

Minutes
Behavioral Health Commission

Arturo Salazar, Chair
Dr. Stephen Clavere, Vice-Chair WS
Dr. Richard Lynn, Vice-Chair SLT
John Hidahl, Board of Supervisors Representative
Kathryn Hamilton, Secretary
Henry Sandigo, Commissioner
Norma Santiago, Commissioner
Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner
Karis Holman, Commissioner
Vacant (7), Commissioner

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

5:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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5:05 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL; INTRODUCTIONS

El Dorado County Staff Present: Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Paula Frantz, Don Semon, Ren Strong, Heather Longo

Public Present: Barry Harwell, Benhamish Allen, "Robert", "First 5"

Present: 7 - Stephen Clavere, Arturo Salazar, Henry Sandigo, Kathryn Hamilton, Norma Santiago, Debra Thornburgh and Sue Novasel

Absent: 3 - Karis Holman, Richard Lynn and John Hidahl

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Clavere, seconded by Chair Salazar, to adopt the Agenda.

Yes: 7 - Stephen Clavere, Arturo Salazar, Henry Sandigo, Kathryn Hamilton, Norma Santiago, Debra Thornburgh and Sue Novasel

Absent: 3 - Karis Holman, Richard Lynn and John Hidahl

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [20-1415](#) Approval of the September 23, 2020 Behavioral Health Commission Minutes (5 minutes)

Commissioner Clavere requested an amendment to the Minutes:

Item 5, "Review/Discussion on Outcomes and Data Reporting by HHSA on PEI Programs"

Commissioner Clavere wants the following language struck from the Minutes: "...which provides the requested information for the most recent completed fiscal year."

Commissioner Clavere said the document referenced provided did not provide the requested information.

Paula Frantz, Deputy County Counsel reminded Commissioners that if they were not present at the last meeting, they should abstain from voting on the Minutes.

Yes: 6 - Stephen Clavere, Arturo Salazar, Henry Sandigo, Kathryn Hamilton, Norma Santiago and Debra Thornburgh

Absent: 3 - Karis Holman, Richard Lynn and John Hidahl

Abstained: 1 - Sue Novasel

2. [20-1427](#) Discussion on Monthly Agenda Items and Process (15 minutes)

Chair Salazar and the Vice Chairs meet monthly with Behavioral Health Director Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken and if Commissioners have agenda items, they should email Chair Salazar.

Paula Frantz, Deputy County Counsel encouraged Commissioners to only send Chair Salazar agenda items because sending agenda items to multiple commissioners could open up Brown Act violations.

Commissioner Clavere and Commissioner Santiago asked Paula Frantz clarifying questions.

Public Comment: None

3. [20-1420](#)

Discussion Regarding Completion of the 2020 Data Notebook & Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee (10 minutes)

Heather Longo, MHSA Coordinator, explained the purpose of the Data Notebook, including the Behavioral Health Commission's role in fulfilling their statutory responsibility.

Commissioner Clavere pointed out that there is a question on homelessness.

Supervisor Novasel said that although the Data Notebook specifically asks what programs Behavioral Health has implemented or expanded as they relate to homelessness, it doesn't mean other County departments or agencies aren't addressing this issue.

Commissioner Santiago asked about the timeline to complete the Data Notebook.

The Data Notebook Ad Hoc Committee is Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Sandigo, and Commissioner Salazar.

Public Comment: None

4. [20-1432](#)

Update / Discussion on Children's Services Ad Hoc Committee (10 minutes)

Commissioner Santiago summarized the Ad Hoc Committee's October meetings, as well as noted that there is a follow-up meeting on November 3 to discuss a final presentation and report to deliver at the November 18th Behavioral Health Commission meeting. She also said that there has been discussion about having a standing children's committee that might be staffed by an adjunct commission member who is an expert in children's issues. Commissioner Santiago also asked if the Behavioral Health Commission could advise the Youth and Family Commission.

Paula Frantz, Deputy County Counsel said that by law, service providers who are paid by the County cannot be members of the Behavioral Health Commission. The same would be true for an adjunct commission member. The Behavioral Health Commission does not have the authority to advise other commissions.

Don Semon said he and Supervisor Novasel are on the Youth and Family Commission and he, Supervisor Novasel or Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken can provide updates to the Behavioral Health Commission.

Public Comment: None

5. [20-1433](#) Review / Update on Stepping Up Initiative (5 minutes)

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, said that the workgroup continues to meet and they recently were guided through a process of building mission statements. She also said that Behavioral Health participated in the first Mental Health Diversion Court, on the Western Slope. There were eight (8) cases last week, two of which are applicants to the Diversion Court and the rest are not yet official applicants.

Commissioner Clavere asked how many cases were seen.

Public Comment: None

6. [20-1434](#) Review / Update on the County's Behavioral Health System Evaluation From IDEA Consulting (10 min)

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, said that all the interviews with stakeholders, partners, contracted service providers, and individuals were finished about a month ago. In addition to virtual surveys with clients, the consultant was able to do a client satisfaction survey with about 10-15 current beneficiaries. The first draft might be available in mid-November.

Commissioner Clavere asked how clients were selected for the interviews. Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken said the clients were asked by their clinician if they wanted to participate in the survey.

Commissioner Salazar asked when the Behavioral Health Commission would see the final report.

Commissioner Santiago asked if there would be recommendations to address budgetary needs for the department.

Don Semon, HHSA Director and Supervisor Sue Novasel said that they are discussing presentation of the final report with the Chief Administrative Officer. It is likely they will wait until the new Board of Supervisors are seated in January 2021.

Public Comment: None

7. [20-1418](#) Review / Discussion on the Revised Outcomes and Data Reporting by HHSA on PEI Programs (10 minutes)

Ren Strong, Program Manager, presented a preliminary draft of the Annual Reports. The reports show how much was spent in each program, how much was spent by Behavioral Health on certain projects, and the number of participants. It also includes demographic information as required by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and the Prevention and Early Intervention regulations. The reports include narrative questions relative to each project and outcome measures as identified in the MHSA Plan. Fiscal Year Outcomes for Fiscal Year 2019/20 is due to the State on June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Salazar asked how information is verified.

Commissioner Clavere said he thought the report this month was a different PEI report that included cumulative fund balances.

Ren Strong said information can be verified by audits of all contractor documents, sometimes there is a third party report like the Primary Intervention Project, and invoices sometimes have client identifiers that allow for an audit. The report with contract expenditures for the first quarter will be available at the next meeting, per the proposal that was discussed at the Commission meeting in August. Next month's report will include the past three fiscal year expenditures and unspent funds, plus the expenditures for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2020/21.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, said that Behavioral Health is still trying to find the best solution for providing the information.

Public Comment: None

8. [20-1435](#)

Discussion of El Dorado County Mental Health Contract and Budget Practices, and if it is Determined That a More In-depth Review Is Needed, Appoint An Ad Hoc Committee to Review and Evaluate the Mental Health Contract Budget Practices

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, said there is no written policy but there is a practice across the board for contracts to have a not-to-exceed amount in place and unspent funds do not roll into the following contract year. If there are unspent funds, they are not provided to the contractor the next year. Behavioral Health is constantly monitoring contract balances.

Commissioner Clavere asked what happens to funds that are unspent on contracts.

Ren Strong provided examples of current contracts in the MHSA Plan where the annual not-to-exceed contract amount has been adjusted based on historical expenditures.

A Budget Ad Hoc Committee was formed with Commissioner Salazar as the Chair and Commissioner Clavere.

Public Comment: None

9. [20-1419](#)

Discussion / Recommendation Regarding the FY 19/20 Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health External Quality Review El Dorado MHP Final Report (10 minutes)

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, explained the purpose and process related to the external quality review conducted by Behavioral Health Concepts. El Dorado County is scheduled for this review in March and it is likely it will be in a virtual format. The report attached to the Agenda is the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Report.

Commissioner Clavere asked for a review of the Summary of Findings.

Commissioner Salazar asked if more foster youth are getting services, why is there a change in the Post Psychiatric Inpatient Follow-up and re-hospitalization.

Public Comment:

Barry Harwell said this is the best report he has seen in years. There have been some incredible improvements for kids in foster care. Between February 2020 and September 2020, 61% of clients referred from foster care were assigned to Specialty Mental Health Services. It's great improvement, thanks to Mental Health and Child Protective Services.

10. [20-1417](#) Discuss Health and Human Services Agency Behavioral Health Director's Report and Behavioral Health Division Monthly Report (15 minutes)

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director, reviewed the Behavioral Health Monthly Division Report, highlighting new legislation, the South Lake Tahoe Alternative Collaboration Services (STACS) project, Mental Health Diversion Court, and Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) contacts.

Commissioner Salazar asked about the impact of AB 2265 (use of MHSA funds for treatment of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders) will be to the County.

Public Comment: None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS - NONE

DETERMINE THE NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

November 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT - 7:26 PM