

**Imperial County Mental Health Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2021**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Benny Benavidez called to order the regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board at 12:06 p.m. on October 19, 2021. The meeting held via zoom and in-person. **There was a quorum.**

**Roll Call:**

Present In-Person	Present via Zoom	Absent
Benny Benavidez Harold Walk Nancy Rhodes Pamela Mills-Morita	Carlos Acuna Hortencia Armendariz Kurt Leptich Nicole Castaneda	Raul Urena Supervisor Ray Castillo

Staff/Guest: Leticia Plancarte-Garcia, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Maria Ruiz, Deputy Director of MHTU, Nancy Del Real, Deputy Director of Administration, Brenda Sanchez, Deputy Director of Youth & Young Adults; Jose Lepe, Deputy Director of Children Services; Patty Larranaga, Administrative Analyst; Marcy Sesma, Administrative Services Supervisor

**II. CHAIR/ BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Chair Benavidez provided report/update on:

- CALBHB/C Teleconference Training, October 8: Chair Benavidez and board member Hortencia Armendariz attended virtually. This training is an overview of the role and duties of advisory boards. The next meeting is October 22, 2021. The meeting will feature updates and presentations from the CALBHB/C and the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council. Chair Benavidez reminded board members to review the CALBHB/C Issue Briefs for information on meetings and updates to the Brown Act.
- Annual Report: Chair Benavidez thanked Harold Walk for his feedback and assistance with finalizing the report with ICBHS staff. The report is scheduled for November 2, 2021 Board of Supervisor meeting.
- Hortencia Armendariz- congratulated ICBHS on World Mental Health Day Summit. She thanked ICBHS for the invitation to attend the ICBHS staff meeting on October 6.

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Harold Walk to approve the minutes from 09/21/21. Nancy Rhodes second the motion. Motion made and passed by majority roll call vote:

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
1. Benny Benavidez	X		
2. Carlos Acuna	X		
3. Harold Walk	X		
4. Hortencia Armendariz	X		
5. Kurt Leptich	X		
6. Nancy Rhodes	X		
7. Nicole Castaneda	X		
8. Pamela Mills-Morita	X		

- **Resolution to Adopt Remote Teleconference Meetings:** Motion made by Harold Walk to adopt resolution to continue the option of remote teleconference meetings. Nancy Rhodes second the motion. Motion made and passed by the following roll call vote:

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
1. Benny Benavidez	X		
2. Carlos Acuna	X		
3. Harold Walk	X		
4. Hortencia Armendariz	X		
5. Kurt Leptich	X		
6. Nancy Rhodes	X		
7. Nicole Castaneda	X		
8. Pamela Mills-Morita	X		

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT : NONE**

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Crisis Co-Response Team (CCRT):** Maria Ruiz, Deputy Director provided the update. For the month of July, August and September, the CCRT received 63 calls. The majority of the calls are from the Sheriff’s Department. El Centro Police Department placed 24 calls; Brawley Police Department placed 1; Calexico Police Department placed 2; Imperial Police Department placed 6; Westmoreland placed 1 call; and the Imperial County Sheriff’s Department placed 29 calls. The average response time to calls is 24-30 minutes. For the three-month period, there were 118 cases. The CCRT placed 8 individuals on a 5150; law enforcement alone placed 79 individuals on a 5150. Leticia Plancarte-Garcia stated the Health Department is now assisting with medical clearance by providing COVID-19 testing. This helps with the medical clearance process. It also alleviates the staff/law enforcement and the individual’s time at the hospital. This started last month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Nomination Committee:** Harold Walk, Nancy Rhodes and Pamela Mills-Morita agreed to be on the nomination committee. They will meet on October 25 to discuss nomination of officers.

- **Data Notebook:** Committee to work on the notebook is Carlos Acuna, Harold Walk, Nicole Castaneda and Benny Benavidez. They will meet with ICBHS staff to review and answer questions.
- **Recognition:** Leticia Plancarte-Garcia acknowledged and presented Kurt Leptich and Pamela Mills-Morita with an appreciation plaque for their 11 years of service on the advisory board.
- **Directors Report:** Leticia Plancarte-Garcia, Director of Behavioral Health Services, and staff provided the following updates:
  - Grants: Maria Ruiz and Jessica Pineda worked on the SAMSHA grant for the Casa Serena program. This program will provide alternative services for involuntary holds. The program will be located on same floor as the triage unit and will have comfort rooms for individuals to deescalate. Casa Serena program will serve all ages. One room will be for children and one will be for adults. It will operate Monday – Friday from 7am to 7pm. The goal of this program is to reduce 5150's and educate the community. It is a two-year grant. Referrals will come from the community, law enforcement or outpatient clinics.
  - Crisis Care Mobile Unit: This unit is an expansion of the CCRT but it will have three different teams. One team will be for additional staff at CCRT, one is school-based, and the third team will respond to hospitals and clinics to deescalate individuals. Both grants are for individuals with a mental health and substance use disorder (co-occurring disorders).
  - World Mental Health Day Summit: Scott Dudley presented the video from WMHD that was October 8, 2021 at Imperial Valley College. The event was well attended both virtually and in-person. Next event is the Suicide Prevention Coalition in February 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 12:56p.m. The next meeting is at noon on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. The next meeting will be via zoom.