



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Mental Health Services Act Advisory Council

Thursday, February 13, 2025

3:00 PM 1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 126, Martinez |
<https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/5830624772> | Call-In:
1-646-518-9805 Access Code 583 062 4772

1 Welcome – Review Working Agreement, Introductions, Announcements, Review Minutes

Members Attending: Douglas Dunn, Jaime Yan Faurot,
Brittany Lawrence, Beth Limberg,
Lucy Espinosa Nelson, Melinda O’Day,
Marina Ramos, Roberto Roman,
Jennifer Tuipulotu, Amelia Wood,
Graham Wiseman

Behavior Health Director: Dr. Suzanne Tavano

Staff Attending: Steve Hahn-Smith, Jonathan San Juan,
Xochitl Grove

Public Participants: Hillary Bowers, Ashley Graham,
Brandon Azevedo, Jose Nicasio, Jason Faurot,
Connie Russell, Katie Shubat, Michael Dunn,
Diana Sanchez, Kevin Martin, Leona Foster,
David Carrillo, Jill Ray, Mariah Corder, Anna Cleese
Cheryl Sudduth, Joe, Peter

Facilitator: Jessica Hunt, Genoveva Zesati

Recorder: Audrey Montana

Excused from Meeting:

Absent from Meeting: Y’Anad Burrell, Tom Gilbert, Mashal Kleven

Welcome – Review Working Agreement, Intros
• Announcements
• Review and approve minutes
(MHSa Staff) (Call to Order) (10 minutes)

[25-452](#)

Attachments: [MHSA Advisory Council Meeting Materials 2.13.2025](#)

(Jessica Hunt - MHSa Program Supervisor)

Welcome
o Announcements
o Review and approve minutes
o Meeting Notes: Reviewed meeting notes (10/3/24) No recommendations.

2 Updates:

- **Innovation: PADs**
- **Innovation: Culturally Defined Practices (CDP)**
- **MX RFP**
- **Change to Quarterly Meetings**

(Jessica Hunt and Genoveva Zesati)

Jessica Hunt - Update on PADs:

- o The first part of the PADS project was building a framework for the community. Next step involves working with peer groups and other members of our community to roll out beta testing and see how it works and what the experience is like for the end user as well as the various people involved in making PADs come to pass.
 - Jill Ray: What is PADs?
 - Jessica Hunt: PADs is Psychiatric Advance Directives and similar to the way that we have advanced directives for in our medical health, PADs is for mental health. There are many counties participating and working towards a digital format. This digital format would work with the healthcare and law enforcement systems and support care that is needed and in tune with the client's wishes.
 - Jennifer Tuipulotu: Electronic PADs have been set up on a website created by contractors with advice from peers with lived experience. Currently, the beta testing phase is taking place. We are putting the idea and the groundwork into action in Contra Costa. Part of the Office for Peer and Family Empowerment (OPFE) staff will be assisting with the development of our PADs and have been testing them. Steve Hahn-Smith and Megan Rice have arranged to have the PADs application placed next to MyChart®.
 - Jessica Hunt: Phase 2 of PADs is scheduled to be implemented during Fiscal Year (FY 2025-2026). The updated Innovation Proposal will soon be posted for a 30-day public comment.

Genoveva Zesati - Update on CDPs:

- o The Innovation Project for Community Defined Practices (CDPs) which launched 2023 is under way. There were 17 community-based organizations that were awarded. Twelve of these were new to contracting with Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services. The first Innovation report for this project will be available around June 30, 2025.

Jessica Hunt – Update on MX RFP

- o There were over 40 applications submitted for the Measure X Request for Proposals (RFP) for mental health. We will be starting the review soon. There were four different key groups identified for funding, based on community feedback including; children ages 0 to 5, school-age children, Transition-Age Youth (TAY) population, which is 16-25 years of age, as well as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI+) communities.
- o Dr. Suzanne Tavano: The initiative was approved by the Measure X Advisory Board, and the RFP makes available about \$1.4 million annually to support these efforts.

Jessica Hunt – Update on MHSA Advisory Council

- o Due to internal bandwidth and preparation for the transition to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) the MHSA Advisory Council meetings are moving to quarterly meetings, until further notice.

3 Behavioral Health Director Report Out

(Dr. Suzanne Tavano)

Director Report Out

- o With the passing of Proposition 1 and the new legislation, in the future there will be one consolidated meeting group – the Behavioral Health Board. This group is a bit of a new combination of the Mental Health Commission and the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Advisory Council and will become one integrated Behavioral Health Board.
- o The Mental Health Services Act will be changed to the Behavioral Health Services Act. This is part of the behavioral health transformation. We are not canceling stakeholder meetings but looking to streamline the meeting and not have so much overlap.

4 Behavioral Health Transformation Update and Innovation Opportunity

(Dr. Suzanne Tavano, Steve Hahn-Smith, and Genoveva Zesati)

Update on Behavioral Health Transformation and Innovation Opportunity

*Please reference PowerPoint – Behavioral Health Transformation

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Program Planning Process (CPPP)

- o Dr. Suzanne Tavano: The presentation provides an overview of where we started under MHSA, where we are today, and what we will become under BHSA and specifically as part of the Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT).
- o Genoveva Zesati: Early Intervention (EI) regulations will focus on prioritizing addressing childhood trauma and the root causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). EI will also be extended to include services to tackle issues related to substance use and serious emotional disturbances. The updated regulations emphasize reducing negative outcomes like suicide, self-harm, incarceration, school-related disruptions, homelessness, and mental illness among youth ages 0 to 25. The State's focus is on providing support that connects affected individuals to ongoing services while also implementing new documentation requirements. EI programs will now concentrate on three main areas:
 - Access to Care: Linking individuals to necessary medical and behavioral health services.
 - Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment: Expanding from mental health services to include substance use disorder treatment, with a focus on preventing severe conditions and shortening the duration of untreated illnesses.
 - Outreach: Actively reaching out to families, healthcare providers, and educational institutions to identify early signs of serious mental health issues, specifically targeting priority populations like older adults and youth. This outreach aims to connect individuals directly to services and treatment, ensuring that support is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

- o Dr. Suzanne Tavano: The State is focusing on finalizing early intervention services aimed at identifying and supporting individuals until they can access ongoing services within the broader system. They are also introducing new documentation requirements. An update will be provided once these details are finalized, highlighting a significant change from previous approaches.
- o Steve Hahn-Smith: Upcoming transformation in the County's behavioral health services will include an emphasis on resources and infrastructure to implement new evidence-based practices. An innovation project has been proposed, similar to Orange County's Program Improvements for Valued Outpatient Treatment (PIVOT) Innovation Project. CCBHS plans to utilize up to \$13 million in time-limited funding to support these initiatives
 - Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEPs): Tailoring practices to community needs and enhancing training for community-based organizations.
 - Rebooting Full-Service Partnerships (FSP): Establishing standards and tracking progress for different levels of FSP care, integrating mental health and substance use services.
 - Housing: Addressing housing challenges, improving partnerships, and utilizing technology for effective management and resource allocation.
 - Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs): Strengthening the use of EBPs within behavioral health services.
 - Workforce Development: Addressing the shortage of mental health workers through innovative recruitment and retention strategies.
 - Technology Implementation: Upgrading data systems to improve coordination and effectiveness of care.

5 Public Comment / Plus Delta

(Jessica Hunt)

- o Beth Limberg, Hope Solutions: Appreciate Dr. Tavano for monitoring the ongoing changes in the system, finding the situation overwhelming for providers. Will there be opportunities for community-based organizations (CBOs) to engage with knowledgeable individuals for concrete feedback. Appreciate clarity regarding how these changes will affect operations and what steps they should take in response to current practices.
 - Dr. Tavano: We are currently developing a comprehensive strategy that includes public education, focus groups, and key informant interviews, with participation from major local entities like hospitals.
- o Douglas Dunn: Appreciate the presentation. Will the PowerPoint be available to all who came to the e-meeting.
 - Dr. Tavano: Yes, PowerPoint will be sent out.
- o Genoveva Zesati: Survey link has been placed in the chat. A notice will also be sent out via email. Feel free to share survey link with others.

6 Adjournment

(Jessica Hunt)

- The next MHSA Advisory Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.