



MENDOCINO COUNTY  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**September 22, 2021**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Zoom Meeting:

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/98557737710>

Call in:

+1(669) 900-9128 or +1(346) 248-7799

Webinar ID: 985 5773 7710

**Chairperson**  
 Michelle Rich

**Vice Chair**  
 Julia Eagles

**Secretary**  
 Jo Bradley

**Treasurer**  
 Richard Towle

**BOS Supervisor**  
 Mo Mulheren

<b>1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT:</b> DENISE GORNY LOIS LOCKART RICHARD TOWLE	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT:</b> MICHELLE RICH SERGIO FUENTES VACANT	<b>3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT:</b> MILLS MATHESON JEFF SHIPP VACANT	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT:</b> JULIA EAGLES VACANT VACANT	<b>5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT:</b> FLINDA BEHRINGER JO BRADLEY MARTIN MARTINEZ
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**OUR MISSION:** "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."

	<b>Agenda Item / Description</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b> 3 minutes	<b>Call to Order, Roll Call &amp; Quorum Notice, Approve Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair Rich called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.</li> <li>○ Board members present: Behringer, Bradley, Vice Chair Eagles, Gorny, Lockart, Matheson, Shipp, Towle, and Chair Rich.</li> <li>○ Member Fuentes is excused, Member Martinez is absent.</li> <li>○ Quorum met.</li> <li>○ Agenda approved as presented.</li> </ul>	Board Action: Motion made by Member Gorny, seconded by Member Behringer, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>2.</b> 2 minutes	<b>Approval of Minutes from the August 25, 2021 BHAB Regular Meeting:</b> <i>Review and Possible Board Action.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minutes approved as presented.</li> </ul>	Board Action: Motion made by Member Gorny, seconded by Vice Chair Eagles to accept the 8/25/21 BHAB meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed

<p><b>3.</b> 10 minutes (Maximum)</p>	<p><b>Public Comments:</b> <i>Members of the public wishing to make comments to the BHAB will be recognized at this time. Any additional comments can be provided through email to <a href="mailto:bhboard@mendocinocounty.org">bhboard@mendocinocounty.org</a>.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Theresa Comstock, CALBHB/C Executive Director: Theresa let the board know CALBHB/C is always available for any support the board needs. Theresa provided information regarding the mental health board training CALBHB/C is offering on October 1, 202, and a statewide meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> for any board members interested.</li> <li>○ Richard Towle is currently searching for a psychiatrist in Mendocino County who accepts Medicare.</li> <li>○ Jo Silva: There is an art exhibit at the Mendocino College art gallery currently. Art work of a woman who dealt with mental illness throughout her life; recommends people go see it.</li> <li>○ Lois Lockart expressed her concern regarding the homeless population and would like to know if there are any steps being taken to eliminate their pain and suffering.</li> </ul>	<p>unanimously. Board Action: None.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> 30 minutes</p>	<p><b>Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-Year (2020-2023) Plan Public Hearing – Karen Lovato, BHRS Senior Program Manager</b></p> <p>A. This public hearing is a formal process by which comments and questions are taken and are responded to in writing as an addendum to the plan. Public comment period closes on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.</p> <p>B. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Richard Towle is sorry these meetings cannot be held in person due to COVID because there has been great turnout historically for in person meetings.</li> <li>○ Chair Rich: regarding funds for staffing/recruitment. It is one of the critical needs in our county, if there are MHSA funds available for staffing/recruitment she thinks it would be a timely manner to address a critical need in our county.</li> <li>○ Flinda Behringer: Thinks the county needs to put all efforts into making the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) happen quicker than it is scheduled to.</li> <li>○ Denise Gorny: Would like to see the CIT training continue even if we have to pursue grants to continue these trainings. There are new officers coming in and it is very important that they get trained.</li> <li>○ Julia Eagles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there training or funding available for peer counselors?</li> <li>- Regarding Stepping Up: the committee is looking at grant software through the State, is this part of MHSA?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Lois Lockart: A lot of marijuana smoking in teenagers. Youth prevention programs are there but there is still a problem out there. Don't see anything on the plan on how this problem is being addressed, and/or if each school has a plan.</li> <li>○ Jo Silva: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Really likes the format of this plan, it is a very comprehensive document.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Board Action: None.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the wellness section: Need a section on vitamins and supplements and research done in that might help with anxiety and depression to be specifically given to doctors.</li> <li>- Regarding workforce education section and how funds are transferred from CSS, primary care doctors have training and support for stress and anxiety.</li> <li>- Clients frequently spend a lot of time alone; we need to address it in the wellness section for jobs or way they can do to make sure they are not spending days alone. Also a need to set up peer to peer connections between clients.</li> <li>- Funds should be provided for those not on full service partnerships, referencing comments on page 27 and 28.</li> <li>- Generally speaking the system in place has not adequately helped those in need in spite of the many good hearted agencies and 24/7 workers.</li> <li>o Camille Schraeder: Very comprehensive document. Wants to remind everyone that MHSA is the primary county funding stream for Medi-Cal match for severely mentally ill adult clients. Without it, the county would not be able to have the adult system of care that is in place today.</li> <li>o Susan Wynd Novotny: Very user friendly plan. Thinks a communication/metrics tool would be helpful for the effective leadership of RQMC. The goals of the plan need to be tied and followed through from the plan, to the agencies, to the frontline staff with the support of RQMC leadership. Keep the goals in mind and figure if the goals are being met, and what is missing.</li> <li>o Additional comments can be submitted in writing, by email, or phone to Karen Lovato or Rena Ford.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</b> 5 minutes</p>	<p><b>Measure B:</b> <i>Discussion and Possible Board Action.</i></p> <p>A. August Meeting Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Jed Diamond is stepping down from his 3<sup>rd</sup> District seat on the board.</li> <li>o The Measure B Committee voted to move forward with the request for supplemental funding for a crisis respite in Fort Bragg. Will be going in front of the BOS for approval on September 28, 2021. There will also be a Measure B update provided to the BOS at the September 28<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Board Action: None.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> 20 minutes</p>	<p><b>Mendocino County Report:</b> <i>Jenine Miller, BHRS Director</i></p> <p>A. Director Report Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Included in agenda packet.</li> </ul> <p>B. Conservatorships Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o LPS conservatorships have moved and are now being completely handled by BHRS. BHRS has always been part of conservatorships (tracked individuals in placement, transporting clients, case management, etc.). What BHRS did not do before was the decision-making. All decisions had to go through the Public Conservator's office, but now both pieces will be in house. The BOS approved the change, and BHRS implemented the change since August.</li> <li>o BHRS has been seeing an increase in LPS conservatorships in the</li> </ul>	<p>Board Action: None.</p>

	<p>past 2 years. A large amount of them come out of the jail, through the 1370 process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approximately 63 clients on conservatorship right now.</li> <li>○ Discussion regarding how the LPS system interacts with family members of clients.</li> </ul> <p>C. AB-988 Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BHRS Director Miller explained that AB-988 (mental health crisis hotline) the purpose of the bill.</li> <li>○ Mendocino County has been using the North Bay Suicide Prevention line for the last several years.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.</b> 20 minutes</p>	<p><b>Cost Report State Audits: <i>Update/Discussion and Possible Board Action.</i></b></p> <p>A. BHRS Director Miller provided an update regarding cost report state audits, how they work, and what the expectations are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The county is required to do a cost report for every fiscal year (FY) detailing all dollars spent, all dollars Medi-Cal was billed for, dollars that were brought into the system, MHSA dollars, how much contractors were paid, how many units of services were billed for, etc.</li> <li>○ Once the cost report is submitted the state responds with a “desk settlement”. In the desk settlement, they look at all of the paperwork submitted. The results can either be the county owes the state, or the state owes the county money.</li> <li>○ The state then conducts a final audit. The final cost report audit involves providing additional documentation and a full review of the system of care cost for that fiscal year. The results can either be the county owes the state, or the state owes the county money.</li> <li>○ When building a budget, the county always has to be aware that money may be owed back to the state due to a cost report audit.</li> <li>○ BHRS Director Miller is hopeful that with CalAIM there will be an option to move to different funding models for specialty mental health system that would allow for growth.</li> </ul>	<p>Board Action: None.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> 10 minutes</p>	<p><b>RQMC Report: <i>Camille Schraeder, Redwood Quality Management Company</i></b></p> <p>A. Data Dashboard Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data dashboard included in agenda packet.</li> </ul> <p>B. Services Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Camille thanked BHRS Director Miller for speaking on behalf of the entire system. Camille stated county staff is amazing at helping resolve problems, hopes to get some relief soon.</li> <li>○ Discussion regarding 2 long term mental health clients who recently passed away. The system provided support to one of the individuals who passed away from terminal cancer; RQMC stepped up and provided housing and support throughout the entire time until they passed away.</li> <li>○ Workforce issue has become a serious crisis; RCS is now paying double in order to continue staffing facilities and providing services 24/7. This is not only an issue in Mendocino County but in the entire state.</li> <li>○ Member Behringer requested a staffing update on every agenda as this is a critical issue.</li> </ul>	<p>Board Action: None.</p>

<p><b>9.</b> 15 minutes</p>	<p><b>Board &amp; Committee Reports:</b> <i>Discussion and possible board action.</i></p> <p>A. Chair – <i>Michelle Rich</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. October – December 2021 BHAB Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The board voted to continue meeting via Zoom through December 2021.</li> <li>○ Data notebook: Chair Rich will be working with county staff to complete this year’s Data Notebook; will include in October’s meeting for board approval in order to submit on time.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>B. Vice Chair – <i>Julia Eagles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No report.</li> </ul> <p>C. Secretary – <i>Jo Bradley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussion on the new procedure requested by Member Towle (BHAB Secretary sends a reminder to all board members of any follow ups needed from each meeting). Still moving forward with the new procedure.</li> </ul> <p>D. Treasurer – <i>Richard Towle</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No report.</li> </ul> <p>E. Advocacy &amp; Legislation Committee – <i>Member Bradley, Chair Rich</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No report.</li> </ul> <p>F. Appreciation Committee – <i>Member Fuentes &amp; Martinez</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No report.</li> </ul> <p>G. Contracts Committee – <i>Member Fuentes, Vice Chair Eagles, Chair Rich</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information included in BHRS Director’s report.</li> </ul> <p>H. Membership Committee – <i>Member Behringer, Bradley, Eagles, Gorny, &amp; Chair Rich</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Willits Weekly Article – Member Shipp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member Shipp spoke to Willits Weekly journalist Jaclyn Luna, and Ms. Luna expressed interest in writing an article about this board.</li> <li>○ Member Shipp will connect Ms. Luna and Chair Rich; if any board members would like Chair Rich to include anything in particular, please let her know.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. BHAB Appointment Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The BHAB has a procedure regarding how applications are received from the County Clerk of the Board. There is also a set of interview questions used to interview potential candidates.</li> <li>○ Chair Rich suggested the Membership Ad hoc committee should create a document that details what the Membership Ad Hoc needs to do once an application is received.</li> <li>○ BHRS and Chair Rich followed up with Mendocino County Counsel about whether or not the board can go into closed session during BHAB meetings to discuss BHAB applications and potential candidates. It was determined that discussion about potential board members does not meet the allowed criteria for closed session.</li> <li>○ Theresa from CALBHB/C suggested an Ad Hoc committee can interview potential new board members, and make a recommendation to the board. The Membership Ad hoc committee will follow up on this topic.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Board Action: Motion made by Member Gorny, seconded by Member Bradley to continue to hold the BHAB meetings via Zoom through the end of 2021. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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	I. Site Visit Committee - <i>Member Behringer, Fuentes, Martinez, &amp; Towle</i> o No report.	
<b>10.</b> 5 Minutes	<b>Member Comments:</b> o No member comments.	Board Action:
<b>11.</b>	<b>Adjournment:</b> 12:03 PM  <b>Next meeting:</b> October 27, 2021 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom	Motion made by Member Gorny, seconded by Chair Eagles to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE**

The Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board complies with ADA requirements and upon request will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in appropriate alternative formats (pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.2). Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact the Mendocino County Behavioral Health Administrative Office by calling (707) 472-2355 at least five days prior to the meeting.

**BHAB CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**PHONE: (707) 472-2355 | FAX: (707) 472-2788**

EMAIL THE BOARD: [bhboard@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bhboard@mendocinocounty.org) | WEBSITE: [www.mendocinocounty.org/bhab](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/bhab)

*Michelle Rich*

Michelle Rich, Chair

*11/2/2021*

Date

*Lili Chavoya*

Lili Chavoya, BHRS Administrative Secretary

*11/2/2021*

Date