

INYO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2023
2:30 pm

Offered In Person at 1360 N. Main
Street, Bishop
And virtually via Microsoft Teams

Informational Notes Only - No Quorum

Call To Order/Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm

INTRODUCTIONS

All present, in person and virtual, introduced themselves.

Membership Present

In Person: Michelle Saenz Supervisor Trina Orrill

Virtual: Lynn Martin

Community & Staff Present

In Person: Kimball Pier Alexis Safarik Lucy Vincent
 Lynn Monteverde Joe A.

Virtual: Gina McKinzey Jody Veenker

Participants introduced themselves.

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.

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from June 14, 2023 meeting could not be approved for lack of a quorum. (At least 3 BHAB Members must be physically present.) Informational Notes from October 11, 2023 meeting were shared.

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE at 872-2590 or 873-6533

INFORMATIONAL AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Director Update – Kimball C. Pier
 - a. BHAB Appointments – were presented to BOS on Tuesday, November 7, 2023
 - i. Lynn Martin
 - ii. Claude “Pete” Peters
 - b. Program Audits
 - i. A large DHCS Drug Medical & Substance Abuse Block Grant audit is in process. It is an extensive process of reviewing California and Federal regulations to ensure our programs are in compliance.
 - c. Updates and information on CARE Court (Senate Bill 43) and Behavioral Health Services Act, formerly Mental Health Services Act (Senate Bill 326) from California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) Conference – San Diego – October 24-27
 - i. The Conference focused on planning related to these new initiatives. These initiatives change the way Behavioral Health work is done in California.
 - ii. CARE Court – There are numerous counties in California who are requesting a delay in implementation of CARE Court to allow more time for developing infrastructure and understanding the costs and sustainability.
 - iii. SB 43 expands the definition of grave disability to include persons with severe substance use disorders, rather than being limited to inability to meet one’s basic needs due to a mental illness. Challenges include civil rights problems that may occur when individuals are referred by a community member for assessment for grave disability due to mental illness and/or a substance use disorder. The idea is to avoid hospitalization or jail by providing intensive services within the community.

A discussion ensued. Topics included challenges and current resources:

 - Increased Staffing needed to provide intensive services.
 - Housing for staff
 - Some people choose to live outside of a home, or to use substances, but don’t see themselves as gravely disabled.
 - People may be given a choice between taking medication and being conserved.
 - CARE Court mandates housing be provided by counties. Rural counties may not have the ability to provide housing, hire staff and make it sustainable.
 - There was good input and support for thinking outside the box for housing solutions in Inyo County, e.g., residents who may be willing to provide “stewardship” for individuals in the CARE Court program, purchase of an existing structure such as a motel, and co-locating existing staff to provide the supervision and services.
 - What we already have in place: Wellness Center and Progress House and other community partner programs,

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community AA meetings, NA meetings, MAT program etc.

- Kimball: Crossroads will be opening their sober living residential services as soon as they complete the certification process through DHCS.
 - Challenge: lack of land and existing structures - Funding could be used to compensate community members who are willing to put a trailer or other warm dwelling unit on their property.
 - How to differentiate between Drug Court and CARE Court? How much redundance or overlap will there be?
 - Question: Is CARE Court being discussed with the Tribes? Are the requirements culturally relevant?
- d. Updates on SUD groups, Wellness Center, and Progress House – reports to be given at another meeting.

The meeting adjourned 3:55 pm

Transcribed by:

Lucy Vincent