



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
 RECOVERY SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



MARIN COUNTY
 ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PROGRAMS
 February 7, 2022 @ 6:30 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98569851427?pwd=ZmRWKy9KeGF4cXRRUWFuL29tWkJPZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 6985 1427 / Passcode: 854745
 Dial by your location - 1 669 900 6833

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M-I-N-U-T-E-S

TIME	SUBJECT
6:30 PM	<p>Call to Order Call for AOD Quorum: Yes Present: Ruby Gibney, John Riley, Heather Johnson, Gail Dunnett, Suzanne Kanner, Tori Kropp, Tracy Novick Guests: Benita McLarin, Marianne Vernacchia, Renee Brewer, Mark Wilson, Mark Dale, Arjun Shah Absent: Staff: Jeï Africa, Cat Condon, Taffy Lavie</p>
6:31 PM	<p>Introductions: Introduce Board Members & New Candidates Arjun Shah is an applying to join the AOD</p>
6:35 PM	<p>Review of Agenda / Minutes: Approval of January 3, 2022 meeting Motion to approve- John Riley, Seconded by Tori Kropp, Approved.</p>
6:40 PM	<p>Open Public Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marianne Vernacchia, Marriage, Family Therapist, established Alcohol & Drug Programs and recently relocated from San Jose Mark Wilson, Division Director of Adult System of Care in Marin (worked in the counties of Yolo & Merced) & has participated in mergers of boards like BHRS and AOD.
6:45 PM	<p>BHRS Staff Report: Cat Condon, Division Director reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CaLAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) Initiatives focuses on new strategies for Stimulant Use Disorders. If Marin is awarded this pilot project it will begin in July 2022 and benefit the growing percentage of SUD that involve stimulants. Another focus of CaLAIM is improvement on operations, administrative integration of data exchange, payment reform, BH policy changes. Student Call to Action on Fentanyl- student presentation to School/ Law Enforcement Partnership Meeting. Recommendations included: Substance use curricula in all grades in high school, access to Fentanyl testing strips and Narcan training, Parent education on mental health and medications, funding for speakers. Powerful presentation by Redwood and Archie William High school students.
6:55 PM	<p>Presentation: Benita McLarin, Director of HHS presented her intention to evaluate this Advisory Board and make a recommendation to the BOS as to whether the AOD should be merged with Mental Health or continue as a separate advisory board on Alcohol and Drugs. The plan is to gather information this evening from the AOD board and then from the Mental Health board meeting (February 8th) to discuss this possible merger of Mental Health and the AOD boards.</p>

	<p>Ms McLarin cited 35 out of 58 California counties have recently merged Alcohol & addiction boards with mental health. She encouraged Marin County to participate in the trend of merging these services. She stated that merging would not end the commitment of HHS or BHRS to addressing Alcohol & Addiction issues. Merging has been discussed in previous years with the Marin AOD but always met with protest and voting no. Advisory boards apparently are to be evaluated every four years per the Board of Commissions Handbook and Ms McLarin is taking this on now.</p> <p>Board member, Tori Kropp, cited statistics that Marin County has the highest rate of teen drug use in California and that statistics like these don't support the ending of the AOD. Since the AOD is a committed citizen board, there is motivation to continue to fight this public health crisis. The work is not done. There are concerns for the 83% of population not insured by Medi-Cal, not disenfranchised, and not being helped by present services in Marin.</p> <p>There was discussion on the mission of the AOD, its purpose to provide expertise & consult the community on issues and solutions. Questions were directed to Renee Brewer, Assistant Legal Consultant for Marin County the on the process of this evaluation and the appeal process. Links were given to the AOD to consult the Board of Commissions Handbook on this process. The financial cost of the AOD to BHRS staff was raised but the monetary costs are minimal.</p> <p>The presentation concluded with Ms McLarin stating she would try to have a decision made by the end of February and thanked everyone for their feedback. Many of the AOD board members stated they did not support the merging of the AOD given the drug & alcohol crisis in Marin County.</p>
7:50 PM	<p>Committee Reports: Due to time limit reports postponed to March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHB liaison update – Heather Johnson • RX Safe Marin – Mark Dale • Legislative Update – • Membership Committee Reports • Announcements?
7:55 PM	<p>Additional Business/Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Item: Review, discuss and vote to submit amended By-Laws To be postponed until next AOD meeting in March • Action Item: AB361 – As long as the BOS considers us to be in a public health crisis – we will vote every 30 days (following the BOS) as to whether to meet virtually
8:00 PM	Adjournment
	<p>Next Executive Conference Call: <i>Wed. Feb. 23, 2022 @ 12:15 p.m.–</i> Conference Call- 415-473-3030/ Meeting Number: 7719# / Attendee: password 4154737719# / Host/Moderator: password 633863#</p>
	<p>Next AOD Board Meeting: Mon. March 7, 2022 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom</p>

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