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**“Mental Health Treatment Act”  
Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee  
APRIL 25, 2018; 1:00-3:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

*Approved June 27, 2018*

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**MENDOCINO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
CONFERENCE ROOM C  
501 LOW GAP ROAD, UKIAH, CALIFORNIA**

1. **Roll Call** was called by Dora Briley, Committee Clerk
  - a. Present: Jenine Miller, Jan McGourty, Carmel Angelo, Ace Barash, Lloyd Weer, Jed Diamond, Thomas Allman, Donna Moschetti
  - b. Absent: Ross Liberty, Mark Mertle, Shannon Riley
  - c. Quorum was established.

2. **Approval of March 28, 2018 Minutes**

***Motion: Move to accept the March 28, 2018 Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee minutes.***

***Motion by member Barash and seconded by member Angelo.***

Chair Allman called for public expression, none was given.

***Vote was called for by Chair Allman:***

Yay	8	Jenine Miller, Jan McGourty, Carmel Angelo, Ace Barash, Lloyd Weer, Jed Diamond, Thomas Allman, Donna Moschetti
No	0	
Absent	3	Ross Liberty, Mark Mertle, Shannon Riley

3. **Public Expression.**

- a. Chair Allman invited public expression for items not on the agenda. Full discussion may be viewed at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEJcG4vJHwk&feature=youtu.be>
  - i. Debra Clark spoke as opposed to the old Howard Hospital site as a 16 bed lock down facility. Citing three nearby schools, Baechtel School Middle School, a Charter School and a private Christian School, who are concerned with the type of facility proposed.

- ii. Stephanie Gerrabrant-Sierra, new City Manager of Willits asked the committee for the City of Willits to be brought into the discussion of the old Howard Hospital's proposed use. The Willits Fire Chief has concerns about the facility and suggests the State Fire Marshall be contacted, as they have not yet been contacted. If the County purchases the building, then there is an exemption from all discretionary permits that the City of Willits would otherwise be involved with. There is only one permit where the City would be involved and the project's architect has already approached the City's Building Code Officer to find out how he could skirt around that permit. The Mental Health Treatment Act Citizen's Oversight Committee is invited to attend City meetings to keep everyone updated on plans and progress.
- iii. Dr. Mills Matheson, works at the Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic, living in and working in Willits for 42 years. Spoke to the need of a facility, but presented statistics on 5150 holds in the County and asked that the facility be placed in an area of the county with the most 5150 holds. He reports that Ukiah has the largest percentage of 5150 holds, with Fort Bragg coming in second and Willits last.
- iv. Gregory Sims spoke to his attendance at the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) in April and he has an upcoming presentation to the BHAB at a future meeting. He spoke for the need of education regarding mental health and asked committee members to get to know the clients who need the services.
- v. Chief Scott Warnock, representing the Willits Police Department, Little Lake Fire Department and EMS shared concerns with the possibility of increased calls due to the proposed old Howard Hospital facility and would like to know who will be covering the increased costs.
- vi. John Wetzler, former BHAB Chair, spoke to the need for satellite facilities throughout the county including the south coast, Gualala, Pt. Arena, Mendocino, Fort Bragg, a unit within the Willits Howard Memorial Hospital and at the Ukiah hospital, perhaps several in Ukiah due to the demand there.
- vii. Councilman Gerry Gonsales, Willits City Council, spoke to the need for more information at the local level in Willits and invited the committee to speak at the Willits City Council meetings and to hold future committee meetings in Willits.
- viii. Chris Skyhawk, candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, spoke of the need to spread intervention services around to existing points of service to prevent escalation of behavior.
- ix. Bernard Kamoroff, from Willits, spoke to the fear that residents feel. Only learned of the plans within the last two weeks thanks to Willits News. He pointed out that Member Barash described possible clients as dangerous

to self or others. He feels the proposals for old Howard Hospital are not in line with what voters read in the voter pamphlet. Spoke to the need to take the time to make good choices and be transparent vs fast tracking.

- x. Wendy Roberts, spoke as the friend of a family with a bi-polar son. She spoke of the need for local crisis workers throughout the county who are readily available to intervene in crisis situations. In reference to Howard Hospital as a mental health facility, she supports re-purposing buildings. Deeply saddened that people perpetuate stigma against mental illness and fear-based rejection of needed mental health facilities. She asked for compassion and fact based decision making.
- xi. James Marmon, spoke on his view of the committee as a dysfunctional entity with a strong leader with a lot of peer pressure and his view that a pre-determined agenda appears to exist, to use old Howard Hospital as a treatment facility.

#### **4. Discussion and Possible Action Items.**

##### **a. Report to Committee from the Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee with Discussion and Possible Action.**

Member Moschetti reported that a draft version of the Rules of Procedure were sent to County Counsel for review and advice. County Counsel provided direction the morning of April 25, 2018. Member Moschetti will make the recommended changes to the document and will provide a red-line version and final draft to the committee at the May 23 meeting.

Chair Allman directed Clerk Briley to put this topic on the May 23 agenda.

Chair Allman invited public expression on this item, none was given.

##### **b. Report out on Committee's Board of Supervisors (BOS) Agenda Summary to Amend a Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Agreement with Lee Kemper to Include a Scope of Work for an Assessment of Mental Health Facility Services, Organizational Needs and Supportive Program Policy and Planning Necessary for Implementation of the Measure B Mental Health Treatment Act as Approved by the Voters of Mendocino County.**

Member Angelo reported that on May 8, 2018 the committee will have before the BOS, an item to update the BOS on the committee's progress and also the status of our recommendation to the BOS that we contract with Lee Kemper & Associates for a needs assessment by utilizing a Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) existing contract with Lee Kemper & Associates for the assessment. This would require an amendment to the existing contract to add funding and Scope of Work language to cover the requirements for a needs assessment for this committee.

Chair Allman introduced Lee Kemper and Jim Featherstone to the committee and attendees and invited him to give an overview of his work.

Mr. Kemper noted that CEO Angelo facilitated his group to work on the needs assessment on behalf of the committee. Mr. Kemper has 35 years of experience and outlined his background. He has worked with Mendocino County in the past.

Jim Featherstone, licensed clinical social worker, was introduced and gave his background in working with mental health services and with the homeless.

Mr. Kemper gave an outline of his work thus far on the committee's needs assessment request.

Mr. Kemper shared that his group will be looking at the funding projections and the need to sustain services that will be put in place. He urged that we look into the future and develop a spending plan that is sustainable over time. There is a high need to think strategically in order to support the system we want to see in our county.

Needs Assessment Plan Overview:

1. Goals & Objectives for behavioral health in Mendocino County.  
What are the established goals and objectives in the county now? What are the goals and objectives of the Measure B ordinance? How can we integrate these into a combined set of goals and objectives that will guide us in the right direction.
2. Continuum of Care in Mendocino County. Kemper and team will be looking at the substance abuse and mental health services in the county. They will be looking at this broadly to see where we have services and where we have gaps.

Jim Featherstone presented that the study will look at what services exist and where you can add services to have the greatest impact with services for the people you need to serve. He outlined several types of facilities and a variety of care services that ranged from early intervention up to a locked facility. The services covered mental health and drug and alcohol addictions. He emphasized the need for whole health care to take care of the whole patient, not just a piece of the person. Housing is critical for stabilization for those being treated. All of these things will be looked at in the assessment.

3. The team will look at what is currently planned and underway in the county already. Those projects will get incorporated. What is funded, how much is funded, and good data will be collected on those who are using the services. They will be looking at unduplicated users (individual people)

and the average amount of services per person. For out of county stays, they need to look at length of stay, unduplicated users and cost per hospitalization. This data will come from the county and Redwood Quality Management Company (RQMC).

With all of this information, Kemper will provide a snap shot of what is in existence right now and will present recommendations where we should be five years from now.

Kemper will give options to achieve goals with the Measure B funds. His team will look across the entire continuum to identify the gaps where we can make investments to have the best bang for our buck to serve our clients. The recommendations will be presented in report form and to the Board of Supervisors. The time frame for this work is roughly 90-days, with an extra 30-days if needed.

Lee Kemper's group will be talking to local law enforcement and the court system. He will also be reaching out to consumers of the services.

The Chair asked for public comment on Mr. Kemper's presentation:

- i. Dr. Mills Matheson asked if facility staffing would be considered. Mr. Kemper answered that his assessment would not address staffing.
- ii. Mr. Kamaroff asked if some of the beds would be filled by patients from other counties, and does that fit the Measure B Ordinance? Chair Allman explained that the assessment will give us a picture of what we have done thus far and where we hope to go over the next 20 years.
- iii. James Marmon stated that he has read Mr. Kemper's previous reports for the county and is impressed. He asked about audits. Mr. Kemper stated that an audit is a deep dive need, and not in his skill set. He encouraged Mr. Marmon to look at public documents already addressing audits.
- iv. Wendy Roberts asked that the assessment include those clients living in the outlying areas of the county who are furthest away from services.

**c. Needs Assessment Discussion and Possible Action.**

Questions for the needs assessment outcomes from Member Diamond and Riley were read. Questions are attached to these minutes as Attachment 1.

Additional Questions:

Member Barash asked that there be a parallel process of figuring out who will operate the psychiatric facility so that the operator can have a say in the facility process, it seems that entity should participate.

Chair Allman stated that first we need to have the needs assessment done. Then we can look at the process for choosing an operator.

Member Angelo shared that this meeting comes with a lot of assumptions when we don't yet have a needs assessment and we haven't decided on a location. Member Barash's question is very good. From a county process viewpoint, we can't have an operator involved as we don't have the needs assessment results. Once we have recommendations to give to the Board, then we can begin with the process.

Member McGourty pointed out that the ordinance states "a psychiatric facility and other behavioral health facilities" which opens up the topic to fit the needs of the county and its population.

Member Barash expressed his gratitude for the attendees from Willits at today's meeting and asked Lee Kemper if he has any statistics to share regarding the safety of a facility in a community and surrounding neighborhoods. Jim Featherstone shared that in other rural areas, when situations are handled well there aren't issues. He stressed that if handled well, minimal issues exist.

Member Barash asked clarification on a grant for the building of an extension of the jail to handle hard to handle mental health people. Chair Allman stated that the facility being built at the jail is for inmates, it is not a psychiatric health facility (PHF) Unit.

Member Diamond gave his appreciation to the attendees from Willits and the press members present today. The committee works at getting information out to everyone. He personally has been doing outreach to the City of Willits and others to talk about the work of the committee.

Member McGourty suggested that we need to do more education around mental health to destigmatize it throughout the county.

The Chair asked that questions from committee members be shared with the Lee Kemper group.

Chair Allman invited public expression on this item.

James Marmon stated that a 15 foot high chain link fence around a facility does nothing to destigmatize mental health.

## **5. Committee Member Reports.**

### **a. Member Miller:**

Reported she has been working with consultant Lee Kemper over the past month.

### **b. Member McGourty:**

Reported the BHAB meeting occurred in Covelo in April.  
The next BHAB meeting will be in Willits on May 16, 10:00 a.m. at the WISC Facility at 221 N. Lenore Ave. All are welcome to attend. There will be a tour of the Old Howard Hospital facility.

c. **Member Angelo:**

The committee needs to decide who will present to the BOS at the May 8 meeting an update of this committee to the BOS regarding the recommendation for a needs assessment. Also, ask approval to amend the HHSA contract to include the committee's needs assessment.

d. **Member Barash:**

Nothing to report.

e. **Member Liberty:**

Absent.

f. **Member Weer:**

The Measure B tax went into effect on April 1, 2018. It is currently being collected in the community. The funds go to the State and then will come back to the County. End of June, first of July we will see the first funds. We need to give a possible budget to the BOS and present this budget in the County Budget Book to maintain transparency. The County uses an outside independent auditing company and an audit will occur during the next audit session.

g. **Member Mertle:**

Absent.

h. **Member Diamond:**

Has seen an increase in calls from citizens and press in his district. He has done outreach to the Willits City Manager and Planning Department. He would like keep everyone on the "same page".

i. **Member Riley:**

Absent.

j. **Member Allman:**

Nothing to report.

k. **Member Moschetti:**

Toured the old Howard Hospital facility with another NAMI Board member.

## 6. Tasks

Given to	Task	Comments
Clerk Briley	Add Rules of Procedure to the May 23 Agenda.	
Clerk Briley	Work with the Clerk of the Board staff to add the Kemper HHSA contract amendment to BOS 5/8/18 agenda; add update of progress report to BOS 5/8/18 agenda; and add committee budget report to BOS 5/8/18 agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member Carmel will work with HHSA for the amendment to Lee Kemper's existing contract.</li><li>• Clerk Briley submitted a BOS agenda summary for the 5/8/18 meeting.</li><li>• Member Weer will work on the budget presentation to the BOS.</li></ul>

## 7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

*Reminder, the full meeting can be viewed at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEJcG4vJHwk&feature=youtu.be>



## Attachment A

### Questions for the Needs Assessment from Jed Diamond

I believe there is general consensus among those knowledgeable about the need for mental health services in Mendocino that our first priority should be the development of a residential facility or facilities to address the needs of people who have become mentally ill.

The overall questions we're hoping to be addressed by Lee Kemper include an assessment of mental health facility services, organizational needs and supportive program policy and planning necessary for implementation of the Measure B Mental Health Treatment Act as approved by nearly 84% of the voters of Mendocino County.

The specific questions I have include the following. If the answers to some of these questions are available already by staff within Mental Health Services, I would request this information prior to having Mr. Kemper begin his study:

1. The number of people who have been put on a 5150 hold in Mendocino County as a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled (unable to care for their own basic needs.
2. The percentage of the total in each of the three categories: (1) A danger to themselves (2) A danger to others (3) Gravely disabled
3. The number of people in these categories who have these problems and need service and treatment, but aren't receiving it (i.e. people being seen in the jail, emergency rooms of local hospitals, etc.)
4. The number of people who are presently being sent out of county to other facilities since there are not adequate facilities available in Mendocino County.
5. The advantages and disadvantages of treating these patients in an upgraded facility at the old Howard Hospital site in Willits.
6. Exploration of the need for a facility or facilities in other parts of the County. Are there other suitable sites that could house such a facility?
7. Since there's a need for care ranging from 72 hours for evaluation and stabilization, up to 30 days for longer-term treatment, and treatment that might last longer than 30 days, what services could be rendered within Mendocino County and what services would continue to require sending Mendocino people out of the County (i.e. those requiring Conservatorship and longer-term treatment).

**RECEIVED**  
APR 25 2018  
from Jed Diamond  
By: *Dana Bailey*

## Attachment A-page 2

8. Since mental health services still carries a great deal of stigma and fear, what are the actual risks of having patients in a locked facility in Mendocino County vs. the worries and fears that some people have about the mentally ill being in "our neighborhoods?"
9. What kind of education might be needed to reduce people's fears, while still protecting members of the public?
10. Since continuity of care is important, what facilities and services are already in place that would be sources of referral into a local residential facility and what facilities and services are available for follow up after someone leaves the local facility?
11. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of having people in our local facility who are residents of other counties who might need care?
12. How would we insure that people would be returning to their county of origin for further care and treatment rather than being discharged in Mendocino County?

**Measure B - Needs Assessment**

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**From:** Shannon Riley <sriley@cityofukiah.com>  
**To:** "measureb@mendocinocounty.org" <measureb@mendocinocounty.org>  
**Date:** 4/25/2018 8:58 AM  
**Subject:** Needs Assessment

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Good morning,

Again, my apologies for not being at today's meeting. Following are the questions I would like to see addressed as part of the needs assessment:

- How many facilities are needed? If more than one, where should they be located?
- How many beds are needed?
- Will children be served?
- How will existing services be connected to the facilities to ensure there is not a duplication of services?
- What existing resources can be leveraged to ensure sustainability?
- How will success be measured?

Thanks,  
Shannon

Shannon Riley  
Deputy City Manager/  
Visit Ukiah Administrator

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