



**TULARE COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
5957 S. Mooney Boulevard  
Visalia, California 93277-9394  
559-624-7445

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**TULARE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AGENDA**

**Date and Time: December 1, 2020**

**Board Convenes at 3:00 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom Meeting ID: 949 1062 2895**

**Passcode: 837612**

**Online:** <https://tularecounty-ca.zoom.us/j/94910622895?pwd=eGwwZTVYSklrbncxU3dncEVETXduQT09>

**Over the Phone: (669) 900-9128**

I. Call to order 3:00 p.m.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC  
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Tulare County Mental Health Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for the Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. At all times, please state your name and address for the record.

II. Public Comment 3:00 - 3:05 p.m.

III. Action Items 3:05 - 3:15 p.m.

- a. Action Item to approve October 6, 2020 Mental Health Board minutes
- b. Nomination of the 2021 Executive Committee members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two At-Large
- c. Election of the 2021 Executive Committee members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two At-Large

IV. Mental Health Board Business 3:15 - 3:25 p.m.  
a. 2021 Mental Health Board Presentations

V. Presentation / Reports / Discussion Items 3:25 - 4:00 p.m.  
a. MHSA Community Program Planning Process for upcoming 3-Year Plan  
Michele Cruz, MHSA Manager, Mental Health Department  
b. Supervisor Shuklian Report 4:00 - 4:05 p.m.  
c. Director of Mental Health Report 4:05 - 4:15 p.m.  
d. Executive Committee Secretary Report 4:15 - 4:20 p.m.  
Packet enclosures  
e. Mental Health Board Members' Reports (committee(s) and individual activities) 4:20 - 4:25 p.m.

VI. Future agenda items for next meeting and adjournment. 4:25 - 4:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: January 5, 2021 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

**REMINDER: Meeting room must be vacated by 5:00 p.m. so the building can be locked.**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Elodia Burlingame at 624-7462.

Public documents related to the items on this agenda may be reviewed online at [www.tchhsa.org/mhb](http://www.tchhsa.org/mhb).

Mental Health Board membership applications are available at:  
<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkoftheboard/index.cfm/board-commissions-and-committee/>.

**Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency**  
**October 6, 2020**

<b>Committee Name:</b>	<b>Tulare County Mental Health Board</b>	Starting Time: 3:00 p.m.	Ending Time: 4:33 p.m.
<b>Place:</b>	Professional Development Center 4031 West Noble Avenue, Visalia, California 93277		
<b>Members Present:</b>	George Allen; Sandra Juarez, MSN; C. J. Long; Christopher Smith; Bruce Nicotero; Erin Brooks; Chief Jason Salazar; Veronica Clifton; Supervisor Amy Shuklian (District Three, Ex-Officio).		
<b>Members EXCUSED:</b>	Lynn Martin Del Campo; Gail Jones, Dale Asman, Michele Eaton.		
<b>HHSA Staff Present:</b>	Donna Ortiz, Director of Mental Health; Lester Love, M.D., Mental Health Medical Director; Natalie Bolin, Deputy Director, Clinical Services; Dayna Wild, Division Manager, Managed Care; Michele Cruz, MHSA Manager; Casie Ennis, LMFT, Clinic Administrator; Diane J. Fisher, Department Secretary; Elodia Burlingame, Staff Services Analyst; Cory Silva, Administrative Specialist; Diane Higginbotham, Administrative Specialist; Craig Wondergem, Administrative Specialist; Noah Whitaker, Outreach Services Manager; Angela Sahagun, Unit Manager; Jamie Sharma, Unit Manager (K/T-AAA).		
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Kings View – Angela Garcia, LMFT, Clinic Manager; Artie Gonzales. Turning Point – Michael Gates, Program Director. Societas, Inc. – Sander Valyocsik, MA, Program Evaluator. Kaweah Delta Residency Program – Mandeep Bagga, MD, Program Director; Ruchika Sanai, MPH, FASAM; Laura Armendariz, Intern Community Members – Therese Woodmansee; Darlene Prettyman, RN.		

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	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Scheduled Actions/ Recommendations</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Members were reminded of the following: If there is a conflict of interest, Members must abstain from any discussion or voting. Action Items will be considered approved when half plus one of the members who are <u>present and voting</u> vote yes (when there is a quorum).	N/A	Chair Nicotero
<b>II. Public Comment</b>	Mr. Noah Whitaker announced that the Suicide Prevention Task Force – at the next meeting there is a request to focus on the 2-3 years on adverse childhood experiences and social/emotional wellness. Ms. Prettyman announced the death of Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan on September 28, 2020. He was a graduate of Fresno State and a strong advocate of mental health.	N/A	Chair Nicotero

<b>III.Action Items</b>			
<b>a.Action Item to approve September 1, 2020 Mental Health Board Minutes</b>	Chief Salazar moved to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes; seconded by Ms. Long. Motion approved. AYES: 8 (Allen, Brooks, Clifton, Juarez, Long, Salazar, Smith, Nicotero) NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 ABSENT: 4 (Asman, Jones, Martin Del Campo, Eaton)	N/A	Chair Nicotero
<b>b.Consider application for continued membership from Sandra Juarez for Family Seat #11</b>	Ms. Juarez excused herself during the conversation while the Board discussed her continued membership. Ms. Long moved to approved this application; seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion approved. AYES: 7 (Allen, Brooks, Clifton, Long, Salazar, Smith, Nicotero) NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 ABSENT: 4 (Asman, Jones, Martin Del Campo, Eaton)	Recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.	Chair Nicotero
<b>c. Consider application for continued membership from C.J. Long for Family Seat #12</b>	Ms. Long excused herself during the conversation while the Board discussed her continued membership. Chief Salazar moved to approved this application; seconded by Ms. Brooks. Motion approved. AYES: 7 (Allen, Brooks, Clifton, Salazar, Juarez, Smith, Nicotero) NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 ABSENT: 4 (Asman, Jones, Martin Del Campo, Eaton)	Recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.	Chair Nicotero
<b>d.Consider application for continued membership from Christopher Smith for Consumer Seat #14</b>	Mr. Smith excused himself during the conversation while the Board discussed his continued membership. Ms. Long moved to approved this application; seconded by Chief Salazar. Motion approved. AYES: 7 (Allen, Brooks, Clifton, Salazar, Juarez, Long, Nicotero) NOES: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 ABSENT: 4 (Asman, Jones, Martin Del Campo, Eaton)	Recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.	Chair Nicotero
<b>IV.Presentations / Reports/ Discussion Items</b>			
<b>a. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – Dr. Lester Love, Mental Health Medical Director</b>	Mandeep Bagga, MD, Program Director for the Kaweah Delta psychiatry Residency Program, stated he has been working together with Dr. Love to add physician-directed Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to the addiction services currently offered by the Visalia Recovery Center. Also, the partnership is being developed to help provide needed addiction medicine training to the psychiatry and possibly family practice residents — thereby enhancing and expanding current and future services to the community.  Dr. Bagga introduced Dr. Sanai who is a Board Certified Addictionologist who has agreed to see clients and provide supervision to the residents during their addiction rotation.	N/A	Dr. Love/ Dr. Bagga/ Dr. Sanai

	<p>Dr. Sanai introduced herself and described Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). She shared a brief history regarding the evolution of how addiction transitioned into a medical condition which would eventually be considered for treatment.</p> <p>She also explained the differences between several categories of illicit drugs and the medications used to treat addiction to those drugs. She then briefly covered how some of these drugs can be detected in drug/toxicology screens.</p> <p>She also explained the difference between addiction and dependence.</p> <p>Another topic being discussed was the concurrent misuse of different categories of drugs and some of the things treatment centers need to consider when they come across these cases.</p> <p>Statistical information was covered regarding the morbidity and mortality associated with the various categories of illicit drugs.</p> <p>Dr. Sanai spoke about how different locations have more difficulty obtaining treatment depending on the availability of services in their geographical location. She spoke about pregnant patients who misuse drugs, appropriate pain management treatment for patients with substance use disorders, and the need for medical, in addition to, social detox services.</p> <p>Dr. Sanai addressed questions from Mental Health Board members and was thanked for her presentation today.</p>		
<b>b. Supervisor Shuklian Report</b>	<p>Supervisor Shuklian stated that the Mental Health Plan was approved at the Board of Supervisor meeting. Regarding COVID-19, Tulare County is still in the purple tier. Today a new metric (Health Equity Metric) was added by the State Governor which identifies disadvantaged communities. Supervisor Shuklian stated that Tulare County continues to develop programs to help assist in meeting the metrics. The Board of Supervisors announced that they passed a Resolution regarding these State metrics which seem to change often.</p>	N/A	Supervisor Shuklian
<b>c. Director of Mental Health Report</b>	<p>Ms. Ortiz added to the COVID-19 information. Diane Fisher will send a list of the County COVID-19 testing sites; everyone is encouraged to be tested. In the month of September, there has been a 3-time increase in the number of cases of mental health children put on a crisis hold compared to August. As a Mental Health Plan including the mental health providers, we are continuously looking for ways to decrease this number. There is focus on how to engage the youth and families who are feeling isolated due to a lack of involvement in school. Tulare County has a bi-weekly meeting with all providers in conjunction with the Children's System Improvement Committee, as well as a monthly meeting regarding the mental health adult population. These are being held to unify and strengthen our efforts with these ongoing concerns. Mental health information has been distributed to the local schools, and Tulare County Office of Education triage social workers are going into the homes of the high-risk families so the children continue to be seen. Information via social media has been increased, but it is also being sent via the Care</p>	N/A	Ms. Ortiz

	Coordination Coalition so those without access to social media can receive it. Ms. Ortiz shared the legislation information regarding Laura's Law, which the Governor signed. This can be tailored to the individual community's needs. Tulare County Court is very interested in exploring how it can be implemented. The Peer Specialist Certification has passed. This will benefit the mentally ill, the homeless, those with substance abuse disorders, those who live in poverty, etc., because these communities have peers to relate to. Ms. Ortiz will also continue to provide updates regarding SB855 regarding all health plans providing coverage for substance use disorders. Ms. Ortiz was thanked for her report.		
<b>d. Executive Committee Secretary Report &amp; Packet Enclosures</b>	<p>Mr. Nicotero stated that the Mental Health Board Executive Committee discussed that, being that there was no Retreat in 2020, Mr. Nicotero is asking for an ad hoc committee to discuss themes (in collaboration with staff) for the coming year during the Mental Health Board meetings. Ms. Brooks, Ms. Long, and Mr. Allen stated they would like to be part of this.</p> <p>Mr. Nicotero stated that he received the Data Notebook from the California Mental Health Planning Council. It will be compiled in a different way this year (via Survey Monkey), and is due by November 30, 2020. Board Members will be kept informed. Ms. Prettyman stated that, as a member of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Data Notebook is a very important statistical project.</p>	N/A	Chair Nicotero
<b>e. Mental Health Board Members' Reports (Committees + Individual Activities)</b>	<p>Mr. Allen spoke of an article he enjoyed in the NAMI Newsletter. He will send the reference so it can be sent to all members.</p> <p>Ms. Clifton stated that the Wellness Centers are still open and providing support over the phone. Social distancing is in place. Attendance in anxiety and depression groups have increased. Wellness Center membership is almost 800.</p> <p>Mr. Smith reported that youth are having on line school and continue to stay safe.</p> <p>Mr. Nicotero enjoyed participated in the EQRO Review. He also gave an update of NAMI activity via social media.</p>	N/A	Board Members
<b>VI. Future agenda items/adjournment</b>	<p>MHSA Upcoming 3-Year Plan</p> <p>Information regarding Autism (Dr. Bagga can provide a speaker if needed)</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.</p>		Chair Nicotero
<b>Minutes Written By:</b>	N/A	N/A	Diane J. Fisher
<b>MINUTES READ/APPROVED BY: BRUCE NICOTERO, CHAIR</b>			
<b>NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2020 via ZOOM (3:00-4:30 p.m.)</b>			