beds at Shelter Solano are funded by BH MHSA for SMI adults whose length of stay can range from 9-12 months.
- BH funds operation costs, 24/7 staffing and light case management focused on housing through a fee for service contract.
- Prop 47 funds about 10 beds at Shelter Solano and 8-10 beds at Opportunity house for clients enrolled in the program and engaged in SUD treatment.

#### **Permanent Supportive Housing**

- 17 units for BH clients at Signature in Fairfield (10 units) and Heritage Commons (7 units) in Dixon were developed in 2006 and began accepting residents in 2012. Signature is primarily family units and Heritage Commons is for SMI adults age 55 and over.
- HUD grants and BH have funded an additional 29 units for SMI clients.