

**MENTAL HEALTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2021 - Draft**

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Chair, Cmsr. G. Wiseman, called the meeting to order @ 3:34 pm</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Chair, Graham Wiseman, District II Vice-Chair, Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, District II Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Cmsr. Leslie May, District V</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Cmsr. Alana Russaw, District IV Cmsr. Rhiannon Shires, District II Angela Beck Jennifer Bruggeman La'Tonya Dandie Jen Quallick (Supv. Andersen's Office)</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"> • (L. May) I would like Healthright 360 to speak at our next full commission meeting. They have been around for many years and have opened up a site in East Contra Costa County (CCC). We really need to partner with them. Charmaine Hoggatt from Healthright 360 will speak regarding what they are doing out here in terms of working with the re-entry population from the prisons. They are offering mental health and physical health. I would like to invite them to come and just say a few words regarding their program. If possible, even have them give a fuller presentation for our retreat. It is very important, we have someone in our community now that is partnering and trying to provide services. It is really an asset to our community and they also are dealing with the homeless population, as well. • (L. Griffin) This morning, I attended a fantastic presentation put on by the Commonwealth Club, presented by Kaiser on COVID-19 and youth mental health and how we move forward past COVID. It was excellent. I did copy the link and would like to share it with the commissioners. It was about an hour and ten minutes long with four guest speakers. A lot of the emphasis was on K thru 12 schools and how to provide mental health curriculum. It wasn't all that, it was fantastic. I will put the link in the chat and possibly we can be prepared and use it for our retreat. Maybe even invite one of the doctors to speak for us. <Link for COVID 19 Presentation https://youtu.be/CIRBkJ40KL8 > • (L. May) I wanted to add one more item. I would like to see if we could get Swords to Plowshares. I have mentioned them quite a few times. Sword to Plowshares is an organization that was founded in 1967 in San Francisco. They started by treating and working with Veterans 	

<p>with addiction problems, homelessness, etc. They expanded over there, it is a huge organization. Then they came over to the East Bay and have offices in Oakland. They have been trying to get into CCC, trying to find a location. Right now, with the unhoused population of Veterans and the number of Veterans we have with so many serious mental health diagnoses (some undiagnosed), I think it would be an asset to court them and should do what we can to help them establish themselves in CCC. I would also like to see if they might be able to speak on our retreat. They are finishing up a building in Treasure Island. The apartment building is named actually named after my first cousin, as he was one of the original founders. I would like to encourage more outside agencies like this to come into our county to help us with the numerous deficiencies we have in this county, other than just county agencies funded through the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (B. Serwin) I just wanted to add that it has been about five years since we had that organization come speak at a commission meeting. They were a great organization and very well received and it would be good timing. I think, Commissioner May, your point about bringing in outside organizations to partner in the area of housing, in particular, where they are so strong is such great idea. That is one of the key messages of Housing that Heals. That is how we are going to make progress. 	
<p>IV. COMMITTEE CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:</p> <p>Rescheduled MHC Retreat: We have had to reschedule our Mental Health Retreat to November. As you may or may not be aware, I have had a death in the family, my father passed away. Commissioner Serwin has had her own challenges and we thought it might be best.</p> <p>Rescheduled MHC Orientation: We also want to reschedule the MHC Orientation. I know that has been something that has been worked on over time. (Cmsr. B. Serwin) The reason we are rescheduling is because we are rescheduling the retreat to November so we can't start the orientation before the retreat. Which pushes it out to December. Just meeting with Jennifer Bruggeman and Angela Beck working on the curriculum, we came around the realization that it is actually better to start in January because the curriculum is a 6 module curriculum so if we start in January through June and start from the beginning mid-year. We can go through it twice every year. So rather than having it off one month, it is best to go with January. The curriculum is coming along well. There is no issue making that date, it just makes more sense keeping track moving forward.</p>	
<p>V. APPROVE minutes from August 24, 2021, meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. May motioned to approve the minutes as written. • Seconded by L. Griffin <p>Vote: 4-0-0 Ayes: G. Wiseman (Chair), B. Serwin (Vice-Chair), L. Griffin, L. May Abstain: none</p>	<p>http://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>

VI. UPDATE on September through December 2021 site visits

(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) Scheduling: We have had no luck reaching Blessed Care for September. Plan B is to move on to October, which is Nierika House and I am working on contacting the Director of Nierika House to introduce our site visit program and to get that going, working with Angela to schedule it. Nierika House is going through some dramatic changes and so, one thing we want to keep in mind is whether this is a good time to do this site visit. It might be an extra good time to do so or not a very representative time to it. I just wanted to check in with other committee members on this and the chief of the adult vision, Jan Cobaleda-Kegler. I think those are the two main points.

(Angela Beck) Just to update, Blessed Care was sent a certified letter to Owner/Director at her business address and to the actual site. I just heard back from the manager, on my office line email. Victoria left that voicemail and I will follow up in the office tomorrow and send that information on to you. But we determined it is too late in the month to schedule and we will have to revisit that. Nierika/Nevin Houses, I have the information and Jennifer Bruggeman was so kind to send me all the information and I will forward that to you, Commissioner Serwin, for the initial contact. I am collecting schedule information for those assigned to that site.

(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) Stacey Tupper, has she gotten back to us yet?

(Jennifer Bruggeman) The list you had of the site visits planned for the upcoming six months, a lot of them are Board and Care Homes (BACs). Stacey is the contract manager for the majority of BAC contracts but Nierika and Nevin are operated by Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and I know Stacey was not the contract manager and was just trying to help Angela identify the appropriate person to reach out to. I wound up speaking to Jan Cobaleda-Kegler and she provided me with the name. She gave them a heads up and there are changes going on with Nierika House potentially in the near future. She gave them a heads up and would be hearing from you all to schedule a site visit and I think it's fine. I am sure if you do opt to go within the next month, it might give them an opportunity to let you know what's going on and put it all in context.

(Cmsr. Leslie May) I would like to find out the group /team I was with? How will we be rescheduled. We know about Blessed Care Home. Angela, are you going to send out something in order for us to reschedule / sign up for another site. (Angela Beck) Yes, I'm unsure at this point how we are going to do that. If we are going to double up or how exactly we will be doing this. Crestwood is November and Nevin House in Richmond is December.

VII. UPDATE on Nominating Committee, Commissioner Barbara Serwin

My roll in the nominating committee is to advise and ensure everyone is aware and knowledgeable of the process. We had our first meeting early this week but had a few members not remember and we are rescheduling. October is for the committee to be reaching out and identifying potential candidates, vetting candidates and ensuring they understand the job requirements and whether they understand what the time requirements are and so on. Then the slate will need to be available at the beginning of November meeting. With the retreat, it is likely we will be doing this by

<p>email. Everyone needs to know who is going to run so, in December, we can vote. I have put down on paper the nominating process and we will have that moving forward. Working on job descriptions right now.</p>	
<p>VIII. UPDATE on new Commissioners and open seats, Angela Beck, MHC Executive Assistant</p> <p>New Commissioner Dr. Rhiannon Shires.</p> <p>We have four open seats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District I – Member-At-Large (VACANT) • District III – Consumer (VACANT) • District III – Member-At-Large (VACANT) • District IV – Consumer (VACANT) <p>(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) we sent a communication to all of the supervisors regarding this. The letter was sent out to all supervisors as a general reminder email regarding vacancies.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Leslie May) Judging by the commissioners being appointed, it seems to me that the push for commissioners to be reflective of the people representing the community, is not advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities. That was included, regarding people of color on this commission. Race, creed, etc. and judging from the commissioners that have been appointed, I believe I’m pretty solid in stating that making sure this commission is created racially equal is not happening. I realize thee are two black (African-American) commissioners, myself and Cmsr. Russaw. There are LatinX people in our community, as well as Asian and physically and mentally disabled people who have been ignored throughout this county. Physically disabled with a mental health diagnosis have been historically ignored in this county and that is as well, going into facilities.. I am not blaming Hope House or Nierika House, but they were instructed that they can’t take anyone with physical disabilities, and they don’t. Those are two facilities that are crisis facilities where they should be able to take someone with a physical disability in a wheelchair, especially since it is ground level. They are supposed to be able to evacuate in case of fire. This commission primarily made of white people and they are appointments are continuing to be made without diversity. I am very concerned because this is completely violating an order that was put into place on January 1st and signed into law on January 20th of this year by the President of the United States. It is completely being overlooked and ignored. We have three seats available. Three persons of color and a person with physical and mental health disabilities have applied in one district and their applications are completely being ignored. In the other districts, I know people of color applied and were denied in two other districts (III & IV). Their applications were completely ignored and they were well qualified. This is a concern of mine and I am going to keep raising this issue, I don’t care whose feelings I hurt or who’s feet I step on because this deliberate refusal to include people of color on this commission needs to stop.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) You are correct, our population in this county, we have a 14% African American population but only 3% representation on this committee. That is not incongruent with the goals and ideals of this. Perhaps we can put on the agenda for the next Executive Committee</p>	

<p>meeting to put for the recommendation that the full commission vote on requests for the supervisors ensure they appointments are reflective of our community. You can then state, as you have so eloquently again and again, these are the numbers and they do not add up to what is on our commission. I encourage you to do that and I'm happy to work with you on that and I think it is imperative that when people approach this commission, they feel it is reflective of our community.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Alana Russaw) I know we want to do everything by the book, but I think that now, we have to unfortunately start playing the games that some others may be playing into. For example, when I was brought into the commission by Supervisor Mitchoff. I went to the website and looked up some of the agenda item she had spoke to in the past, with some of the things she was representing in the community and tried to speak toward that. I think we need to start doing with those wanting to be a part of the commission, we have to play to what the Supervisor is looking for and beef that up in the applications. If we know, even though we don't want it to be, it is a give and take.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) One simple thing we can do in the near term, if the letter to the supervisors has not been sent out, we could add a clause in there just saying this is our need and lay out the numbers of the representation. Secondly, we always have the opportunity to request this topic be put on an agenda for the Board of Supervisors (BoS). It is an interesting agenda item, in that it is relevant to all commissions and boards for the county and it could be positioned that way.</p>	
<p>IX. DISCUSS requesting information and meeting attendance from BHS Staff</p> <p>This is emerging as a bigger problem and one we hoped would be resolved but instead seems to be getting worse. By worse, the feedback I am getting from commissioners, especially subcommittee chairs is we are having a harder and more difficult time having requests for county employees to address the commission on specific things they have expertise on. In fact, I am waiting to actually confirm this with Dr. Tavano but my last indication was that the statement was, unless she attended the meeting, then no county employee would be attending the meeting. So, is there any other information that I am unaware of regarding this? Again, if this is something that someone has in an email that can forward to me, that would be appreciated. We want to make sure our access is not limited or being filtered.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) I am not sure I forwarded the email I requested and replies that I had sent to attend last month's Quality of Care meeting and the meeting prior that failed, and now this one. Kennisha is out on leave and we can't do anything about that, but Dr. Tavano has not been available either time. I am requesting a half hour of time but I have not been able to move my agenda forward and I really need her to kick off a conversation. I don't want to get ahead of myself and I have a program of guest speakers I'd like to work with and she is the first one. I don't want to jump over her because I wanted the basis of information from her first. And I just feel like I am not getting a response back that she can make any meeting. In the past, I have never had this problem. Multiple emails from me following up and it is very discouraging.</p>	

<p>(Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) For those who are in that position of requesting staff, where we evolved to was making sure we weren't asking county employees to appear before multiple committees on the same topic or do additional work doing stuff they'd already done. We agreed to work through Dr. Tavano to ensure what we were asking wasn't putting undue burden on county employees. Now it seems to have turned a bit and we will be seeking clarification from her in hopes our perception is not where we are headed.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Leslie May) I am wondering what her authority is? I have worked with CCC in Behavioral Health and CCHS and I know this didn't happen under the helm of Dr. Walker. There was not this blockage and this feels very deliberate and overreaching her authority. She is here to serve the community. I don't care how many initials after her name, she is here to serve the community. We, as an organization that is here to directly be the voice of the community should have access to any agency. I understand it was blocked that you have to go through her for the Sherriff's department. Excuse me, but she isn't over the Sheriff's Department so there needs to be some sit down clarity of what her role I and how far her authority reaches.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) Commissioner May, I really do appreciate that point and I just want to remind everyone that the commission advises the BHS Director and, so to have the BHS Director dragging her toes or filter or whatever it is that she feels she is doing is a conflict of interest. In the prior administration, we had a very difficult time with the BHS Director and Dr. Tavano has been a wonderful partner for us than this prior director. It is nothing new, it was a very rocky relationship. Even with her, we never had an agreement in place where everyone had to go through her. I think the biggest issue we have is that our committees (from my perspective), while we have certain questions that we approach from different points of view and, if you are not informed of the issue, it may seem like there is repetition, but there is not. That definitely goes on, but at other times, we have had repetition in a short period of time that did not need to occur had we coordinated and we are hold in chair meeting, hopefully Monday the 11th, to speak to this topic of coordinating our agendas. I think that approach can go a long way in addressing the issues we have that she's had issue with. Rather than having the BHS Director being the green light (or red light) on these topics. The last think I'd say is really, we have had great communication with the chief of the departments and these people are all professionals and they manage their schedules and if they are uncertain about whether or not they should be presenting on a topic, they go to their manager. We have never had any kind of problems coordinating well with the others we invite to our meetings.</p>	
<p>X. DISCUSS Best Practices for appointing new Commissioners, Commission Chair, Graham Wiseman</p> <p>We touched on this before, which was best practices for appointing new commissioners. I know part is the process when someone is appointed. The training sessions they go through and want to make sure all commissioners get as much information as they can as quickly as possible to get up to speed. It took me a couple years. Was there anything specific that commissioners wanted to speak on this?</p>	

(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) In terms of putting together the agenda, this was meant for Commissioner May to address.

(Cmsr. Leslie May) I do know that I would like to bring up this internal operations committee handout we all should have received. That is the record of action for September 13th, down to #5, appointment process. When looking at it, I am trying to understand how it was incorporated and numbered. Is Item #6 talking about how they want to change the application? Is this information not in the application they want to put into the application? Also, I am trying to figure out is: Did they vote and approve this particular item, as it is very unclear. They have the letter we sent to Supervisor Candace Anderson as part of this attachment. We highlighted 4.4 and 4.5. Underneath there was also about the racial equity. Where I am trying to understand is, was it approved? We put these forth as our best practice for appointing new commissioners.

(Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) Ms. Quallick, I don't know if there is any information you can provide from Supervisor Andersen's office on the exact working. (Jen Quallick) Not at this time.

I know it had been voted on, yet the language had to go off to be amended before it was going to be released and it is the last I heard about it.

(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) Commissioner May, when you described your interest in this agenda item, you also spoke about other Best Practices in the state, such as Santa Clara counties are different from what we do here. Did you still want to speak to that or is that no longer an issue of concern to you. (Cmsr. L. May) I just didn't want to overcrowd the questions. I also referenced the bylaws of Santa Clara County. These are some that are actually on the state website. It is kind of our governing agency, and in there, they put down (in membership) and in nominating procedures. It states we should have an ad hoc committee. There has been a lot of talk about this. An Ad hoc committee consists of members and speaking to how all commissioners should recruit, what role we play in it. Once before, and I brought this up back in 2017, before Cmsr. Chapman passed, he was fighting for this and saying 'no, we need to have more ad hoc committees.' That was supposed to have been the paperwork together and is directly for selecting commissioners to come on board. That was supposed to be voted on in 2018. It never made it to the BoS for them to vote on it. It was supposed to be added to the agenda. One of the Supervisors (I believe Andersen or Mitchoff) just arbitrarily said, we just aren't going to vote on it. Just arbitrarily said okay, we are just not going to vote on it. It was supposed to be taken to the BoS for them to vote on this. I want that addressed. (Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) I am not sure there is a process for going back and addressing something like that, an historical occurrence. I do know that since then, and when we initially started making moves to form an ad hoc committee to review applicants, as you know we had Mitchoff was quite strenuous in her opposition to that and so, as a result of that, there has been a bylaw change voted on by the BoS to remove that as a legitimate portion of it and made in 'upon request'. So, until we are requested by a supervisor to form an ad hoc committee to review them, we have no role in that.

(Cmsr. Leslie May) So what you're saying to me is back in 2017, because it was never voted on by the BoS, now we can't bring it to them to say this, as

a commission, this is what we to do? We are not able to got to the state board of commissions and say to them, we want to change by laws for the selection process just as Santa Clara county has done and Los Angeles county. They even added a stipend to the commissioners. Why are we put in a position where our voices and jobs, responsibilities are being stifled because a Supervisor doesn't like it. This is bordering on some serious infractions. (Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) I do not have the answer to this.

(Cmsr. Barbara Serwin) I cannot speak to what happened back in 2018. What I find very interesting are the by laws that Santa Clara and LA County passed that, to me, is a best practice that the commissioners have strong role in selection of new commissioners and I think we may change our by laws but that doesn't mean we can't change them again. I think it is worth looking at those by laws and understanding how they are similar or different from our own is instructive, given that there is a continued dissatisfaction with the pace of filling positions and the consideration of diversity and the need for new commissioners to be aware of what they are getting into. I see no conflict of our bylaws and always being open to seeing a better path and those two counties have very clearly laid out an alternative.

(Cmsr. Graham Wiseman) Perhaps we should put this on our agenda next month to discuss our recommendations to the BoS regarding community reflection, process for people onboarding and the selection process.

(Ms. Dandie) I am still bitter from what Candace Andersen said at the last meeting that she was looking for someone who 'matched her' and I'm guessing that person does not look like me. The fact that I had to sit there and marinate on that makes me wonder how much movement you guys want in the mental health community for people who look like me, which happened to be black. I am not talking about black and brown, I'm talking about black. My whole sole movement in this whole mental health is to help everyone, but to have a Supervisor sit there and state that the were looking for someone that fits them and then she nominates someone that looks like her. That clarified she does not want someone that looks like me on this commission. I think that is something we all should look at and think about. Mental health does not come in white form, it comes in all colors. Sometimes a person with mental health issues or any issues, people who don't look like the people who know the issues they go through. It doesn't work that way and that is something I know y'all have to go by bylaws and by whatever the supervisors say, but it is time to fight past whatever they are telling you what they want because what they want is not what the community needs. They need me because I'm out on the streets with people.

(Cmsr. Rhiannon Shires) I just wanted to say that when I spoke to Candace and going through the interview process. I have been working in this field for over 30 years in this district and very much in the trenches, not just sitting in my office working with all types of people. I think why I got elected or appointed was because of over 30 years of working in the field, which is vast. I am sorry, but I take offense to that, and serving on this commission has nothing to do with my skin color.

(Cmsr. Leslie May) Commissioner Shires, no one is meaning to insult you. You just go here and this is a fight, a battle we have been in for a very long time and I respect your 30 years' experience. I was a teacher of special ed

<p>for 27 years before I retired and said let me come an into this field. No one is deliberately insulting you but this is a battle we have been in and will continue to be in it.</p>	
<p>XI. DETERMINE October 2021 Mental Health Commission Meeting Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescheduled MHC retreat • Rescheduled first Orientation session • “Get to know your Commissioner” (Commissioner Gina Swirsding and Commissioner Kathy Maibaum) • Introduce Commissioner Dr. Rhiannon Shires • UPDATE on September through December 2021 Site Visits • UPDATE by Nominating Committee • UPDATE on new Commissioners and open seats • RECEIVE Presentation HealthRight 360, Charmaine Hoggatt • RECEIVE Presentation Chief of Infomatics, Steven Hahn-Smith • Behavioral Health Services Director's Report <p>Agenda items agreed/approved.</p>	
<p>XII. Adjourned meeting at 5:07 pm</p>	