



**OCTOBER 19, 2021  
4:30 – 6:00 PM**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

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

**Absent:** Michael Wright.

**Behavioral Health Services Division Present:** Tracy Lacey, Senior Mental Health Manager.

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

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

I.	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b> The meeting was called to order by Heather Theaux-Venezio- at 4:30 pm. A quorum was attained.</p>
II.	<p><b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC</b> There were no items from the Public on matters listed on the Agenda.</p>
III.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MINUTES</b> Heather Theaux-Venezio motioned to approve the September 21, 2021 Minutes. The motion was properly moved by Jules D. Hatchett and seconded by Rachelle Jackson. The motion carried with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.</p>
IV.	<p><b>APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2021 AGENDA</b> Heather Theaux-Venezio motioned to approve the October 19, 2021 Agenda. The motion was properly moved by Rachelle Jackson and seconded by Jules D. Hatchett The motion was carried with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.</p>
V.	<p><b>SCHEDULED CALENDAR</b></p> <p>1. Routine Business</p> <p>a. Laura’s Law Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Referrals MH Diversion (3); MH Court (5); and MH Services (8) and AOT (3), a total of 19.</p> <p><i>Ms. Theaux-Venezio provided updates from the attached Director’s Report on Emery Cowan’s behalf.</i></p> <p>b. MH Related Legislation AB638 - Tracy Lacey This legislation will allow counties to use MHSA PEI funds to fund prevention and early intervention strategies, to address substance misuse or primary mild-to-moderate substance use disorders. In the past MHSA funds were strictly to be used for individuals with mental health conditions and excluded substance use.</p> <p>SB465 – Tracy Lacey</p>

This legislation requires the Mental Health Services Oversight Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) that oversees all things MHSA, to do more reporting for State and government around the statewide impact of Full-Service Partnership (FSP) programs.

AB2265 – Tracy Lacey

Counties are now required to report the number of consumers that were assessed using MHSA funds who had a cooccurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and then the number of individuals who were reassessed who were determined to only have a substance use disorder. The first report was due to the State on September 30, 2021. We submitted the information in a timely manner. This will be required annually.

*Refer to Director's Report for additional information.*

c. LPS/PES Meeting Discussion

Heather Theaux-Venezio did not have any new topics to share since the last meeting.

d. AB 361 Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances/Teleconferences

The Mental Health Advisory Board agreed to continue meeting virtually via teleconferencing. AB 361 allows boards and commissions to meet via teleconferencing without disclosing physical address during California's State of Emergency to promote social distancing. Brown Act Requirements: Roll call votes when meetings are held by teleconference, on Agenda every 30 days with majority vote, and record motion in Minutes.

*Refer to attachment for more information.*

2. New Business

The MHSA Public Hearing scheduled for November is being postponed to December 14, 2021, 4:00 – 5:00 pm for Board members to vote followed by Mental Health Advisory Board, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Quorum is required. The November 16, 2021 meeting will be held during the regular time. Marisol Lopez will update the November and December instances accordingly.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no items from the Public on matters listed on the Agenda.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

1. Director's Report

Ms. Theaux-Venezio provided highlights from the attached Director's Report in Emery Cowan's absence.

Medic Ambulance got the contract for community crisis transport. Heather says that there is a disconnect between mobile crisis and EMS and recommended that Solano County EMS and Behavioral Health teams meet with and Uplift Mobile Crisis to discuss discrepancies.

*Refer to Director's Report for additional information.*

2. MHSA Report

Tracy Lacey provided update on the MHSA Annual Update 11/14 posting for public comment January BOS to be confirmed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of January.

New BH media campaign will be focused on Suicide Prevention, for five at risk populations: African American youth, Caucasian middle-aged man, Native/Indigenous, LGBTQ+ youth, and Filipino community. Commercials will start airing December or January.

5-Year WET Plan

OSHPD state funds will be used with a 33% match coming from CA Counties. State WET Plan is being done by region. Solano is part of Bay Area Region and those counties have agreed to do loan repayment for county and contractor staff who work in programs under the MHP , represent

	<p>diverse underserved communities, are in hard to fill positions and have been employed for a minimum of a year. This could help with retention issues.</p>
VIII.	<p><b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p>1. Executive Board There were no updates during this meeting.</p> <p>2. Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Theaux-Venezio will remain on the Board but will not be in the Chair capacity.</li> <li>• Rachell Jackson will be the new Mental Health Advisory Board Chair starting in November.</li> <li>• Denise Coleman will be acting Vice Chair starting in November by unanimous vote; 6 in favor and 0 against.</li> </ul> <p>3. Outreach and Education Heather will focus on in the new year.</p>
IX.	<p><b>BOARD DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>Board members had discussions related to mental health.</p>
X.	<p><b>ADJOURN</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm by Heather Theaux-Venezio.</p>

**From:** [Theresa Comstock](#)  
**To:** [Lopez, Marisol](#); [Sinz, Sandra L.](#); [Heather](#)  
**Subject:** Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences - Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:49:20 PM

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## **Brown Act Public Emergency Allowances / Teleconferences Requirements for local boards and commissions**

Beginning tomorrow, October 1, 2021. [AB 361](#) allows for exemptions from Brown Act in-person requirements under the following conditions, and with the following requirements:

- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
- The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. [To continue the allowances, this vote must be agendized once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and vote to continue using the law's exemptions for as long as it deems necessary. ]

A local agency that holds a meeting under these circumstances will be required by AB 361 to do all of the following, in addition to giving notice of the meeting and posting agendas as required under the Brown Act. These additional requirements are intended to protect the public's right to participate in the meetings of local agency legislative bodies.

- Allow the public to access the meeting and require that the agenda provide an opportunity for the public to directly address the legislative body pursuant to the Brown Act's other teleconferencing provisions; In each instance when the local agency provides notice of the teleconferenced meeting or posts its agenda, give notice for how the public can access the meeting and provide public comment;
- Identify and include in the agenda an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in or an internet-based service option;
- The legislative body need not provide a physical location for the public to attend or provide comments;
- Conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the public;
- Stop the meeting until public access is restored in the event of a service disruption that either prevents the local agency from broadcasting the meeting to the public using the call-in or internet-based service option, or is within the local agency's control and prevents the public from submitting public comments (any actions taken during such a service disruption can be challenged under the Brown Act's existing challenge provisions);

- Not require comments be submitted in advance (though the legislative body may provide that as an option), and provide the opportunity to comment in real time;
- Provide adequate time for public comment, either by establishing a timed public comment period or by allowing a reasonable amount of time to comment;
- If the legislative body uses a third-party website or platform to host the teleconference, and the third-party service requires users to register to participate, the legislative body must provide adequate time during the comment period for users to register, and may not close the registration comment period until the comment period has elapsed.

AB 361 also provides that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, a local agency must make the following findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the law's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules.

- The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the emergency; and
- Either of the following circumstances exist: The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person, or State or local officials continue to impose or recommend social distancing measures.

This will mean that a local agency will have to put an item on the agenda of a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and vote to continue using the law's exemptions for as long as it deems necessary. AB 361 will sunset on January 1, 2024.

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director  
CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions

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## Memorandum

To: Local Mental Health Board, Solano County  
From: Emery Cowan, LPCC, Deputy BH Director  
Date: October 18, 2021  
RE: Monthly report of significant issues

- The Medic Ambulance Contract for community crisis transport was signed on October 13<sup>th</sup>**- the contract is from 9/1/21 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for transport from Mobile Crisis calls for clients placed on holds within Solano, Sacramento and Yolo counties. The expectation is that they are available 24/7 and can respond to mobile crisis calls within 30 minutes to transport to CSU, ED or other appropriate facility.
- Staffing retention and hiring continues to worsen** – according to the last Vacancy report from 10/2/21, BH’s vacancy rate has more than doubled from 7.2% (7/13/19) to 18.97% (10/2/21); this translates to 38.75 vacancies. Staff across multiple roles have been leaving for various reasons (higher pay, work flexibility, less paperwork, promotions, closer to home, etc.) Positions are also taking longer to post, and the hiring process is more delayed. Contractors are highly impacted resulting in constant turnover and less service capacity, especially for more intensive services.
- The Beck board and care project groundbreaking occurred on October 4<sup>th</sup>, over 30 in attendance and well represented across leadership and stakeholders.**
  - The Governor signed SB 170 budget bill on 9/23/21 granting us the needed extension to open the program later due to challenges in the supply chain that arose from COVID (staffing limitations, access to supplies), and builders with waitlists and worker gaps. The bill extends the deadline for encumbrance for the Community Services Infrastructure Grant Program to 6/30/2023.
  - The CHFFA board will approve the contract amendment on December 2, 2021.
- The Mobile Crisis “Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) Program” new federal allocation grant was awarded** on October 4<sup>th</sup> for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00. Final approval and award is contingent upon budget revisions and the Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.’s (AHP’s) receipt of an executed contract from DHCS
  - The community-based Uplift mobile crisis team** continues to serve Fairfield and Suisun and is planning the expansion into Vallejo and Benicia on November 1<sup>st</sup>. They have started ride-alongs and dispatchers cross-training.
  - The school-based Solano County Office of Education mobile crisis team** continues to offer crisis interventions (funded by Mental Health Student Services Act grant that we co-applied for) continues and provided \$4M for a 4-year period. The number of calls has been high enough that there is discussion about adding

Administrative  
Services

Behavioral  
Health Services

Child Welfare  
Services

Employment &  
Eligibility Services

Medical  
Services

Older & Disabled  
Adult Services

Public Health  
Services

staff to support the need.

5. **Mental Health received additional funding CRRSSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021) and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021)** – This provided for an increase in the MH and SA block grants. CRRSSA funds must be expended by December 31, 2022 and ARPA must be expended by June 30, 2025. BH is still pending notice of awards, expected this week.

a. Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) – amounts in (parentheses) indicate additional funds that were requested, as DHCS indicated that there may be additional funds available. The MHBG Base Allocation expansion is planned for: Native American suicide prevention, Eating Disorder treatment, and IT infrastructure development:

- i. CRRSSA First Episode Psychosis Set-Aside: \$344,785
- ii. ARPA Base Allocation: \$145,599.00 (\$526,985) Planned for: Native American suicide prevention, Eating Disorder treatment, and IT infrastructure development.
- iii. ARPA First Episode Psychosis Set-Aside: \$595,539 (\$210,324)

b. Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG)

- i. CRRSSA Prevention related: \$666,413.36
- ii. CRRSSA Adolescent Set-Aside: \$23,125 (\$496,680 – to stand up an intensive outpatient program)
- iii. CRRSSA Recovery Housing Support: \$436,659.64 (\$298,008)
- iv. ARPA Prevention related: \$579,262.40 (\$245,761.11)
- v. ARPA Discretionary Allocation \$562,054.81 (\$1,149,322 for SUD case managers following the county’s Prop 47 program model, which just ended)

6. **As a result of advocacy, Kaiser Specialty Mental Health Carve-Out to County continues to be delayed at least until July 2023.** This is a unique situation only in Sacramento and Solano Counties where Medi-Cal beneficiaries assigned to Kaiser also get specialty-level MH care at Kaiser instead of through the County system. The State and Federal government plan to require the County to take over this care. We still do not have an agreement with Kaiser or DHCS on the size of this population to be transferred.

7. **Forensic Referrals for September 2021**– Mental Health Court is active; Solano BH staff met with NAMI Solano who received a DHCS Peer Training Grant to hire 2 part-time Peer Specialist Case Managers to support non-Medi-Cal clients through their new “Mental Health Diversion Peer Program”. Solano BH will be exploring how to extend and sustain this support for all MH court/diversion clients after their grant ends on February 14, 2023.

<b>SEPTEMBER 2021 FORENSIC TRIAGE TEAM Referral Breakdown</b>			
MH Diversion	MH Court	MH Services	AOT
3	5	8	3
<b>Total: 19</b>			