

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2023 - FINAL**

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Chair, Cmsr. Laura Griffin called the meeting to order @ 3:33 pm</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Chair, Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Vice-Chair, Cmsr. Douglas Dunn, District III Cmsr. Leslie May, District V Cmsr. Pamela Perls, District II Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, District II</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Cmsr. Gina Swirsding, District I Christian Aguirre Angela Beck Jen Quallick, Supv Candace Andersen’s Ofc</p>	<p>Meeting was held via Zoom platform</p>
<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None</p>	
<p>III. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Perls) Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is having a Mental Health Town Hall tomorrow. Just received the information. I thought I should mention. • (Cmsr. Dunn) I did not see an agenda item for problems the Justice Committee is having getting diagnostic data from Detention Mental Health. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) My understanding that it is the agenda item after minutes, Agenda Item VI. 	
<p>IV. COMMITTEE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS: Just two comments:</p> <p>(1) Supervisor Ken Carlson is our representing Mental Health Commissioner this year. You probably already know. We will have an introduction and welcome at the Commission Meeting on February 1st. Supervisor Burgis is not an appointed alternate to the commission and, at this time, the position is vacant.</p> <p>(2) ACR 150 Mental Health Awareness Week was passed. This is a measure that recognizes each second week of February, hereafter, as African American Mental Health Awareness Week. I just found out about this a few days ago and we are currently looking into seeing if MHC and BHCP (Behavioral Health Community Partnership) and OCE (Office of Consumer Empowerment) can collaborate on a proclamation. (Angela Beck) Just to interject, I did hear back from Jennifer Bruggeman and she suggested to reach out to Gigi Crowder from NAMI CC (National Alliance for Mental Illness Contra Costa) for the BHCP Rep and Jennifer Tuipulotu for the OCE Rep.</p>	

<p>V. APPROVE minutes from November 22, 2022, meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cmsr. L. May motioned to approve the minutes as written. • Seconded by B. Serwin <p>Vote: 4-0-1</p> <p>Ayes: L. Griffin (Chair), D. Dunn (Vice-Chair), L. May, B. Serwin</p> <p>Abstain: P. Perls</p> <p>COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. May) Just a quick question, as I was looking at the minutes, I made mention of Jen Quallick being the alternate (I believe it is on page 5 (of 8). I was wondering why if she ever get an answer back for that question? (Jen Quallick) I did. As it is related to the MHC, each of you does specifically need to report to your advisor, in Cmsr. May’s case, it would be your coordinator or liaison within your supervisor’s office. As much I would love to be the contact or the direct liaison for the board as whole, unfortunately I am not. I am just a representative for District II that chooses to sit in. I would highly encourage and I know you have all stressed this in the past that your particular district representatives participate and sit in on these calls. I do think it is important and there is critical information that comes out of these meetings. I do report back to my team and community. 	<p>http://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>
<p>VI. UPDATE on Behavioral Health Services (BHS) contracts (data) discussion with BHS and County Counsel, Commissioner Barbara Serwin</p> <p>This agenda item should have been “DISCUSS the data request from Commissioner Stern and the Justice Systems Committee regarding mental health diagnoses of justice involved individuals receiving behavioral health services.” (Cmsr. Griffin) A recap would be great. Cmsr. Dunn has something to add.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Douglas Dunn) I am a member of the NAMI CC Criminal Justice Advisory committee and that committee is chaired by Ms. Dale Brodsky, who is an experienced labor attorney. She was able to obtain information (that I just received late last night night/this morning) regarding the consent decree, limitations, etc. It is my intention to forward that information to Ms. Beck for the main commission meeting.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Serwin) What is the intent, how will you frame that? Is the chair of NAMI’s Justice Committee, is that the person who forwarded it? Is she aware of your intention? (Cmsr. Dunn) Yes.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Serwin) Given the delicacy of the information, we have been told at nauseum by BHS and Detention Mental Health that it was highly confidential and not available to the to public, etc. I think we should have a point of view – Are we presenting this just because it came across our laps and feel the responsibility to the commission or do we want to take a look at any specific content. Have you had a chance to read it yet? (Cmsr. Dunn) I did not read it in fine detail, but I read it this morning and I also read other documentation about the limitations of what can be provided in that agreement. She was able to get this information right off some (public) sites on the internet.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Serwin) Did you see anything regarding data collection or sharing of information that was collected during the investigation or proceedings?</p>	

(Cmsr. Dunn) I remember a particular phrase in one of the documents that states, in order to share any diagnosis information, they have to get the clients permission to do so and get a release of information.

(Cmsr. Serwin) I wonder if it refers to the three people (in the lawsuit) or the jail population as a whole. (Cmsr. Dunn) that I don't know. In this meeting, I let the committee, not just Ms. Brodsky know that the commission was having a tremendous difficulty getting any kind of diagnosis information because of this consent decree. That is what prompted Ms. Brodsky to do what she could to look up what information she could, and shared it with the committee. She is aware of the problems the MHC.

(Cmsr. Serwin) From what you have read or discussed in the meeting, the major two arguments against giving the MHC's Justice Systems committee this information, were based on both HIPAA and the generation of a new report. Did those two items jump out at you from the document? It seems like BHS and Detention Mental Health, threw all their chips down on creation of a new record and HIPAA and I am just curious if this as part of the rationale for it not being made public. (Cmsr. Dunn) From what I have been able to read so far, the answer is no. One of the documents speaks to having to get the client's permission. We need to find out how broad or narrow is the focus of that particular statement.

(Jen Quallick) Cmsrs. I know this has been a hot topic. County Counsel has reached out to our office as well; and posed some questions in relation to this. I know Thomas Geiger is working diligently on looking further into this as well. Hopefully we will have some additional information to share.

(Cmsr. Serwin) Interesting, I contacted him after I learned lead county counsel, Maryanne Mason had resigned, which I was unaware. I left a message with Mr. Geiger and he did not call me back. (Jen Quallick) I think he is looking for some background. He had emailed me last night and we are supposed to talk tomorrow. He has the information you shared at last weeks joint meeting. He is looking for the bulk of information and where this is at, then having a discussion with Jill Ray who is much more in tune with the discussions that have taken place at the justice committees with Cmsr. Stern, as I don't sit in on those committees.

(Cmsr. Serwin) I find it interesting that he didn't have the courtesy to call me back and, ironically, while he was collecting background information. Relying on the document I put together. (Jen Quallick) I don't know that he is relying on it. Jill had offered it, as that is what had been presented publicly and since he is new to all this... I think before he had reached out, just to get a sense of what has transpired to have a better understanding. Again, I have not spoken with Jill, just you all here.

(Cmsr. Serwin) Just, once again, the MHC is not involved in these conversations. (Jen Quallick) I think you will be, he is new and yesterday was the first call, he doesn't know anything about it and just trying to find out to be prepared to have a dialogue. (Cmsr. Serwin) That's been a constant in these conversations, is that they heavily involved BHS and Detention Mental Health and County Counsel but not speaking to us. Okay, is there any one here that needs a recap of this whole issues?

(Cmsr. Perls) If I am the only one, I will go back and listen to the recordings. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) There is a document that was attached to the Finance/Justice Systems Joint meeting. I will send you the documentation and we can chat offline. (NOTE: the historical notes from Cmsr. Serwin was shared with all the commissioners and those in attendance for that joint meeting).

(Cmsr. May) I think Cmsr. Serwin should present, as she is on the agenda.

(Cmsr. Serwin) Next steps: To bring this issue to the full commission for discussion and make a request for public records. Cmsr. Dunn, I have heard you are really good at this. It seems to already be happening, but air the issue the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to help facilitate cooperation. It sounds as though Thomas Geiger has initiated this at the staff level. My desire would be to elevate it to the BOS. I am not really interested in more conversations behind the scenes – the MHC needs to represent itself.

(Cmsr. May) This is where the MHC needs to stand alone. We work with other people, but in terms of our thoughts, presentations, decisions and voice, we SHOULD be using our voice. We don't have the respect that we should have as commissioners. As the Mental Health issues from every side alarmingly increases, not every year but every month, we need to have a larger voice and we need to be recognized as who we are and what we do. We need to be doing more advocacy and getting others involved, bring in more community members. It feels like our hands have been tied. We can reach out to every Police Chief, Mayor and city council in this county. We can ask them to send a representative. We need to hear from them at every meeting. We need to hear their feedback. We are basically listening to what the county BOS are telling us, and although I respect, I don't have that much respect with them not out their pounding the pavement like we are and they are not hearing the voices of the community. If we engage with these people and they are attending these meetings, we can get the feedback and their needs. Then we can be their voice. This is just another example of how they have stolen our voice.

VII. UPDATE/DISCUSSION with Dr. Marie Scannell and onward funding for Contra Costa's Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) population, Commissioner Douglas Dunn

This portion of the combined Finance/Justice Systems committee, Dr. Scannell gave some very interesting information. I will put this on paper and will be part of the attachment documentation for the February 1 MHC meeting.

Questions and Comments:

- (Cmsr. Serwin) How did you feel about Dr. Scannell's forthrightness and providing the data she is aware of? We have had trouble in the past getting information from that department. (Cmsr. Dunn) She was as forthcoming as she could be. She let us know she is going to be meeting within the next month and is willing to get back to the committees next quarter about funding the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) will be forwarding to CCC to take care of this population. The state government has provided \$535mil/year to the county and will go to \$635mil even with the budget crunch because it is

<p>such a severe issue in the state as of fiscal year 2025/26. She will get a lot more information when she meets with the DSH. It is going to be an ongoing issue and the best thing will be to put together the number of misdemeanor incompetent to stand trial (MIST) persons that the county has to take care of, Felony IST (FIST), that is where I plan to start and that is the information I will be providing to the commission. It will be an ongoing topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. May) I didn't know if everyone is aware that cities can apply to the BHCIP (Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program) and some others. Antioch applied and some others. It was in the presentation from Indigo (pg. 11). Hoping to find out in the meeting (tonight) how much they are receiving. These all say county and state but the reality is that cities can apply and if they have properties ready to go, they are in the running for it. Hopefully I can get some information from the city manager for the information. 	
<p>VIII. UPDATE on the effect of the 2020 pandemic on youth and adolescents, inclusive of sexual assault and suicide, Commissioner Leslie May</p> <p>There are a couple of guests lined up for this topic and this presentation should be on the agenda. Just within the last week and a half, we have had someone found guilty (all over the news) of horrific crimes, with his own daughter and the length of time, he has just been arrested, not sentenced yet. There was another case last week where a person was given 22 years and another 300 years. This is as bad as COVID (in my opinion), it is a silent killer of peoples minds, emotions and is the cause of a lot of suicides. I am seeing parents of the victims who were unaware having suicide ideation and attempted suicide. I would like to see this focused on over the next year. It is important, there are too many children taking their lives. It is a pandemic that is not getting the attention it needs in our own backyards.</p> <p>There are two stings planned tonight. I have never heard those meetings before, but there was one in our own office.</p> <p>Questions and Comments:</p> <p>(Cmsr. Serwin) How do we want to frame/what are we going for? Advocacy to raise awareness? Is there any specific thoughts? Are you aware of any other local, state-wide or national group that is championing this because we could connect with? (RESPONSE: Cmsr. May) There are several large groups championing this. The District Attorney's (DA) office is quite accessible, the CIC unit in Martinez, you have to go through the DA's office to get permission to collect data. There is a lot they are willing to give out on the number of assaults, suicides. STAND and Community Violence Solutions. I can put together a list to submit to the chair/vice-chair to work with. We need to focus our county, but it is nationwide.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Griffin) There is a CCC Human Trafficking Coalition and that would be someone we could invite to speak and get further into what is happening. I think this is more of an advocacy project for us to raise awareness. It is a crisis that is falling through the cracks and there is not enough attention brought to it and we need to do so. Let's get the coalition to come speak. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. May) Monica Wilson, one of</p>	

<p>our city council members has been doing this work for years and would like her to comes speak.</p>	
<p>IX. DISCUSS priorities for the 2023-2024 BHS Budget, Commissioner Barbara Serwin and Commissioner Douglas Dunn</p> <p>(Cmsr Serwin) To follow up on the process I have been speaking to for that last year, we have had a couple conversations about budget priorities. The commission needs to make the county aware of what the MHC budget priorities are, make sure it is solid and present it in letter format to the BHS and the BOS, as well as the Finance office for BHS. It is fine for us to talk about this among ourselves but it doesn't get us anywhere and we have to communicate it.</p> <p>Questions and Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Dunn) Dr. Tavano / Pat Godley will be taking a good share of the meeting to do a detailed budget presentation to the commissioner at the Feb 1 meeting. I had a couple things in mind, depending on BHCIP, what is the county's focus and really back up what should be our desired focus for those projects if they come to fruition. Secondly, Housing and services for person's that are justice involved in CCC. Those are the big two items. <Interrupt> (Cmsr. Serwin) We had a discussion at the last commission meeting about priorities coming from the full commission and those are recorded in the minutes of the last commission meeting and we need to pull those out from the minutes and not sure how to prioritize them but we could prioritize them at the meeting. It is so important and great that you have managed to get Mr. Godley and Dr. Tavano coming to the meeting so we can hear from them what the priorities are for the existing budget. We have to be proactive in stating the MHC priorities as they may or may not line up. How can we do that? We can either precede the meeting with our short list of priorities or we can present those immediately after they present, but somehow they need to come together. Hopefully there will be a lot of overlap, but there may not. There may be things that don't align and this is the only way we can make our voices heard. • (Cmsr. Swirsding) In the past, the commission would have a presentation of the budget and it would allow the public and commissioners questions to be answered, their concerns to be addressed. I know CPAW (Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup) does it too. My concern is I'd like to have a copy to look at it. The MHC should have this to review and comment, and have voice. Public as well. In the past, we have always received a hard copy of the budget to review and have input. It is a public document. June 30 is the deadline, so my question is: when does the public get to view? There are a lot of people that are concerned about how the funds are being distributed throughout the county. I would like to have it and find out if I can pass this on to Eddie (NAMI) and other organizations in the Mental Health system. • (Cmsr. Serwin) Do we have a commitment from Pat Godley and Suzanne to provide us with a copy of what they are going to discuss? • (Cmsr. Dunn) Yes. They will present what they have for the budget as of right now. How much will be public, I don't know. They are going to be 	

<p>presenting information (I would imagine) on slides that will be public information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Swirsding) I saw some things on CPAW they are discussing. • (Cmsr. Dunn) CPAW is a portion of the larger budget and it's focus is the MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) budget that part of the larger county BHS budget. It is preliminary, I have asked Mr. Godley to provide the breakdown by certain funding buckets. It is unknown if it will be available per region of the county, but it at least it will be available for the whole county and I will follow up to see if it can be broken down by regions moving forward. • (Cmsr. May) I need to find out if they know or are planning on what will happen, the new group of congress are trying to cut out all the funding for mental health. They are trying to change it right now. My greatest fear is they will kill off the plans for our MIST, FIST, all funding period. All the money coming to the state. If either of them would be willing or at least acknowledge it is a possibility. I need acknowledgement from them and what are the contingency (back up) plans if this happens. • (Cmsr. Griffin) You can see how important this Feb 1 commission meeting, I hope everyone can attend to voice their concerns. We are giving them a lot of time on the agenda and should have enough time to answer all questions. • (Angela Beck) Eddie, from NAMI-can you provide his email, send me his contact to be on the list to be invited. He should just come to the meeting. (Cmsr. Swirsding) There are a few planning to come to the meeting and I will send you the contact information for all. (Angela Beck) Have them either contact me to send them the invitation or send me their information. • (Cmsr. Serwin) Just want to encourage Cmsr. Dunn as you communicate with Pat Godley that he tends to focus on the revenue side, which is definitely interesting, but we need to hear the spending side. We've asked multiple times, they have the information and it is well developed at this point. 	
<p>X. DISCUSS the need for Commissioner letters to persuade Gov. Newsom to keep in place the COVID-19 State of Emergency through at least June 30, 2023, Commissioner Douglas Dunn</p> <p>I sent information and sample letters to Ms. Beck <screenshared and sent to meeting attendees after the meeting> This may be a last minute thing, but Governor Newsom, last October, announced he is going to end the state of emergency Feb 28. What this means is, there was a bill before the legislature that would keep things the way they are, meeting remotely, up until the end of 2029 but that bill died this year in the legislature and as a result, there is a bill that has been passed (2994) that we will have to start meeting (at least the quorum) in a physical location starting as early as March 1 and will be allowed two times per year to meet remotely. I am very concerned (contracted COVID and fully vaccinated and boosted).</p> <p>I am urging all commissioners to send these letters to the governor, his deputy and your individual senators and assemblymembers. Please watch your email for this. This is on behalf of Commissioner Dunn as an individual citizen, not the Mental Health Commission directive.</p>	

<p>Questions and Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Swirsding) From the standpoint of being a microbiologist, I have studied this and it changes, the variants have not stopped evolving and we are not out of the pandemic yet. This variant can change. I am against this because the best way to treat is rest, stay at home, don't go out and spread it around. The best way to not contract is avoiding exposure. • (Cmsr. Serwin) Unless the commission or the executive committee votes on promoting this, it has to come from the individual commissioner recommending it. We can't decide we are just not going to do this. It is an individual recommendation. I would never give up my civil liberties or others to not have to go to a meeting in person. I think it is a more narrow issue of legislation that recognized the change in technology, the change in how we can meet and make permanent the status of what the Brown Act permits or doesn't permit. • (Cmsr. Dunn) My purpose is for individual commissioners to write letters on their own behalf. The commission can't take a stand but I am just wanting the commissioners aware so they can make an informed decision and write letters petitioning the powers that be in Sacramento. 	
<p>XI. DISCUSS Mental Health Commission (MHC) meeting calendar and committee membership, Angela Beck, Executive Assistant</p> <p>We did get the consensus (all committee members agreed) to change the Justice Systems committee meeting time to the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 3:30pm-5:00pm. I have attached the DRAFT meeting calendar, need the approval so that I can send to IT to update. We can make a quick announcement at the Feb 1 meeting. We also need to approve the committee roster to attach both of them.</p>	
<p>XII. DISCUSS strategy/process for delivering MHC Orientation Modules and determine remaining orientation needs, Commissioner Laura Griffin and Commissioner Barbara Serwin</p> <p>Binders and the recordings. We need to review what more needs to be addressed to complete this. The new commissioners coming in are lost and we need to set up a plan for holding orientation. Let's think how this can be accomplished.</p> <p>Do we want to discuss at the next executive meeting? The commission meeting? Do we want to discuss offline to get it going in between?</p> <p>(Cmsr. May) Let's put this on for the next meeting, I have some ideas.</p>	
<p>XIII.DETERMINE February 2023 Mental Health Commission Meeting Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of Meeting Protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No Interruptions – raise hands ✓ Limit 2 min – timed ✓ Stay on topic – stick to agenda item ✓ Reminder to respond to the Attendance email for Quorum. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ACR-150 African American Mental Health Awareness Week / AB 2242 and Senator Susan Eggman in the news! ✓ Virtual Training for Clinicians and Administrators: Treatment for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Co-occurring with Behavioral Health Needs, 2/7/23 – (Check email as we were asked to forward) • ‘Get to know your Commissioner’: Commissioner Kerie Dietz-Roberts • RECEIVE Presentation/Speaker: The effect of the 2020 pandemic on youth and adolescents, inclusive of sexual assault and suicide, Commissioner Leslie May (guests are unavailable for Feb 1) • DISCUSS Data Collection Issue (10 minutes) • RECEIVE Presentation: Behavioral Health Services (BHS) 2023-2024 budget, Dr. Suzanne Tavano and Pat Godley (60 min plus 15 for Q&A) • Behavioral Health Services Director's report, Dr. Suzanne Tavano <p>(Pamela Perls) suggestion on the Resolution (ACR-150) it would be a good thing to explore further because of the statistics being so horrendous-the disparities, comparisons with other racial groups and the impact on the black community, including the children in schools and the very young age of children who are suicidal and coincides with the quality of care project but also the incarcerated...a resolution is very nice but we need to be thinking about what can we do and how can we inform ourselves more about it. I wonder if there are some idea of who might present on this and I'd like to further this advocacy.</p> <p>Agenda items agreed/approved.</p>	
<p>XIV. Adjourned meeting at 5:00 pm</p>	