



MENDOCINO COUNTY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 2016 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center  
101 N. Franklin Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

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*Before the Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
County of Mendocino • State of California  
Minutes – January 20, 2016*

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REGULAR MEETING       SPECIAL SESSION

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**

JOHN WETZLER  
CHAIR

NANCY SUTHERLAND  
VICE CHAIR

DINA ORTIZ  
SECRETARY

KATE GASTON  
TREASURER

JOHN MCCOWEN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAN HAMBURG  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ALTERNATE

JAN MCGOURTY  
CATHY HARPE

MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN  
TAMMY LOWE  
EMILY STRACHAN  
JILL MCCAUGHNA  
MARGIE HANDLEY

JOHN GILMORE  
LOIS LOCKART

ROGER SCHWARTZ  
DENISE GORNY

**OPEN SEATS**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED
- 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED
- 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED
- 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED
- 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED

**BOARD RESOURCE INFORMATION:**

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[mhboard@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:mhboard@co.mendocino.ca.us)

**WEBSITE:**

[www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/  
mh\\_board.htm](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/mh_board.htm)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – OPEN SESSION, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL, QUORUM NOTICE, AGENDA CHANGES - 3 MINUTES**

**Chair Wetzler called the meeting to order (10:01) AM**

**Roll Call Taken by: Member Gaston**

**Behavioral Health Board members present (12):**

Cathy Harpe, Emily Strachan, Jan McGourty, Jill McCaughna, John Gilmore, John Wetzler, Kate Gaston, Lois Lockart, Maureen O'Sullivan, Nancy Sutherland, Tammy Lowe, Board of Supervisors representation, Supervisor John McCowen

**Behavioral Health Board members present from 10:08AM to 3:01PM (1)**

Dina Ortiz

**Behavioral Health Board members absent (3):**

Denise Gorny (excused), Margie Handley (excused), Roger Schwartz (excused)

**Chair Wetzler noted that a quorum was present at (10:02) AM**

**HHSA Staff Present:** Jenine Miller, Behavioral Health Director, Bev Rae, BHRS Program Administrator, Todd Storti, Mental Health Administrative Services Manager, Heidi Poor, Office Assistant III

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Stakeholder Committee members**

**present:** Anna Shaw, Executive Director, Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, Tim Schraeder, Chief Executive Officer, Redwood Quality Management Company, Chandra Gonsales, Program Manager, Redwood Quality Management Company, Mark Montgomery, Psy D, Vice President of Operations, Ortner Management Group, Todd Harris,

MFT, Clinical Director, Ortner Management Group and Members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015 MINUTES AND DECEMBER 16, 2015 MINUTES – DISCUSSION & ACTION – 10 MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – *handout*

*November 18, 2015*

*December 16, 2015*

Clarification: On page 3 of the December 16, 2015 minutes, in Agenda Item No. 6; “Program” refers to the Permanent Housing Project.

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Gilmore, seconded by Member Gaston, and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, O’Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe, with the following members abstaining for the December Minutes: Member Lockart: IT IS ORDERED at 10:08 AM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approves the minutes from the November 18, 2015 and December 16, 2015 BHAB meeting as written.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – TREASURER & SECRETARY REPORTS - DISCUSSION & ACTION - 5 MINUTES**

Behavioral Health Board Expense Report – *handout*

**Presentation regarding BHAB budget allocations.**

**Presented by Member Gaston:**

Kate received a report stating a \$10,000 annual budget.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board has a remaining balance of \$6,730.71 for FY 2015/16.

**Discussion about current and future allocations:**

- Currently, In-County Travel expenses are above allocations and Out-of-County Travel expenses are below allocations.
- Suggested food allocation: \$100 per month.
- Communications has an allocation of \$600 that is not being spent.
- Membership allocation of \$500 can be discussed for 2016/2017.
- All allocations are fungible.
- John McCowen will work with the County budget staff and Kate Gaston to finalize the 2016/2017 Budget and Allocations.

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Sutherland, seconded by Member Harpe and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O’Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 10:18AM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board accepts the remaining FY 15/16 balance of \$6,730.71 as written.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT FORMAT – DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT - VICE CHAIR READS MISSION STATEMENT – 15 MINUTES OR AT CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Read by: Chair Wetzler

*Citizen and Community comments and questions regarding Mental Health Services in the County are welcomed and encouraged and are one of the mandated functions of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Comments will be limited to three minutes or longer, at the discretion of the Chair. Speakers do not have to identify themselves as per the CA Welfare & Institutions Code.*

*Members of the public wishing to make comments to the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board, you will be recognized at this time. Public comment is also requested at each agenda item particular to that agenda subject matter.*

*Board members may only “briefly respond” to public comments as any lengthy response would convert the conversation into an illegal discussion of an item not on the agenda.*

*Record of Public Comment will be documented by the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Secretary and added as an addendum to the minutes.*

Read by: Member Harpe

**Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board Mission Statement:**

*“To be committed to consumers, their families and the delivery of quality care with the goals of recovery, human dignity, and the opportunity for individuals to meet their full potential.”*

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – DIRECTOR REPORTS – STACEY CRYER, HHS A DIRECTOR, INTERIM MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR – 20 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

- a. Director Reports – No Director Report today – It will be created and mailed out to the BHAB

**John Wetzler reads a Letter by Stacey Cryer:**

*“My name is Stacey Cryer and I am the Health and Human Services Agency Director. Additionally, I served as the Interim Mental Health Director from Oct 21 2015, until Jenine's recent appointment. Unfortunately, due to a conflict I am unable to be there in person today. I did want to make sure, however, that I made just a few comments. First, I want to say I have enjoyed the last three months and working more closely with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. It was still the Mental Health Board when I started in October and I like Chair Wetzler still struggle with the name change, but that will come with time. I appreciate and value your dedication to Behavioral Health Services and the residents and communities we serve. As I had previously stated my goal was to put some routine structures in place thus freeing up your time to focus on your mission. A commitment to routinely provide you with organizational charts is a very simple example of making things more routine. We made some progress and I will continue to work with the executive committee and Jenine on outstanding items that have not been addressed yet. We strive for a continued collaborative relationship and look forward to working on projects and system improvements together. Secondly, I am pleased that Jenine has stepped into the role as Mendocino County Behavioral Health Director. As you know, Jenine participated in a competitive recruitment process, and the results speak for themselves. I have worked with Jenine for many years now. I respect her work ethic and commitment to integrity, compassion and quality among many other things. This is a vital position within the agency and the entire HHS A executive team wants to publicly welcome Jenine to her new role. I know she will do a great job. We still have details to work out regarding logistics and structure, which*

*Jenine and I will be working on over the next few weeks. For the moment, Jenine is still covering her "old" job as she transitions into her new role and I will be supportive in every way I can to assist in coverage of everything. Congratulations Jenine!" – Stacey Cryer*

Jenine Miller is the new Behavioral Health Director for the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency and will be attending the BHAB meetings regularly.

**Jenine Miller Reports:**

Behavioral Health has created a newsletter and would like feedback from the community. The newsletter is intended to present better and increased information to the public about available resources and services.

**b. BHAB Specific Requests for Information**

**a. Expand on the status and state mandated duties regarding the autonomy, scope of work and job description of the County’s Patients’ Rights Advocate (PRA).**

HSA has one Patients’ Rights Advocate.

**The PRA duties include:**

- Visiting all contracted facilities within the county on a biannual basis to ensure that client rights informing materials are prominently displayed and ensure that clients are notified of their rights in a language or modality the client understands.
- Visit all residential facilities to ensure clients are treated with dignity and respect and medical care is provided when needed.
- Ensure all Mental Health facilities have Grievance/Appeal forms available in the lobbies for clients.
- Respond to and investigate the requests of the clients within 24 hours and if requested act as an advocate for the client with regards to their rights.
- Act as an advocate on behalf of clients who are unable to register a complaint because of their mental or physical condition.
- Act as community consultant in the area of client's rights.
- Counsel and advise clients and their families about their rights.
- Act as Liaison to the State Department of Health Care Services. Assist clients in filling out Grievance and Appeal forms.
- Assist clients in the State Fair hearing process.
- Establish a cooperative relationship with the Public Defender in relation to court proceeding for LPS conservatorships and AB 1421.

**b. Status of the PRA position and a copy of the current contract as amended.**

Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has contracted with Cathy “Grace” Fantulin to be the Patients’ Rights Advocate (PRA). The contracted position currently specifies “up to 20 hours per week”. The initial contract was based off the previous contract. The contract will be reworked as Grace learns her position and is currently being amended. Grace is receiving training from Melinda Driggers who was trained by the previous PRA.

- c. **Was the implementation for AOT presented to the State on time? Update of the status of the County AOT program, include name and qualifications of the new AOT coordinator.**

The plan was implemented effective January 1, 2016. The implementation plan will be submitted to the State in the next few days. Effective January 3, 2016, Suzanne Yonts-Baughman was assigned as the new acting AOT Coordinator. Suzanne is enthusiastic about working with clients and is eager to have more direct client contact. She is not intimidated by clients and clients find her very approachable. She has the ability to meet clients where they are. In situations with difficult clients, she uses good judgment and is able to see the client’s perspective. Suzanne is friendly, personable, and eager to re-frame situations in a positive light. She has been exposed to high stress intense situations with clients requiring sound calm judgment in prior work environments. Suzanne has past experience in group homes, with the homeless, with children, adults and families.

- d. **Respond to the specific findings of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Audit of September 28, 2015. Is there a partial hospitalization program requirement in order to receive State and Federal aid?**

The County is investigating the CMS audit. The audit came from the Department of Public Health and was targeting the Partial Hospitalization Program, a program that no longer exists. The audit is considered to be a misreport/misrepresentation and is uncontested, because it was unnecessary. Stacey Cryer is in contact with the State regarding the unnecessary nature of the report. The County has reviewed the report separate from the Partial Hospitalization Program, and has investigated and corrected nearly all deficiencies. There is only one remaining deficiency and it is pending a meeting with providers.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – RQMC AND OMG DATA AND UPDATES BY WRITTEN REPORT – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

- a. Redwood Quality Management - Handout

Tim Schraeder, MFT – Chief Executive Officer to answer questions – 5 minutes

Tim Schraeder discusses the services provided by RQMC.

Chandra Gonsales presents the December Data Reports, including expanded stats specific to Fort Bragg.

- b. Ortner Management Group - Handout

Mark Montgomery, Psy D-Vice President of Operations to answer questions – 5 minutes

Mark Montgomery presents the services provided by OMG.

Todd Harris adds to the description of services presented by Mark, and then presents the December Data Reports.

**12:29 P.M. BREAK - 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

*Reconvened at 12:54pm*

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 – DISCUSSION REGARDING MHSA HOUSING PROJECT FUNDING. – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Mike Pallesen presents on the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation (RCHDC) recommending for a long range, larger project verses a short range, smaller project.

Mike hands out a breakdown Financial Analysis of MHSA Capital Development in Mendocino County.

Mike requests a letter from the BHAB to be given to the Board of Supervisors.

The two questions at hand:

- 1) \$1.3 million in MHSA funds has been received to build a facility for permanent housing for the seriously mentally ill. **Does the County want to move forward with a large or small project?**
- 2) Land needs to meet certain standards including proximity to amenities. **Does the County want to have one or two facilities?**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – CREATE AND POPULATE A STANDING FINANCE/CONTRACTS COMMITTEE -10 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Chair: Jan McGourty

This committee will allow for a more broad membership base, including those with expert knowledge who are not already members of the BHAB.

Meetings of this committee should coincide with regular BHAB meetings and will be subject to the Brown Act.

Jan McGourty will populate the committee and provide an update at the February meeting.

**Board Action: Upon motion by Member Sutherland, seconded by Member Ortiz and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O’Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 1:34PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board accept the establishment of a Standing Finance/Contracts Committee.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - DISCUSSION OF BHAB MEMBERSHIP ISSUES – DISCUSSION AND ACTION - 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Discussion about County Executive Office policies and procedures pertaining to board and committee memberships. John Wetzler will have a meeting with staff from the CEO's Office and perhaps a member of the BHAB.

**Membership Re-Appointments:**

Denise Gorny – 1<sup>st</sup> District Consumer/Family

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member McCaughna, seconded by Member Lowe and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O'Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 1:37PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approve Denise Gorny for re-appointment to the Board in the seat of 1<sup>st</sup> District Consumer/Family.

Jill McCaughna – 4<sup>th</sup> District Public Interest

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Strachan, seconded by Member Sutherland and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O'Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 1:40PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approve Jill McCaughna for re-appointment to the Board in the seat of 4<sup>th</sup> District Public Interest.

Lois Lockart – 1<sup>st</sup> District Public Interest

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Lowe, seconded by Member Gilmore and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O'Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 1:42PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approve Lois Lockart for re-appointment to the Board in the seat of 1<sup>st</sup> District Public Interest.

John Gilmore – 5<sup>th</sup> District Consumer/Family

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Gaston, seconded by Member McGourty and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, O'Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 1:44PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board approve John Gilmore for re-appointment to the Board in the seat of 5<sup>th</sup> District Consumer/Family.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – DISCUSSION OF APPROVAL OF REVISED BHAB BYLAWS – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

Nancy Sutherland - *handout*

The handout demonstrates a change in Article 6, Section 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence. The current by-laws state: "The Chairperson may grant a leave of absence for up to four (4) meetings at his/her sole discretion, announced at a regular or special meeting." The new by-laws state: "The Chairperson may grant a leave

of absence for up to three (3) meetings at his/her sole discretion, announced at a regular or special meeting.”

In addition to the change represented in the handout, Dina Ortiz proposed to change Article 6, Section 5, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: The current by-laws state: “BHAB members are in good standing unless they have three (3) consecutive absences in a calendar year.” The proposed changed by-laws state: “BHAB members are in good standing unless they have three (3) consecutive absences in a 12 month period.”

**Board Action: Upon motion by Member Ortiz, seconded by Member Gilmore and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Lockart, O’Sullivan, Sutherland and Lowe and with the following NAY votes from: Members Ortiz and Gaston: IT IS ORDERED at 1:58PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board accept the presented changes to the by-laws.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - VENUE CHANGE FOR APRIL MEETING – 5 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

As discussed at the December meeting, a new location has been proposed for the meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The new location is the Anderson Valley Museum, 12340 HWY 128, Boonville, CA.

**Board Action: Upon motion by Member Strachan, seconded by Member Lowe and carried with the following YAY votes from: Chair Wetzler and Members Harpe, Ortiz, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Lockart, Sutherland and Lowe: IT IS ORDERED at 2:01PM that the Behavioral Health Advisory Board accept the presented venue change.**

**1:30 P.M. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 –PRESENTATION BY ANDREA McCULLOUGH, M.D., ER DOCTOR AT MENDOCINO COAST HOSPITAL – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Andrea McCullough is an ER doctor at the Mendocino Coast Hospital. Andrea regularly interfaces with the Mental Health Department, ASOs and Police.

Andrea has seen positive changes and claims that patients are managed much better now than they were 9 1/2 years ago. There have been increases in hospitalization follow up services; nurses and doctors have noted excellent pediatric services from Redwood Children’s Services (RCS); and Ortner Management Group (OMG) has provided trainings and education in adult care, resulting in a high level of care to clients.

With all the positive results, there is still room for improvement. Andrea would like to see more selection and training, more local providers to increase patient-base knowledge and empathy, improved communications with Ukiah, and more “sitters” in the E.R.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 – INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PATIENTS’ RIGHTS ADVOCATE, GRACE FANTULIN, R.N. – 10 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Mendocino County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services has contracted with Cathy "Grace" Fantulin to be the Patient's Rights Advocate (PRA). Grace is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and was previously



contracted with Mendocino County for several years as the Mental Health Injection Clinic nurse. She is well acquainted with many of the individuals that utilize Mental Health Services. Grace will be available for Mental Health and LPS clients.

Grace presents her vision of her new role as Patients’ Rights Advocate. Grace will be the conduit of communion between agency and client. Grace emphasizes the importance of safety and the need for every client to have a safety net. Grace hopes to be a pilot for this position, with plans to do outreach, and hopes to ensure one on one contact with all clients.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

1. **Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee:** Members: Nancy Sutherland, Emily Strachan, Kate Gaston.  
*This Committee has been disbanded*
2. **Policies & Procedures Ad Hoc Committee:** Members: Nancy Sutherland, Emily Strachan, Kate Gaston.
3. **Cultural Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee:** Members: Lois Lockart, Roger Schwartz, Kate Gaston.
4. **Co-occurring Disorders:** Members: Maureen O’Sullivan, Jill McCaughna, Nancy Sutherland.
5. **Audits and Contracts:** Members: Emily Strachan, Cathy Harpe, Nancy Sutherland, Dina Ortiz.
6. **MHSA Liaison:** Members: Dina Ortiz (Inland); John Wetzler (Coast).
7. **Jail Squad:** Members: Lois Lockart, Jan McGourty, Cathy Harpe, Maureen O’Sullivan, Margie Handley.
8. **Housing:** Members: Denise Gorny, Lois Lockart, Nancy Sutherland, Tammy Lowe.
9. **Mental Health Crisis Services Delivery:** Members: John Gilmore, Emily Strachan, Tammy Lowe, Dina Ortiz.

**Board Action:** The Board directed agenda Item No. 14 to be tabled until the meeting in February.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 - CORRESPONDENCE AND BACKUP MATERIALS RECEIVED AND FILED**

- OMG Data
- RQMC Data

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 – AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS:**

- BHAB draft meeting minutes – 11-18-15
- BHAB draft meeting minutes – 12-16-15
- Treasurer’s Report

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF MENDOCINO COUNTY **ADJOURNED ON January 20, 2016 AT 3:01 PM.**

*Nancy Sutherland, Vice Chair*  
for John Wetzler, Chair

*Heidi Poor*

Attest: Heidi Poor, Office Assistant III, BHRS

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Addendum A**

Public Comments BHAB Meeting January 20, 2016

Brief Notes

1. Timber donated books pertaining to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. She stated that there is a great need for education on this issue. She stated there is a need for 26 FAS counselors in Mendocino County, but no funding.
2. Jim Shaw stated that the Mental Health Plan is focusing on stigma, but it appears that nothing is changing. Jim stated he thinks clients are being used as pawns. They are transported to meetings for political reasons. This is not contributing to any positive growth.
3. Julie W. is a practitioner of the healing arts. She is homeless and is given food as are other homeless people, that lacks nutritional value, like donuts. Asked for fresh vegetables and rice. Also stated that she was offended, that the BHAB has lunches.
4. Joan HansOn- Retired registered nurse stated that the mental health situation is that Ukiah gets everything; housing for homeless is too slow.
5. Doug. Public safety is important. Most recently 3 murders and one rape occurred in the Fort Bragg area. He advocated for all people being served by community resources receive criminal background checks.
6. Unidentified member of the public: Expressed a need for dual diagnosis services and drug rehabilitation services. Commented that the wait for housing services is too long.
7. Sonja. The federal audit states that there are no services, there are fiscal issues and no details on the County Budget information regarding specific allocation of \$20 million dollars allocated for mental health services. .

Following Dr. Andrea McCullough's presentation regarding Emergency Room services on the Coast the following questions and/or comments were noted:

8. Unidentified member of the public. Thanked the speaker and stated she agrees with what everyone is saying. If someone is under the influence of drug and alcohol they are not 5150.
9. Rich Mack- Green and Sober. He cannot get services because he uses medical marijuana as his only medication for his seizure disorder and other medical issues.
10. Unidentified member of the public. Spoke about conditions and situations leading to her homelessness.
11. Alice- citizen. Commented regarding criminal background checks. She stated the Highway Patrol routinely runs background checks. She stated the people in Fort Bragg feel unsafe.
12. Joan R-Mental health employee-Asked if Laurel's Law eligibility requires a 5150 hold.

13. Sonja. Spoke about the need for a crisis residential house

14. Malcolm-citizen- Asked if the crisis workers give their credentials when they come to the hospital to do their crisis evaluation?

Submitted by Dina Ortiz, Secretary BHAB

## Addendum B

### Addendum to Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting —January 20, 2016

Comments delivered to the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board by Dr. Andrea McCullough, General Practitioner with 9 1/2 years' experience in the E.R. at Mendocino Coast District Hospital, Ft. Bragg. These comments were transcribed from the audio recording of the January meeting. Although not a completely accurate transcript the comments are as close as possible to those stated by Dr. McCullough and others.

Prepared by Chairman John Wetzler

Dr. McCullough: We have issues at our ER room with mental health crisis. I have been interested in mental health and had worked in a psychiatric hospital in Pennsylvania before coming here. I know and understand the remoteness of our hospital and the scarcity of services. Things are better now than 9 1/2 years ago. More patients are hospitalized and we have more follow-up now. We need improvement.

Pediatric services are excellent. We are very happy with RQMC and they do a great job communicating with their patients and with their families. We have had a lot of disagreements when it comes to the adult side of mental health care. We've recently had a patient who died, and we all felt very bad about that. We disagreed with the disposition that was made to release. After the death, the pendulum swung the other way to a more committed approach, and additional hospitalizations occurred. We have to have sitters with the patients, until a mental health worker arrives. It is a gray area with mental health adult workers; maybe they need more training. We often times disagree with the adult mental health workers who come to the ER. The local providers are good and competent: John Wieser and Rod. If there were a way to have more local providers, high quality, then patients wouldn't have to wait hours for someone to come from Ukiah after hours. They need more empathy and they don't know the patients, and ask us to do some of their paperwork and charts. Phone calls and HIPPA violations are a concern, being unprofessional with our staff when dealing with possible intoxication issues. Having sitters in the ER is a strain on our program. We understand that when a patient is on a 5150 hold, they shouldn't be allowed to run out of the hospital while they are a hold. Mental Health Adult Services tell us that if they are being treated, they are not on a hold, and this becomes extremely complicated if they are not on a hold when we are treating them, if they escape. No Sheriffs on duty after hours when a patient ran out of the ER. Had to wait til next morning to get the guy back. Sometimes police have to come several times while a patient is waiting for a bed or a trip to Ukiah. Police are usually very helpful. Follow-up needs more providers. Poor communication with Access Center. We are doing some of their paperwork.

Tammy Lowe/BHAB member: What is the average response time from Ukiah?

Dr. McCullough stated she thinks there is only one mental health worker after hours for adult services. If this worker is tied up, that time could be 3-4 hours. They will wait for the patient to be medically cleared before leaving Ukiah. Many different people come from Ukiah, maybe 5 or 6 different individuals have come.

Supervisor McCowen/BoS Representative: Have things improved in the past 2 1/2 years?

Dr. McCullough: Up and down. Static. OMG came out initially and met with our hospital staff. This was good with a lot of discussion, but that has dropped off recently. I would describe the delivery of services as a constant plateau, not better. Jan McGourty/BHAB member: What are the qualifications of personnel being sent after hours from Ukiah?

Dr. McCullough indicated that she has the same question, and continued: In Pennsylvania, mental health workers were trained psychiatric workers or advanced nurse practitioners. A lack of picking up information from family, nurses and neighbors describing behaviors of patients. There was this push-back to not receive information from a mother of a patient. What are you going to base your decision on for this assessment? "A psychotic patient in crisis?" This defies logic. When it comes down to Adult Mental Health Services workers' judgment, much is missed from the Ukiah crew. Of course they are not going to say (the patients) that they are going to kill themselves to the mental health worker. Much is missed.

Question from the Board: Is there an off-site worker who is called during assessment?

Dr. McCullough: Yes. Todd Harris makes the final decision, seems okay and asks the right questions; but could be biased by information received from the mental health worker, who is actually present with the patient.

Question from the Board: Is there a safety net?

Dr. McCullough: Yes. Our staff is responsible, and if there are questions regarding safety of the patient, we may call Todd Harris or Dr. Riley. Our second safety net is the Ft Bragg Police Department. We at the ER have no ability to retain patients in the ER until a 5150 has been written. We have never received credentials from Adult Service providers who write the 5150. We have not questioned that.

Ukiah people won't come out to the coast until the patient is medically cleared. Also they will not come if patient is intoxicated. Thus the ER can become a Drunk Tank.