

Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee

Mendocino County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

1120 South Dora St., Ukiah, CA 95482

Phone: (707) 472-2355 | Email: measureb@mendocinocounty.org

Special Meeting Minutes: Thursday, August 18, 2022

1 **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** 10:02 AM

Committee Members Present: Member Allman, Member Barash, Member Ebyam, Member Moschetti, Member Riley, and Chair Miller.

- Late entrance: Member Rich at 10:27, Member Antle at 10:58
- Member Chandler absent.
- A quorum is established.

2 **PUBLIC EXPRESSION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- No public comments.

3 **COMMITTEE MATTERS**

3a) **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Measure B Mendocino County Grand Jury Report.**

- Chair Miller will be using the committee's responses as her official response to the Grand Jury report.
- **Finding 1:** The wording of the Measure B ordinance was very precise on the collection of the taxes. The ordinance was impressive about the execution of the programs. There is insufficient organizational direction in the Measure B Ordinance. This has resulted in a lack of ground rules for discussion and making recommendations to the BOS.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: Recommendation to BOS to develop a policy that gives County Counsel more clarity and oversight in reviewing potential ballot initiatives.

- **Finding 2:** In the Measure B Ordinance, the responsibilities of the B Committee were unclear, resulting in members assuming authority which belonged to the BOS.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: Recommendation to BOS to develop a policy that gives County Counsel more clarity and oversight in reviewing potential ballot initiatives.

- **Finding 3:** There has been no direct funding for SUDT as recommended in the Measure B Ordinance and the Kemper Report. The GJ determined this to be a serious oversight.

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Committee Action/Response: Upon motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Allman it is ORDERED that the Measure B Committee agree with Finding 3.

- All in favor, motion carried.

- **Finding 4:** A required function of the B Committee is to review annual audits and to ensure transparent use of funds. Annual independent audits of taxpayers' money were not performed resulting in no definitive answer to what funds are available or have been expended.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: Committee partially disagrees. An audit was not performed (until 2022), but there are financial reports provided monthly.

Public comments:

- Jo Bradley: This was not an intentional oversight as things have not been running normal, lack of fiscal staff due to pandemic.
- **Finding 5:** The first 15 months of operations are excluded from the commissioned audits. Not starting from day one does not give a complete financial picture.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: Although the first 15 months were excluded, there is a current audit plan in progress.

- **Finding 6:** The high vacancy rate of County employees, particularly for social service workers and nursing staff, has raised concern. Contractors for staffing the new programs and facilities may have difficulty employing sufficient local staff. This problem plagued the previous PHF facility which led to its closure.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: The previous PHF in Mendocino County did not close specifically due to not having sufficient staff.

- **Finding 7:** The GJ and service providers are concerned that SUDT programs will not receive adequate attention and funding under Measure B.

Committee Action/Response: Upon motion Member Riley, seconded by Member Allman it is ORDERED that the Measure B Committee respond to Finding 7 as follows: The committee agrees with the finding. The committee agrees that the grand jury and service providers have expressed concern for this matter; this matter is on the agenda for a future Measure B meeting.

- All in favor; motion passes.

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- **Finding 8:** The GJ is concerned that the high costs to construct the PFH facility may reduce funds available for other proposed services and programs.

Committee Action/Response: Upon motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Allman it is ORDERED that the Measure B Committee respond to Finding 8 as follows: The committee agrees with Finding 8. The committee notes that construction of the PHF is in process and staff and committee are closely monitoring expenses. In addition, the PHF is in original language of Measure B.

- All in favor; motion passes.

- **Recommendation 1:** in future ordinances prepared for ballot measures, the function and responsibility of County Departments, Advisory Boards and Committees be spelled out in greater detail.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

Committee comments: Recommendation for County Counsel to review and verify all requirements are met.

- **Recommendation 2:** the BOS fund SUDT programs as required by Measure B Ordinance No. 4387.

Committee Action/Response: Upon motion Member Riley seconded by Member Ebyam it is ORDERED that the Measure B committee respond to recommendation 2 as follows: This recommendation requires further analysis. The Measure B oversight committee will provide additional explanation within the next 3 months regarding the future agenda discussions on this matter.

- All in favor; motion passes.

- **Recommendation 3:** the County Auditor ensures annual independent audits be conducted of Measure B funds as required, commencing with the initial funding of the measure and to include election and consultant costs.

Committee Action/Response: None (committee not required to respond).

- **Recommendation 4:** the BOS give direction to staff to identify and pursue additional funding to supplement the Measure B one-eighth cent sales tax by applying for grants and State funding.

Committee Action/Response: Upon motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Allman it is ORDERED that the Measure B Committee respond to recommendation 4 as follows: The recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented. The Committee has recommended and Board of Supervisors have

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already directed staff to identify and pursue grants and additional funding. An example of this would be the grant Behavioral Health applied for and received to augment and expand dual response (mobile crisis) with law enforcement. Behavioral Health is researching and reviewing grants on a regular basis.

- All in favor; motion passes.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND FILED**

Communications received and filed are retained by the Clerk throughout the Committee proceedings. To review items described in this section, please contact the Committee Clerk at measureb@mendocinocounty.org

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further, the Mental Health Treatment Act Citizens Oversight Committee adjourned the meeting at **11:31 PM**.

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) 472-2355 at least five days prior to the Meeting. Additional information regarding the Committee can be obtained by referencing: www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-healthoversight-committee.

Attest: Lilian Chavoya, Committee Clerk

Lilian Chavoya 10/3/2022