



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS)
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)
June 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:03 p.m. and called to order by Jack Waldorf, Chair, George Retana, President of Veterans in Action, Inc., led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Bolton, Patricia Davis, Peter Dean, Olivia Esquivel Gonzalez, Daljit Grewal, Jack Griffith, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Gloria Vallin, Jack Waldorf

STAFF PRESENT

Tony Vartan, Cynthia Bocage, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Kym Barber, Pathana Luangath, Roberto Gonzalez, Brian MacLaren, Crystal Retana, George Retana, Ezra Griffin, Shantel Johnson, Sandy Martinez

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Daljit Grewal made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of April 25, 2024, Jack Griffith seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

None reported.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

None reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Jack Waldorf reported the committee finalized the agenda for the June 27, 2024, board meeting. The committee agreed to have a presentation from George Retana, President of Veterans in Action, Inc. Members approved Christopher Costin's request to extend leave of absence through the remainder of the 2024 calendar year. Also, members interviewed candidate for BHB membership and agreed to recommend appointment to the Board of Supervisors.

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Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None reported.

Hospitalization Committee

None reported.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Margie Johnson reported Jeff Mason with Center for Human Services (CHS) provided a presentation with an overview of the services offered at CHS.

PRESENTATION: Veterans In Action, Inc.

George Retana, President of Veterans In Action, Inc. provided a PowerPoint presentation focusing on how community support impacts veterans and their families transitioning from military to civilian life. Veterans encounter tangible difficulties when reintegrating to civilian life, affecting their mental, emotional, physical, and financial well-being. A copy of the PowerPoint was distributed to the members.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Tony Vartan, BHRS Director, reported the following highlights:

- Tony expressed gratitude to George Retana for his presentation and extended appreciation to all military veterans for their service, emphasizing the need to enhance services and outreach efforts for veterans to connect prior to discharge from the military.
- BHRS proposed budget involves expanding services and hiring additional staff.
- On June 25, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved BHRS contract renewals see: [Board Agenda Item 5](#).
- CARE Act data was reported.
- The 24/7 Mobile Crisis Unit is performing effectively.
- BHRS continues to move forward with SB43 implementation efforts.
- Behavioral Health Bridge project, in partnership with the City of Modesto, is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jack Griffith in conjunction with the Veterans Mental Health and Homelessness Board and Representative Chance Condit's office, aim to alternate their quarterly meeting among outlining cities of Stanislaus County to be closer to the population disconnected from care and bring diverse help.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be July 25, 2024, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd. Ste.15, Modesto, CA, 95357.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III