

# Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee

Mendocino County Administration Center

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010

Ukiah, CA 95482

707.463.4441

measureb@mendocinocounty.org

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## April 22, 2020 Minutes

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (1:08 P.M.)

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. Thomas Allman; Dr. Ace Barash; Mr. Mark Mertle; Mr. Lloyd Weer, Ms. Carmel J. Angelo, Dr. Jenine Miller; Ms. Donna Moschetti; Ms. Meeka Ferretta; Mr. Jed Diamond; and Ms. Shannon Riley. Mr. Ross Liberty joined at 1:13 P.M.

**Committee Members Absent:**

### 2. PUBLIC EXPRESSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

**Presenter/s:** Ms. Emmie Good

Side note regarding online meeting functions and Agenda (2) verbiage from Member Shannon Riley

### 3. COMMITTEE MATTERS

#### 3a) Approval of Minutes of the February 26, 2020 Meeting

**Presenter/s:** Member Moschetti, Chair

**Public Comment:** None

**Committee Action:** Upon motion by Member Riley as amended, seconded by Member Diamond, and carried with Member Liberty abstaining, IT IS ORDERED that the Minutes of the February 26, 2020, meeting, are hereby approved, with a correction on page four, last paragraph, first line; it should read, "Member Miller and Member Allman."

**3b) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Update on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Including Essential Services in Mendocino County, Operational Preparation and Response, an Update on County Continuity of Operations and Services, and the Need for Increased Mental Health Services due to the COVID-19 Event.**

**Presenter/s:** Member Angelo and Member Miller

**Public Comment:** None

Member Angelo gave a synopsis and update regarding the local and regional impacts of COVID-19 and the impacts of the declaration of a local emergency as a proactive measure against infection. There have been five people with positive cases in Mendocino County, four of whom have recovered: no deaths. Community spread has not been identified at this time. May 10th is the end date of the current SIP (Shelter in Place Order); specific next steps are being defined and will be revealed. Testing and Contact Tracing will continue. Call Center: (707) 234-6052 for general information. Warm Line: (707) 472-2311 for individuals needing emotional support staffed by Behavioral Health professionals.

Member Miller spoke on Behavioral Health Services, and the increase in telehealth use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drug testing and in-person support are taking place as needed and appropriate.

Member Ferretta commented that the severity of Crisis Calls has increased, but not the volume.

Member Diamond expressed interest in changes and future trends in local Behavioral Health.

Member Miller replied that people who are new to the system are emerging and experiencing: emotional isolation, loneliness, depression, and anxiety. This is statistically consistent across the region.

Trends Behavioral Health is seeing that has us concerned are the increase in individuals needing support, avoidance of ER, and increase in relapse and alcohol sales.

**Committee Action:** None

**3c) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Recommendation From the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee to the Board of Supervisors to Allocate Measure B Funds From the Services and Operations Allotment to Local Community Based Agencies in Order to Support and Extend Current and Local Behavior Health Services.**

**Presenter/s:** Member Angelo

**Public Comment:** Ms. Sherrie Ebyam; Ms. Emmie Good; Ms. Camille Schraeder

Member Angelo explained that this item is asking the committee to consider taking one-million dollars from the Measure B Operations fund in partnership with local funding organization, the Community Foundation, to provide a new endeavor to improve Behavioral Health services through local agencies to the community during COVID-19.

Member Miller believes that the trauma and isolation Mendocino County citizens are experiencing now will create a long-term increase in need based on her research. Historically, pandemics see an increase in insomnia, delirium, depression, and anxiety as well as other disorders. She reports that problems with domestic violence and other forms of abuse are also increasing. Additional concerns include estimated financial destabilization for the next three to five years for all public services funding.

Member Allman was reluctant to supply the funds due to the narrow requirements of Measure B, and expressed that the money for the increased need should be supplied by a larger fund such as the general fund. Member Riley agreed. She also noted her worry that the funds will go to something outside of Measure B boundaries. Member Weer explained that without a financial plan this item should not be entertained. Member Mertle does not want to spend money outside of an agreed upon fiscal plan either.

**Committee Action:** Upon motion by Member Angelo, seconded by Member Barash, and voted: Member Miller (yes); Member Riley (no); Member Allman (no); Member Ferretta (yes); Member Barash (yes); Member Weer (no); Member Mertle (no), Member Liberty (yes), Member Angelo (yes); Member Diamond (yes); and Chair Moschetti (yes) with a YES vote of 7 and a No Vote of 4, the motion carries.

IT IS ORDERED that the Measure B Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to allocate Measure B funds in the amount not to exceed one-million dollars to local community-based agencies. These funds would be allocated from the Services and Operations allotment and would be used to support and extend Behavioral Health services which are being impacted due to the COVID-19 event. The funds may be reimbursed to Measure B in the event that there is federal, COVID-19 funding available. Additionally, the Measure B Committee will form an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Community Foundation to develop a

priority and process evaluation of the community-based organizations receiving the funds.

The Community Foundation Ad Hoc will consist of: Member Diamond, Member Miller, and Chair Moschetti.

**3d) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Request to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board to Provide Recommendations on Prevention and Early Intervention Service Gaps and Possible Programs that Could be Funded Through Measure B**

**Presenter/s:** Member Ferretta

**Public Comment:** None

Member Ferretta reports that a new Ad Hoc committee has been formed within the existing Behavioral Health Advisory Board with the purpose of defining service gaps in Mendocino County Behavioral Health system throughout.

She mentioned that an evident lack of strong internet connectivity is a problematic service gap for those who engage in telehealth and related meetings.

**Committee Action:** None

**3e) Discussion and Possible Action of Potential Additional Creation of Regional Behavioral Health Training Facility Ad Hoc Committee Group; Provide Direction for this Ad Hoc Committee to Formulate A Regional and/or County Enhanced Training Program and Training Schedule for the Regional Behavioral Health Training Facility**

**Presenter/s:** Member Riley

**Public Comment:** None

Member Riley is concerned with ensuring the efficacy of the Behavioral Health Training Center, and would like to see an Ad Hoc committee dedicated to identifying and employing training modalities.

In response to this call to action, the BHAB (Behavioral Health Advisory Board) is interested in exploring a training program, and Member Ferretta suggested outreach to people and agencies that are already doing trainings and workshops.

Discussion regarding adding members to the Facilities Ad Hoc for said building and creating one committee instead of two separate committees was discussed as a possibility. The current committee is made up of: Member Mertle (Public/Fiscal), Member Ferretta (BHAB), Member Allman (Law Enforcement), and Member Miller (BH).

If the single committee option is chosen, one additional person may be added.

Chair and existing Ad Hoc members decided to adopt the single committee model, add no further members, and take on the responsibility of developing a training program. The BHAB will provide consultation (via the citizens oversight committee), and Project Manager, Alyson Bailey, will provide support.

Member Allman requested that Chair Moschetti suggest a Chair to the Ad Hoc. One has not been appointed at this time due to the reformation of the Ad Hoc responsibilities.

**Committee Action:** None

**3f) Discussion and Possible Action from the Regional Behavioral Health Training Facility Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Update of Outline Plan Describing Relevant Details of Allocated Funds to Finalize Improvements to the Regional Behavioral Health Training Center Before Expenditure**

**Presenter/s:** Alyson Bailey and Member Miller

**Public Comment:** None

Member Allman gave an update regarding the delivery of tables and chairs to the site.

Project Manager, Alyson Bailey, reported that Architect Jim Lacy has been assigned to the building, and he is preparing design drawings for the interior and sitework, closing in on the final tasks needed to complete the space for use.

Member Miller gave an update on the tech items that Behavioral Health is giving the facility, and the ongoing planning of Ad Hoc meetings.

Member Diamond expressed concerns regarding the internet connectivity in the new building. IS has assessed the space for internet connectivity, and will share the cost of use with the Sheriff's Department.

**Committee Action:** None

**3g) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Transition from Phase Two to Phase Three Concerning the Measure B Training Center and Timeline, Including Request for Suggestion of Measure B funds to the Board of Supervisors to Support Measure B Infrastructure, Transparency, and Common Understanding through Cloud Accessible Project Manager Software**

**Presenter/s:** Project Manager for Measure B - Alyson Bailey

**Public Comment:** None

Project Manager, Alyson Bailey explained that the action oriented (therefore fiscal) phases of the current Measure B projects are arriving, and that tools to implement transparency and accuracy are needed.

She asked that the committee suggest the purchase of a cloud-based software called Monday.com, which costs \$1000 annually and would need annual renewal, to the Board of Supervisors. This software would house budgets, expenses, tasks, and timelines of all Measure B projects. It is accessible to the public.

**Committee Action:** Upon motion by Member Mertle, second by Member Allman, and carried unanimously, IT IS ORDERED that the oversight committee suggest that the Board of Supervisors allocate up to \$1000 annually for the purchase and use of Monday.com Project Management software for the life of the Measure B facilities fund, to promote transparency, accuracy, and a unified understanding of Measure B actions.

### **3h) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Expenditure Report on Measure B Tax Funds**

**Presenter/s:** Member Weer

**Public Comment:** Ms. Sherrie Ebyam

Auditor Lloyd Weer reported that twenty-two months of sales tax proceeds revenue comes to \$15,417,516; life to date expenditures come to \$531,135; life to date interest earnings are \$165,476. Balance \$15,051,857

Discussion concerning the economic downfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and resulting loss in tax revenue was mentioned. Member Weer assured the committee that he would monitor the financial trends closely, and create projections based on that information when enough evidence was gathered. Sales tax is revealed after a two month delay.

**Committee Action:** None

### **3i) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Report from the Kemper Report Ad Hoc Committee**

**Presenter/s:** Member Moschetti

**Public Comment:** Ms. Sherrie Ebyam

A Prudent Reserve at 15% was discussed and agreed upon for discussion by the Kemper Ad Hoc Committee in February 2020.

Member Moschetti explained that the Prudent Reserve would be available for emergencies or end of project/s expenses. The Board of Supervisors would allocate it when needed.

Member Weer went on to explain that the reserve is normally set aside according to the agreed upon percentage at the end of each fiscal year by the Board of Supervisors.

Several committee members expressed interest in a Prudent Reserve, but felt that a 15% commitment was too large. Member Angelo mentioned that Mendocino County uses 6.85% for its Prudent Reserve as an example, which then inspired a motion.

**Committee Action:** Upon motion by Member Riley, second by Member Angelo, and carried unanimously (with the exception of Member Weer who was not present), IT IS ORDERED that a recommendation be submitted to the Board of Supervisors to create a 6.85% Prudent Reserve for Measure B funds in accordance with Mendocino County policy and procedure.

**3j) Discussion and Update Regarding Approval of Request from Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Advisory Committee for Board of Supervisors to Direct County Counsel to Conduct Legal Evaluation, Research Analysis, and Assessment of Adventist Health Partnership Legality; Including Restriction, Necessary Control, Implications, and Compliance Regarding the Possible Use of Public Tax Dollars to Fund Operations of a Private Entity**

**Presenter/s:** Christian Curtis, Esq. - County Council

**Public Comment:** None

County Council, Christian Curtis explained that in general, it is legal to use public funds to pay a private entity as long as the partnership meets the needs of the public good.

Member Riley asked about the status of the detailed proposal that had been expected from Adventist Health months earlier.

Member Angelo explained that in 2019, the top Regional Executive of Adventist Health, Jason Wells, met with Mendocino County CEO, Carmel Angelo regarding the potential of creating a psychiatric inpatient service/program. Based on that meeting, Member Ace Barash who is an Adventist employee drafted a letter of interest at the request of Jason Wells. No further business between the public and private entities has taken place.

Member Barash believes that Adventist Health remains interested in working with Measure B. Project Manager, Alyson Bailey will attempt outreach to Adventist Health through Member Ace Barash.

If successful, this outreach will produce a feasibility study/option for inpatient care funded by Measure B.

**Committee Action:** None

### 3k) Discussion and Update Regarding the CRT or Crisis Residential Facility

**Presenter/s:** Member Miller, PsyD and Project Management, Alyson Bailey

**Public Comment:** Ms. Emmie Good

Project Manager, Alyson Bailey reported that the CRT is well into the CEQA process, including environmental documents, and is nearing the RFPs for construction processes.

She also confirmed that CHFFA (funding) and Nacht & Lewis (architects) are working on complimentary timelines.

Members of Facilities (internal partners) and Sally Riley (construction expert and consultant) are involved in weekly project meetings in anticipation of construction matters.

Member Miller clarified that the CRT is a one-story building that will only serve as a Crisis Residential Treatment Facility, not a CSU (Crisis Stabilization Unit).

Member Mertle asked about the feasibility RFP for the CRT and facilities beyond. This line of questioning continues in the next item.

**Committee Action:** None

### 3l) Update Concerning December 10, 2019, Board of Supervisors Meeting Regarding Direction to Perform an Operational Feasibility Study of Proposed Measure B Funded Facilities

**Presenter:** Project Manager, Alyson Bailey

**Public Comment:** Supervisor Haschak

Member Miller reported that an RFP for the operations of the CRT has been developed and will possibly be circulated in July 2020.

The Adventist Health proposal may in part/or whole take the place of the PHF feasibility study.

Member Angelo explained that she handed off the Operational Feasibility Study to Alyson Bailey, Project Manager. She (Alyson) has been compiling operations numbers for PHF units in CA regarding building costs, square footage, staffing patterns, and overall operations.



She is also in the process of putting a financial footprint and strategic plan together for the Measure B funds. This will be completed before work on future facilities begins.

Elizabeth Falcon of Falcon Consulting has also been contacted regarding adding feasibility studies to her existing scope of work with Nacht & Lewis.

**Committee Action:** None

#### 4. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

##### 4a) Committee Member Reports Regarding Items of General Interest

Member Diamond expressed his appreciation of everyone present.

Member Liberty requested information on Zoom chat to County Council. County Council will respond to the Clerk.

**Public Comment:** Zoom Chat Information per County Council's recommendation:

- *Camille's iPad Pro* yes that is true.. many of the crisis interactions are people never seen before in the system..
- *Camille's iPad Pro* much of crisis. Crisis work is happening in the offices and in the community, not in the hospital as much as possible.
- *Ross*  
Doesn't 3C relate to 3D which is seeking ways to channel Measure B operational monies to extend services?
- *Carmel*  
that is a discussion item but can't take action. we can discuss it for months, Ross
- *Camille's iPad Pro* it's a onetime ask... not for future operational needs.
- *Ross*  
I do agree that this is a critical time in this pandemic as it relates to mental health.
- *Meeka Ferretta*  
Alyson you are frozen. Can you turn off you video and just use audio
- *shannonriley*  
I apologize. I have a hard stop at 3:15 for another critical meeting; I will watch the video when it's available and can be reached directly if anyone has questions for me. Stay safe, Everyone!
- *Carmel*  
Thank you Shannon. ●

*Meeka Ferretta*

We definitely need to get Alyson a better internet connection for future meets. Can we see what she needs for this? ● *Alyson Bailey*

A fiscal strategic plan is being developed. I'm hoping to have a presentable draft by midsummer.

END

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

Closing Address by Committee Chair, Donna Moschetti: "Thank you for attending and for your patience. Moving forward, I would like to see this committee prioritize their time here, and be prepared to come up with solutions and alternatives should you need them. There are numerous, evidence-based mental health websites to choose from, please look them up. Again, thank you all."

**THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER, THE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACT CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ADJOURNED AT 3:32 P.M.**

**Attest: Alyson Bailey  
Committee Clerk**

*The Committee complies with ADA requirements and upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting materials available in appropriate formats (pursuant to Government Code section 54953.2) Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the Committee clerk by calling (707) 463-4441 at least five days prior to the meeting.*

*Additional information regarding the Committee may be obtained by referencing: [www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee).*

