



CONTRA COSTA
MENTAL HEALTH
COMMISSION

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**Mental Health Commission
Justice Systems Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 28th, 2022, 1:30-3:00 PM**

Via: Zoom Teleconference:

<https://zoom.us/j/5437776481>

Meeting number: 543 777 6481

Join by phone:

1 669 900 6833 US

Access code: 543 777 6481

AGENDA

- I. Call to order/Introductions**
- II. Public comments**
- III. Commissioner comments**
- IV. Chair comments**
- V. APPROVE minutes from the April 26th, 2022 Justice Systems Committee meeting**
- VI. REVIEW/DISCUSS letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the motion for a State-level Director of Conservatorship**
- VII. REVIEW Conservatorship concerns and DISCUSS issues that need to be addressed (see ‘talking points’ attached)**
- VIII. DISCUSS What use of data can we agree upon now that Detention Health has agreed to collect “some data” on Mental Health Diagnosis in the Detention Center (see email attached)**
- IX. DISCUSS Temporary Conservatorships as highlighted in the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF) Tour (see ‘talking points’ attached)**

(Continued on Page Two)



The Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them on all matters related to the county's mental health system, in accordance with mandates set forth in the California State Welfare & Institutions Code, Sections 5604 (a)(1)-5605.5. Any comments or recommendations made by the Mental Health Commission or its individual members do not represent the official position of the county or any of its officers. The Commission is pleased to make special accommodations, if needed, please call ahead at (925) 313-9553 to arrange.

X. DISCUSS Status of the Juvenile Detention Center

XI. Adjourn

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Talking points**
- B. Email Response from Lavonna Martin dated June 8, 2022**

Justice Committee Meeting
Tuesday June 28, 2022
Agenda Talking Points

Agenda Item VI

Commissioner Barbara Serwin's letter to the Board of Supervisors in light of Suzanne Tavano stating to Jen Qualick (that our Motion is not helpful to appoint a Director of Conservatorship). Review letter from Commissioner Serwin.

Agenda Item VII

What happens when a Conservatorship fails?

- Is there a check-up after the first week, then the first month and then every quarter for the first year?
- What happens if it is obvious that support was removed too soon?
- Allowing the person to have to completely re-enter the process puts the person in very dangerous situations.
- What is the "Stepdown Process" when released from Conservatorship?
- Where does a family go for advice on Conservatorships?
- Can we find a way to fund the office of the Public Guardian? It's an unfunded mandate. How do we fund it?

Having a "Stepdown Process" that enables the safeguards of Conservatorship to be re-established quickly will enable someone who has been conserved to quickly re-enter secured treatment.

Agenda Item VIII.

What use of data can we agree upon now that Detention Health has agreed to collect "some data on Mental Health Diagnosis in the Detention Center

Agenda Item IX

Commissioner Douglas Dunn's topics:

For persons who were on Conservatorships (T-con or 1-yr. Renewable) and were not doing well and there was no other civil locked facility place temporarily for them, MDF was increasingly being used as the "easy button" to location to take and receive such persons, especially for the F and M wards This was according to Lt. Betram of MDF). This at least partially speaks to the 2,000+ Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) persons "logjam" for beds at CCBHS contracted state hospitals. This also directly speaks to the BHCIP need for a 100 bed multi-level in-county locked Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) for both returning:

- Criminal justice LPS Murphy Conservatees (5-7), Misdemeanor IST (MIST--22) and Felony IST (FIST--60+) persons.
- Civil law "Gravely Disabled" persons on 1-yr renewable conservatorships currently at Napa State and Metropolitan State Hospitals (at least 20 persons) plus the other 100-130 Civil law T-Con and 1-year Renewable Conservatees currently in out-of-county contracted facilities.

Agenda Item X.

What is the status of the Juvenile Detention center? Steve Blum, the new head of Juvenile Detention, has been invited to next month's meeting.

RE: Letter to those who care about Behavioral Health in our County Jail System

Lavonna Martin <Lavonna.Martin@cchealth.org>

Wed 6/8/2022 3:49 PM

To: Geri Stern <geristern@gmail.com>

Cc: Rajiv Pramanik <Rajiv.Pramanik@cchealth.org>; Suzanne K. Tavano <Suzanne.Tavano@cchealth.org>; Anna Roth <Anna.Roth@cchealth.org>; lesile May <may.leslie@ymail.com>; douglasdunn1@outlook.com <douglasdunn1@outlook.com>; Joe Metro <jmetro3@icloud.com>; Yanelit Madriz Zarate <yanelitnz@berkeley.edu>; Gina Swirsding <gdm2win@me.com>; Laura Griffin <nynylag@att.net>; Angela Beck <Angela.Beck@cchealth.org>; David Seidner <David.Seidner@cchealth.org>; jen.quallick@bos.cccounty.us <jen.quallick@bos.cccounty.us>; Candace Andersen <candace.andersen@bos.cccounty.us>; John Gioia <john.gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Diane Burgis <supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us>; Jill Ray <jill.ray@bos.cccounty.us>; tcpasquini@gmail.com <tcpasquini@gmail.com>; Lauren Rettagliata <rettagliata@gmail.com>

Good afternoon, Commissioner Stern.

Thank you for your email. Contra Costa Health shares the Commission's desire to ensure incarcerated individuals with behavioral health issues receive the care, treatment, and community support they need prior, during, and after they leave our detention facilities. We will review your requests for information and determine whether there is information we can provide in response, consistent with our legal obligations and technological capabilities.

Warmest regards,

Anna Roth, RN, MS, MPH
Health Director

Suzanne Tavano, PhD
Behavioral Health Director

Lavonna Martin, MPH, MPA
Deputy Director

Lavonna Martin, MPH, MPA
Deputy Director
Contra Costa Health Services
(925) 957-2671
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From: Geri Stern <geristern@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:43 PM

CC: Rajiv Pramanik <Rajiv.Pramanik@cchealth.org>; Lavonna Martin <Lavonna.Martin@cchealth.org>; Suzanne K. Tavano <Suzanne.Tavano@cchealth.org>; Anna Roth <Anna.Roth@cchealth.org>; lesile May <may.leslie@ymail.com>; douglasdunn1@outlook.com; Joe Metro <jmetro3@icloud.com>; Yanelit Madriz Zarate <yanelitnz@berkeley.edu>; Gina Swirsding <gdm2win@me.com>; Laura Griffin <nynylag@att.net>; Angela Beck <Angela.Beck@cchealth.org>; David Seidner <David.Seidner@cchealth.org>; jen.quallick@bos.cccounty.us; Candace Andersen <candace.andersen@bos.cccounty.us>; John Gioia <john.gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Diane Burgis <supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us>; Jill Ray <jill.ray@bos.cccounty.us>; tcpasquini@gmail.com; Lauren Re agliata <re agliata@gmail.com>

Subject: Letter to those who care about Behavioral Health in our County Jail System

Dear Fellow Commissioners, Supervisors and Supervisor Staff, and Other Colleagues Who Are Concerned With Individuals Involved With the Justice System That Have a Mental Health and/or Substance-Abuse Diagnosis:

I'm writing as Chair of the Justice Committee of the Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission regarding the collection of psychiatric/substance abuse diagnosis data from inmates at the West County and Martinez Detention facilities.

I have exchanged several emails with Rajiv Pramanik, in the IT Department of CC Health, regarding the collection of this data. Dr. Pramanik is not inclined to give an opinion on how to obtain the data without the inclusion of the Director of Detention Health. Therefore, I am including members of the Mental Health Commission and my Supervisor, to make a case for why this information is needed.

A couple of weeks ago, a group of Mental Health Commissioners and Board of Supervisors' staff visited the Martinez Detention Facility. We asked questions about the psychiatric evaluation process at intake, including the question of whether diagnoses are tracked. A Board of Supervisors staff member stated that this information is in the "electronic record". This was very surprising and exciting to hear.

For over two and a half years, the Justice Committee has been requesting that someone collect the diagnoses of those who are being admitted to the county jails and placed in the Behavioral Health modules. We want to know what types of psychological issues are driving people to either commit crimes or decide to commit a crime to get shelter or treatment.

Unfortunately, my Committee has been given many reasons why Detention Health cannot accommodate our request, including the catch-all reason of privacy issues. Now we know the data exists and we know that it is documented electronically. Since we are asking for data in aggregate, there are no privacy issues. **There should therefore be no legitimate reason why this data is not being provided.** Having other priorities is not a reason to deflect and ignore this request without being given a time when this information can be provided.

Diagnosis data is needed to obtain a clearer picture of what types of diagnoses are prevalent, which clients would have perhaps avoided ending up in jail if they had been Conserved or received appropriate treatment, and the bigger picture, of how we can better serve our citizens outside of the jail system. Without data, we have *nothing* to go on except hear-say and circumstantial evidence of the types of diagnoses that are most prevalent.

We are all aware that the office of the Public Guardian is an unfunded mandate, that there is not enough housing, and there is a substantial lack of in-patient psychiatric beds in our community and in the State. While these issues are being addressed with new funding, we still don't have any data on where this money could be better focused.

There seems to be a plan to build more housing, and create more treatment centers, but we don't know where the money should be directed because *we don't have the data*. If for instance, it is discovered that many of these individuals should have been Conserved prior to being incarcerated, *then we have a stronger case for directing more resources to the Office of the Public Guardian*.

With actual data, we can bring to our legislators concrete information on how to better address these issues rather than defaulting to building more treatment modules inside the jails. If we are ever to begin to fix our overwhelmed Mental Health system, we need to have the data that shows what are the most common causes of individuals landing in jail in the first place.

I am proposing a Zoom or Town Hall meeting to reach an agreement on our way forward leading to the collection and analysis of this critical data. With the resulting information in hand, we can build a road map that explores more deeply why and how individuals with a mental illness and/or substance abuse problem are entering the jail system, where they are coming from, and where and when they need treatment. Ultimately, it will inform more effective approaches to reducing entry into the Justice System and reducing recidivism.

Thank you and sincere regards,

Geri Stern

Chair, Justice Committee

Commissioner, District 1

Contra Costa Mental Health Commission