

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
QUALITY OF CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 21st, 2022 - FINAL

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Quality of Care Committee Chair, Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, called the meeting to order @3:36 pm.</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Chair - Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, District II Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Cmsr. Leslie May, District V Cmsr. Joe Metro, District V Cmsr. Gina Swirsding, District I</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Cmsr. Gerthy Loveday Cohen, District III Cmsr. Douglas Dunn, District III Cmsr. Rhiannon Shires, District II Angela Beck Janine LaFrontiere Dawn Morrow (Supv. Burgis’ Ofc.) Teresa Pasquini Pamela Perls Jen Quallick (Supv. Andersen’s Ofc.) Estefania Razo Lauren Rettagliata Gaby Solis</p>	<p>Meeting was held via Zoom platform</p>
<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Pamela Perls) I wanted to share an article in the Contra Costa Times (July 11), “Mental Health Issues Back On The Rise” This was a very good overall picture. This article first appeared in the New York Times, not specific to us, but it was very thorough and thought it worth sharing with you all. Also wanted to share (another county but thought it was worthwhile), “Alameda county board okays proposal for mentally ill programs” reducing the number of people in jail. I felt some folks would be interested in that as something we would like to think about. AB988 that will provide a resource for non-police responses to mental health crisis has just finally been passed. I will pass along to Angela to share. • (Teresa Pasquini) There is a Grand Jury Report that came out of Alameda County recently, as well as several articles regarding this report and a podcast. I have been following grand jury report for mental health systems in the state for many years. This was one of the best I have seen. I will send this on to Angela to share with everyone. I also wanted to take a moment to share something really positive about our conservatorship office. I know there has been much criticism. I believe I shared here that my son’s conservator of 12 years left the office and there was a new person that came on board and took over as his conservator. We had our son home this weekend. There are some red flags as you all know as he has been conserved for 20 years and has been doing great, but there have been some bumps in the road we have been observing. We met with this conservator today on zoom and he was just the most delightful gentleman and we had 	

<p>such a collaborative, wonderful conversation. I just wanted to share. When there is something positive, I want to shout out the good things.</p>	
<p>III. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Leslie May) I shared in the last meeting (Finance Committee) but want to share in this meeting. I had a couple good meetings and a final big meeting with all of the City of Antioch Executive Administration regarding the funding coming down the pipeline, the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) grants. I had to go through the entire report with them and explain some more and more. I used a narrative that Lauren (Rettagliata) and Teresa (Pasquini) had typed up. Once I did that, they ‘got’ it and have committed and wrote their letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on behalf of the entire Administrative staff (the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, Chief of Police and others), informing the BOS that they have a team of grant writers working to see if they can get in city projects, as they have identified lots of properties that are available for infrastructure. The City owns these properties and said whatever they can do to help our city, they are going to do it. I was informed they should go to the next meeting (25th). They will be presenting another copy in person. Just wanted to share that positive news out of Antioch. • (Gina Swirsding) Reporting out on the Juneteenth festivities here in Richmond. I handed out a flyer regarding mental health services and where to get help in Richmond. I was at the Crime Prevention table and some did not want to take the flyers (because it said mental health) but I switched it around said ‘this could help your neighbors’ and then everyone was coming up getting a copy to hang on their refrigerators. I really believe it has to do with the stigma issues. I was very glad I was there and was able to hand out the information. There were county representatives for health and wellness but no one representing mental health services. National Night Out is upcoming and I want to ensure there are representatives for Both Health and Mental Health Services. 	
<p>IV. CHAIR COMMENTS – None.</p>	
<p>V. APPROVE minutes from the June 16th, 2022 Quality-of-Care Committee Meeting. Cmsr. L. May moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Cmsr. L. Griffin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote: 5-0-0 <p>Ayes: B. Serwin (Chair), L. Griffin, L. May, J. Metro and G. Swirsding. Abstain: none</p>	<p>Agendas and minutes can be found at: https://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>
<p>VI. UPDATE Committee on the Contra Costa County Wellness in School Programs (WISP) activities, Commissioner Laura Griffin</p> <p>(Cmsr. Griffin) One of our goals we set this year was to evaluate the distribution and effectiveness of mental health services in public K-12 schools here in our county and how the funding is being used and where it comes from, where does it go when it comes come in from the state. We want to follow the money. We really haven’t gotten too far regarding this. We need to be more aggressive. My first step was to contact Wellness In Schools Program (WISP)</p> <p>The vision of the Contra Costa County Wellness in Schools Program (WISP) is for all students in the County to access needed behavioral health services and</p>	<p>Documentation on the presentation review for this agenda item were shared to the Mental Health Commission and included as handouts in the meeting packet and is available on the MHC website under meeting agenda and minutes: https://cchealth.org/mentalhe</p>

supports in a timely manner. The grant was funded last year to team up with the county's mental health services and to work on:

- Establishing new partnerships with mental health service providers
- Improving or developing systems to create sustainable best practices and protocols
- Sharing best practices for school-based mental health, through a "Community of Practice"
- Improving timely access to, and reduce barriers to accessing, needed services
- Increasing linkages to mental health services for districts
- Increasing training on mental health topics to educators, administrators, parents/families, and students, to improve awareness and understanding of mental health topics, and knowledge of how to navigate services
- Reduction in negative student outcomes (e.g., chronic sadness, thoughts of suicide, suicide rates, chronic absenteeism, school failure, etc.).

Earlier this year, they had four virtual collaborative meetings, which I attended two. They were really good, well run meetings. What I liked is that they provided an opportunity for school counselors, wellness staff, administrators, district leaders and parents to received updates on county-wide events, updates and special presentations and a chance to discuss challenges and opportunities to support student mental health. They will do more virtual meetings in the fall.

To get the 'ball rolling' we thought, who/where do we go to find out where this money is, where is it going, how is it being distributed, who is receiving, etc.?

I contacted Nick Berger, Deputy Director, Student Programs Department of the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE). I asked him a series of questions. Basically, what I was able to pull from that is WISP itself does not evaluate the effectiveness of mental health services in the county. Their role is specifically to support the districts with building different service models and providing training t the staff. I kept asking this question: What is the parent community feeling? I believe that could be a huge barrier to children getting the help they need when parents get hung up on the stigma. What I did find out from Mr. Berger, he didn't really keep a list of what they are doing wrong, what they should be doing, what they are doing but where they can help. They stated the districts most in need for their help is Mt Diablo, West Contra Costa, Antioch and Pittsburg Unified School Districts (USD). Those are the districts that have been asking for the most amount of support. They are also looking into additional grants to support mental health. He did say that the funding from the State and goes directly to the districts. It does not go through the CCCOE. His advice was to follow the money and go to the Board meetings, contact the districts and that is where we will find our answers.

Questions and Comments:

- (Cmsr. Swirsding) I wanted to let you know that one of our schools (Kennedy High), we found out the funding to go to help those with mental health issues was given to their program through planned parenthood. I understand, if they were doing abortions for those teens, you do need some mental health help, but a lot of the money was going toward that. Not to those with mental health issues. They were using more of the money for helping these kids getting family planning and abortion needs when it should have been going to mental health support. So we need to follow the money in that way also. It was parents that found out. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Griffin) We need to do that groundwork and go to those board meetings and

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distinguish which we are going to start with and go to the meeting and ask those questions and really dig and advocate. Even if it is only one or two to see what we find out, it will help the kids.

- (Cmsr. May) It is true, I have been saying we need to follow the money since I have been appointed to this commission. The problem with it going directly to the schools, there is no one at that school that can be held accountable for where those funds are really being used. As Cmsr. Swirsding stated, I've seen it happen. The money comes in and they say this is money is supposed to be allotted for that, but the funding is needed for this, so they take the money and split it and use it in other areas. They use it elsewhere that intended and there is no accountability back to the state. All they do, is complete the form they send back to the state that it was used for this when it was used for something else. I have actually seen fraud being committed in the offices. (Cmsr. Griffin) Absolutely, their district board is supposed to be held delegating and approving this stuff. That is where the problem lies.
- (Cmsr. May) Then we have the parent/teacher association (PTA), we do not have one association for the parents of these children with the mental health issues. I want to see your organization say 'that is enough' we need to fight, go to the school, the district, the state and make it mandatory that they have organizations the parents can come to, once you are vested in that and your child comes home and you get these stories, now you can go to the meetings and make your voice heard. Those parents can attest to what, where and why this funding was given/used, why don't we have enough staff or resources. I really want to see parent groups established at each school in order to have a full range of accountability.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) Part of the program is to have parent groups. What is the nature of those groups? Along what Cmsr. May is suggesting?
- (Cmsr. Griffin) I haven't received a valid answer, so I think it is still in the works but they were going to have parent meetings on what they are trying to offer/establish at the schools. I asked him to elaborate and let me know exactly what these look like but has not responded yet. But I am pushing to find out. I did want to mention, what we have all stated, they don't have enough help. Why not? The state is giving you money. Why not? Where is that money going? What are you not spending it on? What are you spending it on? What should you be spending it on? It seems like these are just baby steps but you have to start at that foundation to find out the big picture. We can sit here all day long and talk about what is wrong with all this, but until we find out what is causing the problems, we can track it a bit better than in the county.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) I can attest for chairing the PTA type organization for Lafayette (LUSD) and Acalanes (AUSD), I couldn't believe how much money we fundraised (millions) but the school district and the school themselves, had so much discretion on how that money was spent. We raised money and designated for certain things that would go into the school district. We'd come back in (connecting was 'tiling' could not get quite a bit of the end of this statement).
- (Teresa Pasquini) Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF). I live in El Sobrante (WCCUSD), I became an expert and passed on what I learned to many families over the years. There are no family or parent groups. When I was on the National Alliance for Mental Illness in Contra Costa (NAMI CC) board years ago, there were a couple moms that came on and very

<p>interested in getting family groups organized around this. What I learned when I got on the MHC, is that the wealthy districts where people had money to file the lawsuits and to hire the attorneys that action was happening. It was the poorer school districts and part of the reason why the counties were mad because their indigent population wasn't getting the same level of care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Swirsding) Just putting out there that speaking to the WCCUSD Board would be useless right now. Taking the police out of the schools and defunding, MANY of the kids with mental health needs wanted to speak at the board and they would not allow them to speak. They did not want the police officers to be removed and the school board would not listen to them. The school board right now, out here is completely unhelpful. One more thing I just heard at Juneteenth from one of the officers, I asked if we could fight this and he said no. Right now, they aren't even allowed to drive near the schools. • (Pamela Perls) I just wanted to add my own experience with trying to get a family group going with special needs kids, as opposed to students with mental health issues. We weren't distinguishing at that point. There is a real privacy barrier. The school district would not give me the names of the members of the families who had students in special ed and so I suggested they contact the individual parents, explain that I wanted to pull together a meeting and ask them for permission to contact them. What they finally did was announce there was a meeting we could have in each individual classroom (which was a nightmare) and finally did a bit of organizing as best we could but it was like pulling teeth. That was within CCC but not in Lafayette. It was just extremely difficult and they avoid it by saying it is a privacy issue. As difficult as it is, you may want to gather those you can contact, let them contact other and go to the school board. What we did, was storm the school board four or five times in a row. Getting that group of parents together was a real challenge. . 	
<p>VII. REVIEW MHC Finance Committee discussion of K-12 school district contracts with Behavioral Health Services (see attached contracts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mount Diablo Unified School District #74-371 (Central County) ➤ Fred Finch #24-828 (Central County) ➤ Lincoln Child Center #24-925 (East County) ➤ Bay Area Community Resources #74-321 (West County) <p>(Cmsr. Dunn) The finance committee has been doing with the BHCIP rounds upcoming, specifically Round 4 dealing with children and adolescents, primarily schools and school-based mental health. The deadline for these is August 31st. That has been our focused. That is why we are reviewing these contracts. Cmsr. Serwin has indicated that the Quality of Care committee is interested in looking at these contracts after the Finance Committee has looked at these contracts.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Serwin) The reason the Quality of Care committee is interested is because we have this over-arching commission goal of looking at K-12 schools and looking at mental health coverage for potential gaps.</p> <p>(Cmsr. Dunn) <u>Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) contract</u>. You will notice several of these contracts, the CCBHS look for MediCAL reimbursement. Once that is accomplished (dollar for dollar match through the Federal Financial Participation [FFP]) it pays for a good share of the contract. When possible, they use state re-alignment funding. Also, the school district (at some points) contribute some of their own funding, likely from the state. MDUSD contract, I</p>	<p>Documentation on the presentation review for this agenda item were shared to the Mental Health Commission and included as handouts in the meeting packet and is available on the MHC website under meeting agenda and minutes: https://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>

was able to find out from an online search, with their particular school district that some of services are provided at Sunrise Elementary School, Alliance at Olympic High School (continuation), Basis, Pacifica and Olivera (which is a specialized school that have quite a few SENECA staff involved with that particular school). Pine Hollow Middle School, as well as the counseling-enriched program at Ygnacio Valley High School. That is where the funds are used for this particular contract.

Fred Finch Contract. The services are laid out in the service plan, weight table information, financial summary information which you will see the matching funds from FFP, you will see that in the Lincoln contract out of Pittsburg, the intensive Home School based services, as well as the school engagement program. They are a community services contract had the least amount of detail. That contract, in terms of analysis, that the Finance Committee had the most trouble digging into.

Questions and Comments:

- (Cmsr. Serwin) Were there two other contracts?
- (Cmsr. Dunn) There was MDUSD, Fred Finch, Lincoln, and the Bay Area Community Service (BACS) contract (the four).
- (Cmsr. Serwin) Did you have any comments about Lincoln and BACS?
- (Cmsr. Dunn) There wasn't a lot of detail provided. After this particular round of contracts, Ms. Jennifer Bruggeman agreed to provide a contract summary for the contracts the committee is looking at for the successive meetings. So those meetings since then, she has provided a summary which has filled in a lot of the gaps I discovered with these contracts. (Cmsr. Serwin) is she going to do that for these contracts as well? Do we need to ask for that? (Cmsr. Dunn) I can ask her to do so. However, from these contracts on, she did the summaries.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) Are there any quality of care type issues you feel you were able to identify through these contract reviews? (Cmsr. Dunn) Well, Cmsr. May is also on the finance committee and there are some, from what she has been hearing from families, there are major issues with MDUSD with this particular contract in terms of parents not feeling their loved ones are getting the mental health treatment this contract states they should be given.
- (Cmsr. May) Yes. There have been several complaints, actually one family sued for their twins. The results were that MDUSD had to pay for a special school in Berkeley (private school) and pay for transportation to and from that school plus pay all the tuition. Another family, there have been quite a few families that are coming forth stating their kids are being bullied and discriminated against. So there is the bullying, the racial discrimination and mental illness diagnosis and the school(s) are not addressing those issues. They are now trying to use friends or relatives addresses so their children can go outside of this district. That is, in itself, very alarming. In one of these schools (I believe Sunset or Sunrise) another parent had a child there. That school does not have over 30 students. There was a (like a) mini-riot earlier this year by the students. Some were able to get off campus. It was a terrible mess. The staff do not seem prepared or capable to care for these students. It is for elementary aged students with severe mental illness. If you are practitioner in this field, we can't label these students as sociopath or psychopath tendencies – or those types of diagnosis until they are adults. They are supposed to be specialized in autism spectrum cases, even for the

most severe behavioral problems and they are not fulfilling their duties. Parent's complaints are that their children are not receiving services as they are supposed to be. One parent moved her child from that school and is now being bussed all the way to a school in Stockton. I really want us to do deeper dive into the MDUSD. We need a larger look into what is going on and why so many parents are very dissatisfied and unhappy with the services their children aren't getting and should be receiving without fear of discrimination and bullying and the like. (Cmsr. Serwin/Dunn) This is one of the largest school contracts as I understand.

- (Cmsr. Swirsding) What about Fred Finch in El Sobrante? (Cmsr. Serwin) Yes it is. (Cmsr. Swirsding) I am concerned about Fred Finch, similar to what Cmsr. May is speaking to. I visited this program and it is pretty good, but there are issues of kids being in the program that do have other issues compared to mental health issues. However the kids tend to be bullies and I know of one situation of a family that had a child constantly bullied by older kids. He was in second grade with mental health issues. Some of the older kids were bullying him, it caused the family a lot of grief. They kept sending the second grader to this room (to unwind). They kept sending him to this room but not really listening to what he was trying to say. There are some issues in these schools (programs) where you a combination of those with mental health issues and also combining with people who have juvenile delinquency (behavioral) issues also. Then there is a tendency to bully those children with mental health issues.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) I wanted to share, my son went through Stanley middle school in Lafayette. He was evaluated for an individualized education program (IEP) and identified to have some behavioral health issues. So he was placed in a group. We were forced to have a guide (teachers aide) for him. He was placed in a group of children that were way off on another end of the spectrum with severe behavioral issues. There was another group of kids with moderate to light and he was in the same group of kids that needed to be guided across campus and literally could not walk alone. We learned the aide was literally walking him to the school office. He wasn't permitted to the school office by himself. It had a huge impact and caused him a lot of problems. Broader than that, we were constantly at odds with the school district. What we found (and learned from other families) that the school district is all about 'nodding' yes and they will do this or that for your child/student but then literally their hands are tied. We couldn't tell where the direction is coming from? We couldn't tell if it was the principal of the school, if it was the school district not wanting to spend the money? People are just stonewalled every step of the way and there have been multiple lawsuits. These are for their psychological services. That is well-funded school and district. There is really no excuses and it is in all parts of the county where there is a deficit of quality committed service. How many school districts did we find that the county has a contract with?
- (Cmsr. Dunn) A total of ten.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) Big picture, these contracts are different to follow and incomplete (at best), so it is difficult to understand what services are being provided. The counties that offer multiple services, there is not a dollar amount associated with each service or even each school, correct?
- (Cmsr. Dunn) Ms. Bruggeman has indicated in previous finance meetings that one of the goals of CalAIM is to have a standardized contract where you understand who is providing the service, where, how much for each service,

and also, not just the dollar amount, but also what are the expected outcomes? There will be consistent contracts moving forward once CalAIM is fully implemented by 2023/2024.

- (Cmsr. Serwin) did she gather information from Mr. Leonicker? (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Dunn) Yes. Gerold and Dr. Tavano.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) Since this committee seems to be looking at gaps, it is tough when you don't even know what services are being offered. So until we get that information, and Jennifer is working on that for us? (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Dunn) What prompted her to put these summaries together for contracts after these first four were the gaps. She was looking on screen while speaking to the finance committee and said, 'Well, there's some information I see here.' I said we need that information and for whatever reason, she couldn't send it to us but did put together these summaries and they have been very helpful. I will ask her to do the same for these first four.
- (Cmsr. Serwin) That would be great. What we don't know is why, with 18 school districts, and we don't know why 10 have contracts and the other eight don't. We are not sure if that is because some of the school districts... all these school districts used to have services provided by BHS, and then school districts took back those services and started providing themselves. After that, some started to go back to BHS to provide them. Some of these school districts may still provide their own services and some may not and we wouldn't know how they are getting services. That is some thing we want to figure out. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Dunn) There was a contract that involves several schools out in East County. One is Pittsburg, one is Antioch. That was subsequent to these four. Mr. Leonicker, stated CCBHS is trying to expand its footprint out in East County, and is making slow and steady progress.
- (Cmsr. Griffin) I was going to add the other dimension of this, our Quality of Care side of this and what the Wellness in Schools Program (WISP) is doing, but it is coming up next.
- (Teresa Pasquini) I was going to just add some history. My son was diagnosed the 9th grade. Prior he had learning disabilities. He had an IEP in 9th grade. I wanted to draw attention to what Pamela Perls put into the chat box regarding the lawsuits against MDUSD for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504. That was something happening a lot back when my son was covered under AB3632 and that was the legislation that was used for the designation of special education diagnosis (SED) back then. It was prior to his mental illness diagnosis. There was a lot of tension always. I know Dr. Tavano is very knowledgeable on this, but the BHS Director at the time, Donna Wigand, there was always this tension with the counties not being reimbursed by the state and by the school districts. They are supposed to be reimbursed for services provided under AB3632. They were not being reimbursed. So they lobbied, AB3632 was repealed in some way, but there were some legislative changes that changed the dynamic around service provision for this population. I think it was basically put back to the school districts. The school districts are not mental health providers and they need to contract with Mental Health providers. This was the process county BHS Directors wanted to put in place so there would be systems set up so there would be reimbursements for these services they are providing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. May) The issue with a lot of these contracts is that these programs do not have enough staff. I have worked with many of these agencies. When we would go into the schools, it would be two of us staff. One school, in Pittsburg was for nothing but children with serious behavioral and mental health issues and it was a high school. It was just two of us and I was only an intern at the time. Most of the time she would leave so there was never two of us there at the same time. The school psychologist that is supposed to be on site five days a week was never there five days a week (lucky to see them once a week). That means, interns or associates, they are overburdened with the amount of people being treated. Secondly, they are so low on pay (approximately \$21/hr.), and working with the whole school, plus mandatory 'Pro Act' training to go out to assist in breaking up fights on campus. There is a problem with these schools not ensuring each school has AMFTs or LMFTs, there should be according to the number of students in the school (there should be at least three in a school of 800 students at all times). They also need mental health specialists. One problem is the schools get this funding but do not want to pay to bring the mental health staff in to working with the students. They don't want to pay and they will not put in the number of people they need. That is why we really need to do a deep dive. These numbers on these contracts (I looked at the contracts from 2006 and 2007 (when I started with MHC), the contracts we were reviewing were way more detailed than those we have today. We have gone backwards. It does not state how many people, the titles of the workers, and what their pay is. So, we really need more of a deep dive and hopefully Jennifer will be able to get that information. • (Cmsr. Swirsding) The child I spoke about earlier. He was in elementary school. He was in Pinole Elementary and they had no psychologist, or anyone to help dealing with his issues. That is why they transferred him to Fred Finch Center in El Sobrante. Here is the problem, all the kids there are from a large spectrum of ages and diagnosis. Here is this second grader, with most of his time spent in the principal's office for his safety, as the older kids were bullying him. I think this is a problem throughout all the county, especially for elementary school kids when they do have mental health issues and it is being demonstrated in the public schools. These schools don't have the resources like the high schools do. I do know the high schools have school psychologists, the problem is that the elementary school and the junior high schools do not. It seems the tendency (because they are on IEPs), by law, they have to provide behavioral health to but don't have the people there to take care of those kids with that problem. Even at Fred Finch, how can you have a whole range (large spectrum) of age and diagnosis, they are different in development and ability and maturity and understanding. This kid didn't now he had a mental health problem. So he was worked with differently. They need to work with these children individually. It is a really complicated problem now (especially with the defunding). These kids don't want to go to school, feeling they will be bullied, discriminated against, just not be treated right, even in the classroom by their teachers. • (Cmsr. Serwin) That is a real problem, too large of a spectrum in age and needs. They need to be approached and worked with differently. 	
<p>VIII. DISCUSS Site Visit Activity for April, 2022 – June 2022 Cmsr. Griffin (No new updates)</p>	

**IX. UPDATE on Behavioral Health Community Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)
Quality of Care Motion from July 6, 2022 MHC Meeting, Commissioner Barbara Serwin**

Update, for those of you who were not at that meeting, the motion was passed, but after a lengthy and somewhat emotional discussion about the motion with our BHS Director feeling/emphasizing that her department has been working diligently on the grants and has enough resources and feeling upset by, even that we had put forth this motion. Supervisor Andersen, while initially suggesting some improved language (or some softer language) withdrew the motion she put on the table to get the motion going. So the way it ended, that language was put into place to 'encourage' (rather than require) BHS to their nose to the grindstone and affirm they had the resources and to ensure they had the right resources. The motion and the vote approving the motion has been attached. The motion is ready to move forward, I drafted a letter right away to provide the context for the motion to send to the BOS and I asked Lauren Rettagliata and Teresa Pasquini for input to the letter due to their deep knowledge and history of the grants and housing needs and potential properties. I received feedback from them, getting more details on the grants and the likely impact for the seriously mentally ill. Also a paragraph about one of the properties they are looking at, which the county wants to sell or lease in East County that they are backing away from. I received feedback to press more on that. I will make the updates tomorrow and send the letter off tomorrow. It doesn't need to be reviewed by the commission but it will be included in the next meeting packet. I just wanted to let you know we are following up on the motion and getting it to the BOS.

Questions and Comments:

- (Pamela Perls) I just wanted to say, as an observer, I found it rather appalling that Dr. Tavano and Supervisor Andersen were so adamant about softening the language when this commission is responsible for significant oversight. I thought it was a bit heavy handed, given the freedom to provide information and to act as an advisory committee. (RESPONSE: Cmsr. Serwin) I would add to that, finally, at the end of the meeting I said, "Gosh NAMI has sent a letter and the commission is not going to?" The BOS had already received the letters from NAMI and other members of the public and yet they wanted to shut down the commission from (not only softening the language) but even passing the motion. I, too, was appalled. But we carried forth and will follow up.

MOTION:

*"Toward the goal of capitalizing on an historic opportunity to build infrastructure essential to the delivery of mental health services in Contra Costa County, the Mental Health Commission advises the Board of Supervisors to ~~require~~ **encourage** Behavioral Health Services to **continue to apply** for all relevant Behavioral Health Community Infrastructure Program and Community Care Expansion grants, that Behavioral Health Services meet the deadlines for the grant applications, and that all necessary resources are made available to and employed by Behavioral Health Services to write the most competitive grants possible."*

Cmsr. B. Serwin moved to approve the Motion. Seconded by Cmsr. L. May.

- Vote: 4-0-0

Ayes: B. Serwin (Chair), L. Griffin, L. May, and G. Swirsding.

Abstain: none	
<p>X. REPORT on BHCIP July 15, 2022 Stakeholder Meeting, Commissioner Laura Griffin</p> <p>(Cmsr. Griffin) We have basically covered a lot of this information already. The steering committee gave an update on where they were. They are at Round 4, due at the end of the month (August 31). There are four properties in mind but have asked us to keep them confidential at the moment. There will be another steering committee meeting later next month with updates.</p> <p>Questions and Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Teresa Pasquini) The only thing I would like to share is that I got a little angry the last MHC meeting, a little emotional. It was a very positive steering committee meeting and there was some very good information that came out and, I am actually unapologetically am going to keep pushing. I think it is absolutely critical we do so. I don't like to lose my cool and get into 'blame and shame' but I think we need to push because there are competing interests all over this county and, so just very quickly, I sent an email (I copied in Cmsr. Serwin and Griffin), to Dr. Tavano and maybe Robert (Chambers) regarding the county general plan update, as well as the housing element part of it. <p>I don't know enough about it but there are meetings taking place in that regard. We should all find out about those. I did not get a response back to my request. That is a follow up for us all. I joined the Measure X committee last night and made a public comment regarding the BHCIP assessment and to make them aware of it. I received an email for the former co-chair of that committee wants to talk to me on Monday and I will be speaking to her on Monday. There was mention of a housing task force and, so, if there is such a thing, I would love the commission to know about it so we can be aware. Where is the housing task force happening in the county?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Lauren Rettagliata) All of you should read the Grand Jury Report from Alameda County. Remember how we were told by Suzanne Tavano that she had written letters of support for Alameda County. Well, Alameda County's supervisors have now come out and made statements that they want to keep all the placements available in Alameda County for Alameda County residents. So, we have to be very smart and savvy on Round 5 and Round 6 because there have been identified properties. I am currently sending emails out to everyone saying, 'do you have an interest in this Round 5 and Round 6 with us?' To make sure that some entities that BHS staff may not be interfacing with, such as Mercy Housing and other interests are, knowing there are properties that could possibly be developed in our county. I'm sorry we didn't get anything in Round 4, that was for our youth. Unless there is something miraculously materializing in the next few days, that is with great disappointment that I say that. I need to keep focused on serious mental illness for adults. I don't have the bandwidth to also do so for the children. It is going to take everyone in this meeting to make things happen. I know they got upset that we sent so many letters, but I think we saw them really start moving also. So I appreciate everyone who sent communications to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and are continuing to put pressure on their supervisors that this is something we cannot let pass. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cmsr. Serwin) Are you saying Alameda County will not participate in a partnership? (RESPONSE: Lauren Rettagliata) That is something I don't have enough expertise to answer right now and will defer to Teresa. • (Teresa Pasquini) It is regarding the adult beds for (drawing a blank on the hospital). They are going to start keeping for their own county members. We will not have access to Villa Fairmont (I think is one of them, and others). We will be losing access to those beds. • (Cmsr. Serwin) Orin Allen Rehabilitation Center was brought up during this meeting and I don't recall if we were asked not to speak about that in public if the stake holders were asked not to speak about it. I thought was an interesting discussion as well. • (Teresa Pasquini) I don't remember but are advocating behind the scenes on that. (Interrupted by Lauren Rettagliata) ...still negotiating, are not supposed to speak on certain properties. • (Cmsr. Dunn) Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) just a day or two ago came out with the fact that they are going to have a Round 5 listening session on August 4th and I will be forwarding that information to Ms. Beck to forward out to all of the commissioners. I signed up for that meeting. • (Cmsr. Swirsding) Older Adult, we were supposed to be allocated \$1M from Measure X funds. Have we heard anything about that? Teresa, when you went to that meeting, did you hear anything about that? • (Teresa Pasquini) there is a lot of money for older adults that were allotted for the original Measure X recommendations and I don't have an update on that. 	
<p>XI. Adjourned at 5:10 pm.</p>	