

**Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Advisory Board**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024
5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chair Esemann called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Roll Call

The following members were in attendance: Chair Heather Esemann, Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer, Supervisor Don Blaser, Gwen Ziegenmeyer, Bill Harris Jr., Wendell Peters, Secretary Mary Page, Jay Kaze and Renick House

Excused: Maggie Walker and Lesley Clarkson

Absent: Manny Cardoza

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director/Behavioral Health Director; Jesse Hallford, Adult Services Staff Services Manager; Phillip Hernndez, Deputy Branch Director, Adult Services; Isac Matei, Forensic Mental Health Specialist II, Adult Services and, Sue Hopper, Administrative Assistant, Sutter County.

3. Public Comment: None provided.

4. Action Items:

- a. **Approve November 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes** - Member Ziegenmeyer moved to approve the November 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member Page.

Aye votes: Esemann, Page, Harris Jr., M. Ziegenmeyer, G. Ziegenmeyer, Blaser, and Peters and Kaze.

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: House

5. Program Presentation – CARE Court, Rick Bingham, Assistant HHS Director/Behavioral Health Director presented on the following:

- ✓ CARE Court, formally known as the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act/Court, is a program implemented in California aimed at providing a structured support system for individuals with severe mental health challenges.

- ✓ Pilot programs began in select counties in 2023, with remaining counties implementing December 1, 2024. Sutter and Yuba Counties implemented on December 1, 2024.
- ✓ Individuals must be 18 or older with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder. Individuals must experience a mental illness that is severe in degree and persistent in duration, may cause behaviors that interfere substantially with daily living, and may lead to the inability to maintain stable and independent living without treatment.
- ✓ Expected outcomes are improved mental health and stability for participants, decreased rates of homelessness and hospitalization and a reduction in criminal justice system involvement/recidivism for individuals with mental health issues.
- ✓ During the first three quarters, counties that implemented CARE Court in 2023 had 557 petitions statewide. Of those, 39% were dismissed by the courts. For the same time period, only one person has graduated from the program.
- ✓ Family members, service providers (including Behavioral Health), Public Guardian/Conservator, law enforcement and others may refer an individual to CARE Court by filing a petition. The petition must include a statement from a mental health professional verifying that the referred individual has a qualifying diagnosis and is not psychiatrically stable.
- ✓ Petition is received and then reviewed by the court. If eligibility is determined, then a CARE agreement/plan is developed with Judicial oversight. Initial data indicates that most petitions are generated/filed by family members.
- ✓ Involves collaboration among courts, mental health providers, and social services.
- ✓ CARE Court is NOT a criminal process, but rather a civil process. As such, **ALL** parts of CARE Court are **COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY**. CARE Court is NOT a homeless program. CARE Court is NOT a program for individuals with substance use disorders.
- ✓ The court system has self-help center that can assist petitioners in getting started with the petition process.
- ✓ The state provided each county with some funding for program start up. No additional state funding will be provided for ongoing expenses.
- ✓ Request was to add CARE Court to the agenda in December 2025 for a one-year follow up report and to have Mr. Bingham provide an update on expenditures and participant numbers for CARE Court to his report in June 2025.

6. BHSA Program Update – Jesse Hallford, Staff Services Manager. Ms. Hallford reported on the following:

- ✓ Community Program Planning (CPP) process for the BHSA 26/29 Integrated Plan started on November 14, 2024. 10 meetings with around 100 participants have been held.

- ✓ Survey Monkey Surveys – approximately 35% response rate has been received. Encouraged everyone to complete the survey and to send out to their contacts. This survey is really impactful in that it will assist in planning for programs that will be funded and programs that may not be funded with the new BHSA outline.
- ✓ Ms. Hallford is now the Behavioral Services Act Coordinator in lieu of Ms. Gowan.

7. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Rick Bingham, Assistant Director of Health & Human Services and Behavioral Health Director reported on the following:

- ✓ Mobile Crisis – started on November 25, 2024; approximately 42 contacts during the last two weeks; 15 – 20 of those contacts were calls that law enforcement did not need to respond to.

8. New Business

- a. Program Presentation for January 9, 2025, will be Underage Drinking Grant – Sutter County District Attorney.
 - ✓ Mr. Bingham confirmed that Ms. Dupre, Sutter County District Attorney, and/or her staff will be presenting on this topic in January.
- b. Program Presentation Format Form
 - ✓ Ms. Esemann and Ms. Page agreed to work on revisions to the Program Presentation Format Form and present changes at the next meeting. Members may send suggested revisions to Ms. Esemann.

9. Old Business

- a. BHAB Polo Shirts
 - ✓ Shirts were delivered during the December 12, 2024, BHAB meeting.

10. Other Announcements/Correspondence

- a. California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions Winter Newsletter.
 - ✓ Informational only.

11. Adjournment - There being no further business brought forward, Chair Esemann thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.