

MENDOCINO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

July 18, 2017

This summary is in response to concern about the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's (BHAB) annual report that is generally received by the board of Supervisors in April. I promised a summary in June, with the annual report to be submitted in September. June was very busy with budget issues, so I am presenting this information today.

Created a vision

I began service as Chairman in January. That month we had a special brainstorming session to create a vision of what "quality mental health care" should look like in Mendocino County. From this exercise, the board established committees to focus members' energies. They were:

- Housing
- Site visits
- Crisis
- "User-friendly" budget

These committees have been meeting regularly and their work shall be published in the annual report.

Collaborative Associations

In conjunction with their committee work, some members have attended like-minded groups. They participate in the Healthy Mendocino CHIP committees for Mental Health and Housing. Some members have attended meetings of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHBC). Also, state meetings of the *No Place Like Home* Advisory Board and MHSO Oversight & Accountability Committee have been attended. Reporting back from participating in these meetings broadens our Board's knowledge and understanding of mental health issues. In addition, we often hear the first-hand life experiences of people suffering from mental illness. These stories of friends and family are what keep us engaged in this challenging work.

Advising

One of our primary jobs, as stated in the Mental Health Services Act, is to advise your board on issues and concerns regarding mental health in our county. We have attempted this in several ways:

- We held a special meeting to review the Kemper Report last year and offered our suggestions.
- Some of us hold monthly meetings with our appointing Supervisor.
- We have submitted letters of support for the County Innovation Plan and the grant application for the jail addition.
- We are providing input to the current ballot initiative *The Mendocino County Mental Health Treatment Act*.

Membership

Our meetings are held all over the county. Finding volunteers with the time and resources to attend our meetings and work on committees is challenging. Many of our members are retired and aging. We lost several people this year because of health issues. However, all vacancies but one have been filled, and we will be planning easier accessibility for the future.

Thanks you for your time. Are there any questions?