



**MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**APRIL 18, 2023 MINUTES**

**4:30 – 6:00 PM**

**2101 Courage Drive, MultiPurpose Room,  
Fairfield, CA 94533**

**Mental Health Advisory Board Members Present:**

Supervisor Monica Brown, Daniel Cotton, Tamuri Richardson, Alfred Sims, Heather Theaux-Venezio, Michael Wright **Absent:** Denise Coleman (Excused)

**Behavioral Health Services Division Members Present:**

Emery Cowan, BH Director, Brent Pottenger, MD, MHA **Absent:** Leticia De La Cruz Salas, BH Services Children's Admin. (Absent), BHS Adult Admin. (Vacant)

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

**1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Mental Health Advisory Board was called to order by Supervisor Monica Brown at 4:39 p.m. A quorum was attained.

- a) Welcomed Ms. Tamuri Richardson and Mr. Alfred Sims to their first Mental Health Advisory Board meeting as MHAB members.

**2) ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no items from the public on matters not listed on the agenda.

**3) APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2023 MINUTES**

Monica Brown motioned to approve the March 21, 2023 Minutes. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 2 in favor and 0 against.

*Mr. Wright and Ms. Theaux-Venezio abstained from voting since they were in attendance for March 21, 2023 meeting.*

**4) APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2023 AGENDA**

Monica Brown motioned to approve the April 18, 2023 Minutes. The motion was properly moved, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

**5) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT**

Emery Cowan gave an update on matters stated in her attached Behavioral Health Report.

**6) UPDATES**

**a) LPS/PES MEETING**

Heather Theaux-Venezio reported out topics from the LPS/PES meeting. One of the main concerns was misuse of inappropriate 5150 holds in local emergency departments.

*Emery Cowan will reach out to Suisun City Police Department.*

Heather Theaux-Venezio also expressed need to meet quarterly with City of Fairfield, local Police Departments, HIT Team to proactively address case management needs for recurring clients.

**b) LEGISLATION**

Heather said Behavioral Emergency Response Team (BERT) System will be implanted in future.

c) RECRUITMENT - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There were no updates during this meeting.

7) NEW BUSINESS

a) BH DIRECTOR PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MEETING TIME TO: 3:00 PM, 3:30 PM OR 4:00 PM

*Doodle poll to vote will be done in order to make a motion to approve time change at the May 2023 meeting.*

8) PUBLIC COMMENT

There were not items from the public on matters listed on the agenda.

9) MHAB BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Heather Theaux-Venezio spoke about school based mobile crisis and feels that it is not as smooth as intended.

*Monica Brown was going to reach out to Solano Office of Education to see if they have completed evaluations about the program to see if there are ways to make enhancements.*

10) Alfred Sims interested in Narcan for the homeless and veteran's population.

*Heather Theaux-Venezio and him will connect to discuss obtainability.*

11) ADJOURN

The Mental Health Advisory Board will reconvene on May 16, 2023, Multi-Purpose Room, 2101 Courage Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
Behavioral Health Services Division

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## Memorandum

To: Local Behavioral Health Advisory Boards (MHAB/ADAB)  
From: Emery Cowan, LPCC, LMHC- Chief Deputy, BH Director  
Date: April 18, 2023  
RE: Monthly report of significant issues

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*This report is shared across advisory boards on a monthly or at least quarterly frequency. Any questions can be sent to [ecowan@solanocounty.com](mailto:ecowan@solanocounty.com)*

**Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH)-** BH will be applying for its noncompetitive county distribution of \$8,352,207 for a new funding grant through DHCS, CALHSS. These funds will go to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions, including a serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). The program, which was signed into law in September 2022 under Assembly Bill 179 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022), provides funding through June 30, 2027. <https://bridgehousing.buildingcalhhs.com/>

**BH Housing RFP-** this RFP seeks a housing and homelessness support provider specifically to work with the mental health and substance use population. The RFP will blend various funding sources that include: HHAP 3 & 4, HHIP (through Partnership Health Plan), MHSA housing funds, Prop47 housing funds, BHBH discussed previously, and others. RFP NO.: 952-0316-23 is posted here [https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/genserv/purchasing/bids\\_rfps.asp](https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/genserv/purchasing/bids_rfps.asp) and closes on APRIL 26, 2023 5:00 PM.

**Comprehensive Case Management (CCM)-** Caminar operates our CCM team and we are working on consolidating programs to better serve our clients who have complex needs and setting up a better “step down” from FSPs to the community. Funded by MHSA and Medi-cal, the CCM program provides case management services with up to 3-5 face-to-face contacts per month for adult consumers with serious mental health conditions who may also have co-occurring substance use conditions. Services include peer-delivered services, nursing support and case management with a goal to stabilize consumers who need additional support beyond the adult psychiatry clinics but do not yet meet the criteria for FSP programs. CCM served 153 clients FY22-23. We will share more as we configure staffing and operation processes to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate any feedback on what we can consider to improve CCM service for our clients.

**Workforce Crisis-** BH has 40 current vacancies as of 4/18/23. BH is working with a recruiter on the Deputy Director and the Administrator and MHSA coordinator are still pending hiring process. We continue to need HR assistance in updating classifications and salaries to ensure there is parity with competitors and growing demand. We ask that our boards share our openings via the job posting link: <https://jobapscloud.com/solano/> .

**Mobile Crisis Team-** The Pacific Clinics team has hired 4 clinicians now to complete the staffing gaps and begin operations. We are re-establishing schedules/operating hours, identifying what to do for future staffing issues (identifying per diem staff, telehealth options, etc), and will begin to outreach to law enforcement agencies for re-engagement. Our hope is to begin operations in June. In the next few months, we will have to work to meet the new requirements set forth in the BH Information Notice [draft](#) shared by the state that will require all counties to offer mobile crisis as an entitlement benefit.

Vallejo IHART: There was a city council meeting about this Vallejo program, we have not been contacted for guidance or coordination. We continue to have concerns around duplication of services, community confusion, and emergency protocol.

**Solano House (Beck MH Facility) Updates-** Clients continue to move in and we have 7-8 residents! Our BH team continues to work on improving and streamlining intakes and policies for residents with Y3C.

**Newsletter-** You can review past and current issues [here](#) and anyone in the community can go to our website and sign up to get future emails <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/bh/default.asp>. Contractors who have MH/SUD related news, events, & trainings that they'd like to be shared, can contact us at [bhinfo@solanocounty.com](mailto:bhinfo@solanocounty.com)

**Forensic Referrals-**

March 2023			
FORENSIC TRIAGE TEAM			
Referral Breakdown			
MH Diversion	MH Court	MH Services	AOT
13	1	8	2
Total: 24			