



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
 March 7, 2022 @ 6:30 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

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



Benita McLarin, FACHE
 DIRECTOR

Jei Africa, Psy.D.
 DIVISION DIRECTOR

20 North San Pedro Road
 San Rafael, CA 94903
 415 473 6809 T
 415 473 7008 F
 415 473 3344 TTY
 marinhhs.org/bhrs

TIME	SUBJECT
6:30 PM	<p>Call to Order Call for AOD Quorum: Yes Present: Ruby Gibney, John Riley, Gail Dunnett, Tori Kropp. Guests: Benita McLarin, Wade Shannon, Renee Brewer, Michael Wilson, Mark Dale, Ruthanne Renz-Appell, Delores Dietz, Christine Murray, Theresa Comstock, Leslie Marks, Kate Sanford. The last three guests Arjun Shah, (waiting on board approval) Suzanne Kanner & Tracy Novick (are guests until re-approval of board membership) Staff: Jei Africa, Cat Condon, Taffy Lavié Absent: none</p>
6:31 PM	<p>Introductions: Brief introduction of all present. Minutes' approval and BHRS moved to later in the agenda after our guest, Wade Shannon (DEA) and Benita McLarin (HHS) speak.</p>
6:35 PM	<p>Review of Agenda / Approval of February 7, 2022 meeting Minutes - moved to end of meeting but due to time, not approved. Minutes to be reviewed at next meeting</p>
6:40 PM	<p>Presentation: Wade Shannon, DEA, Special Agent in charge of San Francisco Field Division and Northern California. Agent Shannon did an overview of focal points for the DEA on the 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican cartels greatest drug trafficking threat to US • Fentanyl primarily responsible for fueling ongoing opioid crisis- 100,000 overdoses during a 12-month period ending in 4/21 (CDC) • Meth, Cocaine continues to be readily available and used steadily • RXs like Oxycontin, Adderall, and Xanax are legal but continue to be the gateway drugs leading to addiction. RXSafe Marin is one of the groups attempting to get the public to discard their unused prescriptions • COVID presented challenges to criminal organizations & their movement of drugs but still cartels had a terrible impact on The U.S. public.

	<p>Agent Shannon reported that in September a public Safety Alert was made due to the drug overdose crisis (100,000 died) and this crisis is a clear and continuous present public safety, public health and national security threat. In September the campaign of-One Pill Can Kill was launched to inform the public that Fentanyl kills. There have been record quantities of Fentanyl seized by DEA in 2021, enough to kill every American. The public is not able to discern the differences in the counterfeit pills flooding the market.</p> <p>Anti- anxiety medications and pain medications are being cut with Fentanyl which is responsible for www.dea.gov/onepill.</p>
7:10 PM	<p>Benita McLarin, HHS Director, presented her decision and recommendation to the AOD on the plan to merge the AOD with Mental Health Board in August of 2021. Ms. McLarin acknowledged the challenges and the service of the AOD Board.</p>
	<p>She cited the reasons to recommend the merger as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 out of 58 counties of California have elected to merge their AOD with Mental Health Board. Marin county will join in this direction. Steve Kaplan from San Mateo and Judy Schutzman (Humboldt County) spoke about the success of the mergers as participants in the process. Though Mr Caplan the merger takes some time. • Centralizing mental health and addiction on the same board since there is overlap between addiction & mental health. Citing the trend of comorbidities in their BHRS client population, Ms. McLarin believes the primary role of the AOD Board and the Mental Health Board is to focus on the populations primarily served by their agencies and programs. <p>There were many questions and concerns raised by Board members of this planned merger. Questions about the appeal process, defining the constituents we are to serve in Marin county and that includes those citizens <u>who are not under direct care by BHRS</u>, 83% Marin county is considered one of the healthiest counties but compared to other counties, we have higher rates of adult binge drinking, drunk driving deaths, and drug overdose rates. The death of teens continues to rise in Marin. There was a general consensus by the board to dispute the merger with appeals to BOS, County Administrator and the public. Ms. McLarin plans to present her decision to the Mental Health Board tomorrow night, March 8, 2022</p>
7:55 PM	<p>BHRS Staff Reports & Committee Reports were postponed until next meeting as previous business and guests used most of the time of today's meeting.</p>

8:00 PM	Adjournment
	Next Executive Conference Call: Mon. March 21,2022 @ 12:15 p.m.– Conference Call- 415-473-3030/ Meeting Number: 7719# / Host/Moderator: password 633863# / Attendee: password 4154737719#
	Next AOD Board Meeting: Mon. April 4, 2022 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom

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