

**INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2023
2:30 pm**

**Offered In Person at 1360 North
Main Street, Ste. 103, Bishop; In
Person as Satellite location (via
Zoom) at 310 Jackson Street in
Lone Pine;
And virtually via Zoom**

Informational Notes Only – No Quorum

Call To Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

All participants introduced themselves.

Membership Present

In Person: Lynn Martin Michelle Saenz

Community & Staff Present

In Person: Kimball Pier Catie Grisham Lucy Vincent
Sarah Downard Chrystina Pope Brandon DeHaven
Gina McKinzey

Virtual: Patricia Wilder-Barton Kelly Nugent Vivian De La Riva

PUBLIC COMMENT

This item is set-aside at each meeting to allow the public to address issues not on the agenda. No action can be taken, but items can be placed on future agendas.

Ms. Martin reminded BHAB Members and Attendees that the Bylaws call for elections in June.

Ms. Pope shared a need for materials for inmates. This could be digital material on tablets, books, nature videos. The Resiliency Collaborative she attended suggested this might be a good project for a community workgroup. Maybe a book drive could be part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

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April is Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Pope suggested kinder words could help reframe it: “Beautiful children live here” could be prominently displayed. Ms. Downard suggested “Child Empowerment”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from March 8, 2023 meeting were not approved - no Quorum.

INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

Director Update:

1. Director Update – Kimball C. Pier
 - a) Life Generations Healthcare Contract - \$50,000 Contract has been approved. Dr. Pier shared about this 24-hour care facility. It allows for options for skilled nursing and rehab needs. Medicare or Social Security will pay part of the cost, but the County is responsible for the remaining costs.
 - b) MHSa modernization - Governor Newsom’s proposed Modernization of the Behavioral Health System Fact Sheet link: [FACT SHEET: Modernizing Our Behavioral Health System \(ca.gov\)](#). Dr. Pier shared the Fact Sheet with BHAB Members and Attendees. She explained Governor Newsom’s Care Act and explained how MHSa Funding would be re-allocated. There are concerns about how this will impact rural and frontier counties. The group discussed topics including homelessness, supported housing, treatment, and taking care of community members within our community.
2. Wellness Center updates – presented by Gina McKinzey on behalf of Vanessa Ruggio. Topics included:
 - a) Groups offered and attendance rates: Wellness Center had 422 visitors last month. Brandon DeHaven has begun a well-received Wellness and Recovery Group in Bishop and there are plans to begin one in Lone Pine.
 - b) Measuring success - People come to Wellness Center to socialize in a warm place, to shower, do laundry, cook, or use the computer. The established Lunch Bunch group is very popular, enjoyed by community members, and is gaining momentum with community partners.
 - c) On May 11, 2023, from 11 to 2 pm, Wellness Center will host a Mental Health Awareness Month Activity which will include BBQ.
3. Progress House –presented by Gina McKinzey. The following topics were discussed:
 - a) Census is increasing and is now at 10 residents.
 - b) Progress House staff will be responding to crisis calls in place of Auburn Counseling, effective April 15, 2023.
4. SUD Prevention – Sarah Downard reported:
 - a) Prevention Program Audit successfully completed – no findings.
 - b) Filled vacancy – Prevention Specialist begins tomorrow. New registered dietician also begins tomorrow.
 - c) Successfully completed Leadership Camp where Peer Leaders were trained. Another day camp is in process this week. There will be ten outings over the summer.
5. SUD Program Update – Catie Grisham presented. Topics included:

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- a) SUD program staff providing drug court groups, recovery groups, Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) groups, and DUI services.
 - b) All SUD staff have been trained in ASAM Assessments.
 - c) More adolescents are participating in SUD services which include family participation.
 - d) Working on how to best provide services in south county.
6. BH Services Update – Chrystina Pope and Jody Veenker
- a) FIRST (Wraparound) program Update – Jody Veenker gave an overview of the Wraparound Model.
 - b) Five families have been approved for services, with a sixth family expected to come on soon.
 - c) Interviews coming up for Social Worker I-III and HHS Specialist III or IV positions. A new Parent Partner has joined the team. Ms. Veenker has been promoted to the position of FIRST Supervisor. Potential employees should possess some case management skills, or skills working with children and youth.
 - d) Staff News – Chrystina Pope explained ICBH has 3 licensed clinicians and 2 practicum-student trainees. A licensed bilingual tele-therapist helps in current staff shortages. Several positions are still open: child and family psychotherapist, and an adult psychotherapist.
 - e) EMDR Training – will be provided for clinical staff in October of 2023
 - f) Community Resources and Intensive Family Services – Perla Gastelum Vea, LMFT is a trainer and will conduct a PC Care Training next spring.
- g) Jail Services – Tim Toppass will respond to referrals from the jail on Wednesdays. Based upon his recommendations, Mark Kalin, LMFT will provide monthly assessments at the jail, with Tim providing support and case management services as recommended. Tim will be working with probation and re-entry staff to coordinate services for individuals who need services and supports upon release.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent