

# LASSEN COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

## APPROVED MINUTES

Monday January 10, 2022

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Curtis Bortle – Member – Via Zoom  
Gary Bridges – Member - Via Zoom  
Ronnie Tripp- Member – Via Zoom  
Brady Reed – Member – Via Zoom  
Michael Hoenig – Member – Via Zoom  
Angela Reed – Member – Via Zoom

**Advisory Board Members Absent:** Chris Gallagher – Member  
Cheryl Swetland – Member

**Staff:** Tiffany Armstrong – BH Director – Via Zoom  
Barbara Longo – HSS Director – Via Zoom  
Sarah Bustamante–Admin Assistant – Via Zoom  
Nicole Lamica–Patient Rights – Via Zoom

**Members of the Press:** None

**Other:** Ed Mussen- Via Zoom  
Grace Poor–Housing–Lassen County- Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Behavioral Health Advisory Board called to order at 5:31 pm
2. **Approval of the Agenda – Action:** Motion- Gary Bridges — Second- Ronnie Tripp – All in favor – motion carried
3. **Approval of the Minutes: November 2021:** – Motion – Gary Bridges – Second – Michael Hoenig – All in favor – motion carried – **\*With update for Lassen Community College section – ADD the word previously to the statement - several students were sent to the hospital in crisis.**
4. **Public Comment: None**
5. **COVID – 19: Barbara Longo**
  - a. Case are currently surging in the county
    - i. 137 active cases
      1. 28% are vaccinated
    - ii. Hospitalizations currently 2
    - iii. No recent deaths
    - iv. Currently cold season
  - b. Plans in place for events being held in the County

1. Use of air scrubbers
  2. Best of Broadway scheduled for the first week of March
  - c. Antibody treatment
    - i. Is available in Lassen County
    - ii. Regimen is very specific on who can have those treatments
- 6. Syringe Services Program: Barbara Longo**
- a. Presented to the Board of Supervisors
    - i. Unanimous support
      1. Collection receptacles and safe disposals
      2. Working with Lassen Indian Health on coordinating syringe pick up
  - b. Lassen Indian Health Center
    - i. Vanessa Hanson
    - ii. Will offer a much broader list of services
  - c. Barbara will be making a presentation to City Council next week
  - d. Grant funding is currently in progress
    - i. Should have an update by beginning of February
  - e. Prosing for receptacles to be placed at Public Health, Wellness Centers and possibly at Behavioral Health
    - i. Susanville Fire Department and Police Department are interested in having a receptacle
- 7. Medicated Assisted Treatment Program (MAT) – Tiffany Armstrong**
- a. Vanessa Hanson presented a few months ago
  - b. Program is up and running at Lassen Indian Health and Northeastern Rural Health Clinics
  - c. Remove item from future agendas
- 8. Department Report: Tiffany Armstrong**
- a. Two staff members are out due to Covid and two staff out due to Johnstonville school closed due to Covid
  - b. Psychiatric hospitals having to close or reduce bed size due to Covid
  - c. Westhill in Reno closed down
    - i. We did not contract with them as they are not licensed for California
    - ii. Was being used for private insurance and voluntary placements
  - d. Detox facilities who have been approved by DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) are in Redding and Humbolt
  - e. Transitioning to the new electronic health records system on February 1<sup>st</sup>
    - i. Will still have access to the Echo systems (ShareCare and CDT) to refer to old notes and reports but will not be able to enter anything new.
    - ii. State has been notified

- f. Grants
  - i. Corona Virus Response and Relief Act and American Rescue Plan Act
    - 1. Monies will be used to get a generator at the Behavioral Health building
      - a. When power is out we have no phones or computers
      - b. Staff have been having to go to the IT department to cover the phones
  - ii. Applying for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program and Community Care Expansion Program
    - 1. Very short turnaround time – Due in February
  - iii. Only applying for grants that we have the capacity to do
    - 1. Staffing and space wise
- g. Met with Lassen BH Tobacco Strategy
  - i. Aimed at reducing smoking in clients
    - 1. 30% increase in death who are non-smokers
  - ii. Presented at an all staff meeting
  - iii. Step down model
  - iv. 1 year process
- h. Wellness Centers
  - i. Two peer supports and receptionists have been hired to work out of Westwood and Herlong
  - ii. Looking to hire for Big Valley as well
  - iii. Open house to be held in the Spring
  - iv. Herlong has a new location for the Wellness Center

## **9. Cultural Competence: Tiffany Armstrong**

- a. Cultural Competence Plan has been submitted
  - i. It was due December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Trainings being held for the staff over the next few months
  - i. Specific to cultural humility and suicidality
- c. Meeting with the board members will be scheduled soon

## **10. Housing – Grace Poor**

- a. Point in Time Count
  - i. Street count will be done Jan. 26
  - ii. Surveys continue through the 28<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. Occurs all across the country and required by HUD
- b. Whole person care program
  - i. Serve the most vulnerable medi-cal recipients
  - ii. Homeless or at risk of homelessness
  - iii. Meet one of the following
    - 1. Involved in criminal justice
    - 2. Mental Illness
    - 3. SUD
    - 4. Two or more chronic health conditions

- 5. 2 ER visits or hospitalized in the last 3 months
- iv. Program is voluntary
- v. Involved with intensive case management
  - 1. Housing and BH case management
  - 2. Looking for a nurse to be on the team
- vi. Have 3 individuals currently enrolled in the program
- vii.
- c. No update from DANCO
  - i. Having issues securing a location

#### **11. Judy's House – No Report**

#### **12. Action Item – Nominations – Board Vacancy – Board Chair**

- a. **Brady Reed - Curtis Bortle nominated –Brady accepted nomination**
- b. **Curtis Bortle – Brady Reed nominated - Curtis accepted nomination**
- c. **Gary Bridges makes the motion to place Brady Reed and Curtis Bortle on the ballot for Board Chair – Ronnie Tripp second – all in favor – motion carries**

#### **13. Board Report:**

- a. **Board Recruitment:** On Going
- b. **Sub-Committees**
  - i. **Legislation** – No update
- c. **Data Notebook** – Meeting to be scheduled for Tiffany and Board Members to work on data notebook.
- d. **Brown Act** – Trainings happening
  - i. New Regulations due to zoom meetings
  - ii. Trainings usually are free

#### **14. Lassen Community College: Brady Reed**

- a. Dorms are operating
  - i. Majority are vaccinated
- b. Mental Health wise not as many incidents as in the past
  - i. Crisis seem to be higher at the beginning of the school year
  - ii. Seaira Harrington is no longer in the area
    - 1. Her position will be flown and refilled
    - 2. Funding provided by the state
      - a. Amount based on enrollment
- c. Money coming for a basic needs center
  - i. Will provide more than just a food pantry
  - ii. Social worker position/coordinator
    - 1. Housing
    - 2. Food
    - 3. Basic needs
  - iii. Up and running by July 1, 2022
    - 1. Physical space on campus
- d. Surveys

- i. Conducted with students about concerns
      - 1. Voiced wanted more mental health support
- e. FTE
  - i. Spring is higher than last year for the spring semester

**15. Suicide Prevention: Nicole Lamica**

- a. September 10, 2022
  - i. 4<sup>th</sup> annual Out of Darkness Walk
- b. New Chair out of the Sacramento Chapter
  - i. Very active and hand on
- c. Research currently working on is opioids and depression and how it is linked to suicides
- d. 2019 Stats
  - i. Suicide 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death
- e. Assist Trainings
  - i. Require two trainings
  - ii. Must be done in person
  - iii. Prepared and ready
- f. Safe talk trainings scheduled
  - i. February 17<sup>th</sup> at Lassen Community College
  - ii. Brady to see if non-college employees can attend
    - 1. Two peer supports need to be trained.

**16. Access California – No Report**

- a. Andrea Wagner not able to attend tonight.
  - i. Sent information via email to Sarah Bustamante to be distributed via email.

**17. Susanville Police Department – No Report**

**18. Lassen County Sheriff’s Department – No Report**

**19. Consideration of Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Action Item – Vote for Board Chair

**20. Next Meeting Date and Time: February 14, 2022 at 5:30pm**

**21. Adjournment: 7:08 pm**