Executive Summary

Napa County’s Mental Health Board (MHB) has a dedicated, engaged, and diverse membership that understands recognizes that mental illness is a medical condition that affects a significant component of our citizens and works to support the provision of effective mental health services, programs, and facilities in our county. Advocating for effective access to treatment and other supportive services, including housing and employment, for people experiencing mental health issues is among our chief concerns.

Key Concerns and Recommendations:

1) **Housing**: The Mental Health Board continues to urge expanded temporary and permanent supportive housing for individual with serious mental health issues. A lack of supportive housing for persons with serious mental illness continues to be a key unmet need and top priority for the County across all age groups, including children, TAY, adults, and older adults.

The shortage of supportive housing and/or adult residential facilities (augmented Board & Cares), results in out of county placements and/or a revolving door between homelessness, jails, hospitals, and transitional facilities. This results in high monetary cost for Napa County and high social costs for the citizens and their families.

2) **Telehealth Services**: The Mental Health Board recommends that the County advocate for continued Medi-Cal reimbursement for telehealth services after the COVID-19 pandemic ends. The transition to telehealth services has provided significant benefits to mental health consumers. Access to services has improved across all populations and has eliminated transportation challenges for older adults, minorities, and those who live in rural or distant communities. In addition, telehealth has resulted in fewer appointment cancellations, improved case management for consumers with high needs, improved connection with families with small children, and improved overall clinical workflow and efficiency.

3) **Impact of Wildfires and Pandemic**: County residents across all demographics have had substantial adverse experiences in the past several years from fires and the pandemic. Experience and research show that such adverse events tend disproportionately to impact the mental wellness of vulnerable populations, including children and those with pre-existing mental health issues including anxiety, substance abuse and suicide ideation. The Mental Health Board believes that Napa residents would benefit from special effort over the next year to ascertain the extent to which disaster-related consequences have led to or exacerbated mental health issues for individuals or groups, and to develop remediation programs for such consequences.

Through public meetings, site visits, work groups, speakers, and reports from MH Division Staff and contractors, the MHB works to understand local mental health issues and advise the Board of Supervisors and the Mental Health Director regarding Napa County’s mental health offerings and challenges. Napa County Mental Health Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It is part of our mandated duties to provide the Board of Supervisors with an annual report reviewing the needs and performance of the county’s mental health system. This report documents our membership and activities for July 2020-June 2021.
Accomplishments of Napa County Mental Health Division

It is also important to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Napa County Mental Health Division, under the leadership of Mental Health Director Sarah O’Malley:

1. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Mental Health Division increased the availability of services and information outside the City of Napa. It moved psychiatric services to a telehealth platform thus providing all individuals who receive services from the medication clinic, including those who live Up-valley, the means to see their psychiatrist via telehealth. The Mental Health Division medication clinic saw an increase in kept appointments due to the use of telepsychiatry.

2. The Mental Health Division is working to create an in-house, secure process for exchanging data, allowing for improved analysis of client needs at the population level, enhancing analysis and quality of client services, and promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness of care. The HHSA Anasazi Support Team and HHSA Administration, consulting with the Mental Health Division, developed a data warehouse with the use of PowerBI that improved data reporting and analysis for the Mental Health Division.

3. Efforts to expand outreach and collocation of mental health services at locations such as at the South Napa Shelter and at OLE Health continue, though they were significantly impacted by COVID-19. Plans to physically embed staff on-site had to be deferred. However, this past fiscal year the Mental Health Division negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with OLE Health to embed a clinician at the OLE Health campus who will provide initial mental health assessments. The MOU is complete, and a clinician will be placed at OLE Health in FY 21-22.

4. The Mental Health Division continues to plan integration efforts with Alcohol and Drug Services by implementing a screening tool used in both Divisions. This objective was deferred last year due to competing priorities such as the COVID-19 emergency and new state mandates such as Assisted Outpatient Treatment and Family Urgent Response System. The Mental Health Division maintains this goal in its Strategic Plan and will revisit in FY 22-23.

5. The Covid-19 emergency delayed the original goal of June 30, 2020, for public review of and comment on the Mental Health Community Needs 3-year Planning Process. However, the Mental Health Division shared the Community Needs Assessment and 3-year planning process with the Community Behavioral Health Providers on 11/10/2020, the MHSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee on 12/9/2020, and the Mental Health Board on 1/11/2021. The Mental Health Division incorporated the goals of the Mental Health Community Needs 3-year Planning process into the Mental Health Division Strategic Plan and it will be referenced in our next MHSA Annual Update. The MH Division will also convene a Zoom Town Hall Meeting in FY 21-22 to review and get feedback on the Mental Health Community Needs 3-year Plan.

6. The Mental Health Division implemented the Family Urgent Response System (FURS) in collaboration with Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation. FURS is a coordinated system to provide timely in-person and phone-based trauma-informed support to foster youth and their caregivers in times of instability.
Status of the Mental Health Board

Meetings: Regular MHB meetings were held on the 2nd Monday of each month. A notice of all regular and special MHB meetings was made public, and an agenda was followed which allowed for public comment. MHB meeting agendas and minutes are available on the County website. A quorum was established at all twelve meetings. Board member attendance ranged from 64% to 90%, with average attendance: 76%.

In August, we held a public hearing for review and comment on the Mental Health Division’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three-year Plan for Fiscal Year 2017-18 through FY 2019-20.

Committees & Workgroups:
Executive Committee: Kristyn Miles-Chair; Beth Nelson-Vice Chair; Members at Large: Kristine Haataja, Tiffany Iverson, Rob Palmer, Zachariah Geyer
Data Notebook Workgroup: Kristine Haataja (Chair), Rob Palmer
Annual Report: Kristyn Miles (Chair), Rob Palmer, Kristine Haataja
Quality Improvement and Utilization Review Committee: Kristine Haataja
Stakeholders Advisory Committee: Kristine Haataja, Keri Akemi-Hernandez
County Suicide Prevention Council: Kristyn Miles
Cultural Competence Committee: Keri Akemi-Hernandez
California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions: Kristine Haataja

Membership: At the close of the fiscal year, membership on the MHB consisted of 15 members, the full number based on the Board Bylaws. In the past year, the Board has made progress in adequately representing the ethnic make-up of our community.

The following new members joined the board this year: Keri Akemi-Hernandez, Neil D’Silva, Edward Ortiz, Patricia Sullivan, and Heidi Van De Ryt. Rocky Sheridan, Shari Staglin, Mirna Leiva-Gullord and Summer Thompson left the board during the past year. We thank them for their valuable contributions to our board!

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Goals & Accomplishments

The following objectives and goals for 2018-2019 were developed by the MHB Executive Committee and approved by the MHB. Below are details of the work done by the MHB on each of these goals.

A. Objective: Fulfill the Mandated Responsibilities and Core Purposes of the Mental Health Board

1. Goal: Review and evaluate the community’s mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems [5604.2 (a)(1)] Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC)

   Accomplishments:
   - Throughout the year, the MHB hosted a variety of speakers and panel forums related to Napa County mental health issues and services, including:
     - Community mental health needs and challenges during the coronavirus pandemic.
     - Report on progress of four Innovation projects: new approaches to creating employment opportunities for those with mental illness; understanding the mental health needs of the American Canyon Filipino community, the impacts of adverse childhood events, and impact of Native American historical trauma and traditional healing.
     - Developments in telehealth: transitioning from in-person care; critical success factors; regulatory and reimbursement context.
     - Mental Health services and support available to Napa County veterans through the Napa County Veterans Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
     - Laura’s Law: operation and outcomes after adoption in Nevada County.
     - The purpose and operation of Patients’ Rights Advocates in California for persons experiencing serious mental illness.
     - Current housing and residential treatment programs for individuals experiencing mental illness.
     - Services for older adults experiencing serious mental illness, with focus on pandemic-related challenges.

2. Goal: Review and comment on the county’s performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CMHPC) [5604.2 (a)(7)] WIC

   Accomplishments:
   - The Board completed the California Behavioral Health Planning Council’s 2020 Data Notebook questionnaire in partnership with county staff/mental health director. (See https://www.countyofnapa.org/DocumentCenter/View/20620/2020-Napa-County-Data-Notebook-Final?bidId=) The 2020 Data Notebook focused on the use of telehealth and other strategies to provide mental health services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. It also included questions that are addressed each year to provide monitoring trends to assist in identifying unmet needs or gaps that may occur due to changes in population, resources available of public policy. Key Board observations related to services for persons in Napa County experiencing serious mental illness follow.
     - Effective and available telehealth increases access across all potentially underserved groups, including rural and low-income communities, minorities, and older adults.
     - Telehealth services were significantly expanded in the past year through improved hardware and software, staff training, teleconferencing and community outreach, including mobile telehealth appointment access at the expanded Winter Shelter via iPads.
     - Increased telehealth access had the following observed clinical benefits:
       - Increased client appointment attendance,
       - Improved case-management for high-needs consumers,
       - Improved clinical workflow and practice efficiency, and
       - Easier connection with families with children.
     - There are several identified actions that would improve the reach and quality of behavioral healthcare in the County:
       - Napa has no community-based Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) in Napa County for persons experiencing serious mental illness. The only alternatives are large ARFs outside Napa, remote from home and family support. Community-based board & care facilities in or adjacent to Napa’s continuum of care would likely result in improved outcomes and could yield significant cost savings over time.
Goals & Accomplishments cont’d...

- Reducing barriers to effective telehealth service would improve behavioral healthcare availability. These barriers include:
  - Inadequate internet service for clients in outlying areas,
  - Lack of client equipment, and
  - Lack of funds to pay for internet service access.
- The Mental Health Board identified the highest priority new program, facility, or resource desired within the next three years as:
  - Subsidized supportive housing for individuals diagnosed with mental health conditions, and
  - Community-based Adult Residential Facilities (Board and Care) for individuals experiencing severe mental illness.

3. **Goal:** Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process [WIC 5604.2 (a)(4)].

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Pandemic-driven health and safety requirements made in-person public meetings of the Mental Health Board infeasible through the entire fiscal year. Accordingly, the Board kept to its regular meeting schedules by means of on-line meetings using “Zoom” technology.
   - The public was routinely invited to attend and participate in all monthly MHB meetings. Public comments, concerns and questions were received from mental health consumers, stakeholders, and advocates during the year. Overall, the level of public participation in Zoom meetings was minimal in comparison to pre-pandemic in-person public meetings.
   - Meeting Agendas, with Zoom link information, were and are publicly posted on the Napa County website: [http://www.countyofnapa.org/HHSA/MentalHealthBoard/](http://www.countyofnapa.org/HHSA/MentalHealthBoard/)

4. **Goal:** Review any county agreement entered into pursuant to Section 5650 of the Welfare & Institutions Code.

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Mental Health Division Budget Overview was provided for review by HHSA Fiscal Staff.
   - The following contracts, agreements, reports, and applications were provided for review during FY 2020-21: External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) Audit, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS); Mental Health Division’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations Round 3 Project for FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-23; Public Hearing: MH Division’s Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 21-22 Annual Plan Update to the MHSA Three-Year Plan.

B. **Objective:** Maintain an active, involved Mental Health Board.

1. **Goal:** Achieve full MHB membership that reflects the diversity of the populations served.

   **Accomplishments:**
   - As of June 30, 2021, the MHB had 15 members, including interested/concerned citizens (40%), consumers (20%) and family members (33-1/3%). The Board successfully recruited 5 new members to fill vacancies during FY 20-21.
   - Applications to the board surpassed the number of openings to be filled.
   - The Mental Health Board continues to prioritize adequately representing the ethnic make-up of our community and has made progress toward that goal.

2. **Goal:** Maintain a high attendance and participation at all MHB meetings, including all committees and/or workgroups.

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Board Meetings were held monthly without exception and a quorum was established at all meetings. Board member attendance ranged from 73% to 100%, with average attendance: 83%.
   - The Executive Committee also met monthly without exception and a quorum was established at all meetings.
Goals & Accomplishments cont’d…

3. **Goal:** Maintain representation on appropriate local, regional, and state boards, committees, councils, etc., and regular reporting to the Mental Health Board (for example: CALBHBC, QIC, etc.).

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Mental Health Board members participated in the meetings of a wide variety of local regional and state boards, commissions, and organizations. Each monthly meeting of the Mental Health Board included an opportunity for these participants to report on discussions or developments relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Mental Health Board.
   - In FY 20-21, member Kristine Haataja served as a member of the Governing Board of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions (CALBHB/C). CALBHB/C updates, newsletters, website access, and regional meeting schedules were provided to and discussed with the MHB.
   - Members Kristine Haataja and Keri Akemi-Hernandez served as members of the MHSA Stakeholder’s Advisory Committee (SAC).
   - Member Kristine Haataja was a member of the Mental Health Division Quality Improvement and Utilization Review Committee.
   - Chair Kristyn Miles was a member of the Napa County Suicide Prevention Council.
   - Members Rob Palmer and Heidi Van De Ryt participated in meetings of the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (ABAD); Member Van de Ryt became a member of the ABAD board during the year.
   - Member Ed Ortiz participated in meetings of the Community Corrections Partnership.
   - Member Keri Akemi-Hernandez is a member of the Housing Commission.
   - Member Tiffany Iverson participated in the meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee.
   - Chair Kristyn Miles participated in the meetings of the Napa Continuum of Care.
   - Member Kathleen Chance participates in the meetings of the Veterans Commission.
   - Chair Kristyn Miles and Rob Palmer participated in the sessions of the HHS “Live Healthy Napa County” convenings.

4. **Goal:** Complete 100% of site visits.

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Due to pandemic-driven health and safety concerns, site visits were suspended during FY 20-21. The Mental Health Board is currently evaluating alternative or modified procedures to re-start oversight site visits in FY 21-22.

5. **Goal:** Provide training opportunities to MHB Members

   **Accomplishments:**
   - Board members were notified of Mental Health Board and Advocacy trainings facilitated by CALBHBC. The following members attended on-line trainings by CALBHBC: Beth Nelson, Kristine Haataja, Edward Ortiz, Rob Palmer, Patricia Sullivan, Keri Akemi-Hernandez.
   - All Mental Health Board members completed on-line Ethics Training provided by Napa County.
Meet the Board Members

Keri Akemi-Hernandez (Pronouns: she/her, they/them) is proud of her Native American Heritage, with Mohawk, Seneca, and Apache lineage. She is a successful Indigenous, womxn, entrepreneur of multiple small business ventures, including Real Estate, Design, and Consulting services within the greater San Francisco Bay Area for over 21 years. Ms. Akemi-Hernandez joined the Mental Health Board in 2021 and is an active community leader who helps advocate for those who are often marginalized and underserved. She also serves on the Napa County Housing Commission, the Housing Element Advisory Committee, and the Mental Health Cultural Competency Advisory Committee. Ms. Akemi-Hernandez is motivated by the support from her husband, their three children, and their first grandchild.

Kathleen Chance taught at the elementary and middle school levels in the Napa Valley Unified School District, primarily at Browns Valley Elementary School, where she also served as coordinator of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Program and trained in Mindfulness for Educators. Concerned about the increase in mental health issues among youth and young adults, she wanted to make a difference for all, especially in the areas of stigma and stereotyping. Ms. Chance holds a BA from UC Davis and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Dominican University of California. She continues with alum writing workshops and is a member of the California Writers Club, Napa Valley Branch. She and her husband Robert live in Napa. Ms. Chance was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2020.

Neil D'Silva is a long-time resident of American Canyon with a great interest in and passion for mental health. In both his undergraduate career in Los Angeles and his time with the Peace Corps in China, Mr. D'Silva has been involved in social justice work and mental health peer support networks under the supervision of medical and/or mental health professionals. He has also worked as an EMT-Basic and volunteered at hospitals, schools, and with community organizations. He currently works for the federal government in a programmatic oversight role. Mr. D'Silva was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2020.

Frank Dolan is a California Native raised in the Berkeley hills of the San Francisco Bay Area. He attended college at University of Portland and received his BBA in Business Administration. Mr. Dolan has been a wealth management advisor with Merrill Lynch for the last 25 years. He met Lisa, his wife of 28 years, in San Francisco where they were both young professionals. The Dolans moved to Napa in 1995 to raise their family. They have two daughters beginning their careers in the Bay Area, and both are Cal Poly graduates. Mr. Dolan’s interest in the Napa County Mental Health Board was sparked when a family member utilized the County’s mental health services. He was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2019.

Zachariah Geyer has lived experience with both physical and mental challenges. He works full-time as a Mental Health Worker Aide for Napa County Mental Health Division and is co-located two days week at Innovations Community Center running groups and doing peer support work. Mr. Geyer has been trained as a Peer Support Specialist PSS, Wrap Facilitator, Question/Pursue/Refer facilitator, and in both Adult and Child Mental Health First-Aid amongst numerous other trainings. Prior to employment with the County, he had extensive volunteer experience, including, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit as a family support volunteer, as a speaker at National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) meetings, at Buckelew Programs in the Family Services Unit, and at other organizations. Mr. Geyer is a Napa Native and joined the Mental Health Board in 2018.
**Ryan Gregory** is a third-generation Napa resident and was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo and is a Registered Professional Engineer. He worked as Vice President and Owner of the local civil engineering firm RSA+, resigning from the firm to focus on his job as Napa County Supervisor. During his 20-year professional career, Mr. Gregory was a leader in the local engineering field with a specialty in the planning, design, and construction of residential projects for both nonprofit and for-profit builders. His extensive history of community involvement includes service as the former Board Chair for the Napa Chamber of Commerce and Community Action Napa Valley and President of Leadership Napa Valley, Napa Engineers Society, and the Kiwanis Club of Napa. Mr. Gregory was actively involved as a member of the Vine Trail Engineering Committee, Joint City-County Affordable Housing Taskforce, the Airport Industrial Area Blue Ribbon Committee, the City of Napa Housing Element Update Committee 2007 and 2014, Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency’s (NCTPA) Highway 29 Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Downtown Napa Specific Plan Steering Committee. He continues to demonstrate his commitment to Napa County through service to the Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley, the Downtown Property and Business Improvement District (PBID), Brother Can You Spare A Dime Community Baseball Outings organization, and the Napa Composite High School Mt. Bike Team. Mr. Gregory joined the Mental Health Board in 2018.

**Kristine Haataja** was a Consumer Insights & Strategy Consultant for corporations and consulting firms for over 35 years, retiring in 2015. Ms. Haataja is especially passionate about mental health intervention in early childhood and adolescence, based upon her lived experience raising a child with serious mental health issues. She serves on Aldea’s Development Committee, is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Napa Valley (LNV), and served on the LNV Board. Ms. Haataja was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2015, is on the Executive Committee, served as Vice Chair for 2016-2017, and Chair for 2017-2019. She has served on several workgroups, including School-based Mental Health, Member Recruitment, Community Outreach, and the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Data Notebooks. In 2019, Ms. Haataja was elected to the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) and now serves as Secretary/Treasurer. She has a BA in Sociology from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and an MBA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Ms. Haataja lives in Napa with her husband.

**Tiffany Iverson** has been on the board since August of 2018. Since joining the Mental Health Board, she led a Work Group engaged in increasing public awareness of the board meetings as a bridge between the Napa County community needs and resources. Ms. Iverson is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist working in private practice in the Napa community. Her work as a therapist has spanned both the private practice and non-profit worlds. Previously she worked as an intern therapist for Silverado MS and Napa HS and as an intern for Aldea’s Wolfe Center program. Ms. Iverson is passionate about serving underserved youth populations. She currently works with the general public and with out-patient psychiatric patients. Ms. Iverson received an AA in Liberal Arts from American River College, BS in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University, and an MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco. Ms. Iverson also teaches fitness classes at a barre studio in downtown Napa. She lives in Napa with her husband and two young children.
Rowena Korobkin, M.D. was appointed to the MHB in 2012. Dr. Korobkin is a Board-Certified Physician Neurologist and Child Neurologist. She received her MD in 1971 from the University of California, San Francisco, trained in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital in Oakland, and neurology at UCSF. She is the author of numerous journal articles and books in her field. Dr. Korobkin’s current main clinical interest relates to epilepsy and other neurologic issues in people with developmental disabilities, and she is a member of the Professional Advisory board of the Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California. She is the Consulting Neurologist for Sonoma Development Center, the Pediatric Neurologist for the County of San Joaquin at the San Joaquin General Hospital, and the Consultant Neurologist to North Bay Regional Center and Redwood Coast Regional Center. Because of a close family member with serious mental health issues, Dr. Korobkin has been inspired to help influence the mental health delivery systems for Napa County.

Kristyn Miles was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2018. She served as Chair of the Mental Health Board from 2019-2021 and previously served on the Community Outreach Workgroup. Her background as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) has afforded her insight into both adult and pediatric populations with disabilities and special needs. Having worked as an SLP in various public and private institutions, she is passionate about increasing access and decreasing stigmatization of mental health services for all Napa County residents. Ms. Miles earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Saint Mary’s College of California and a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from California State University, East Bay. She currently resides in American Canyon with her husband and three children.

E. Beth Nelsen is a local documentary filmmaker, change maker, and conscious shaker. Ms. Nelsen was appointed to the Board in 2017 and is Vice Chair of the Mental Health Board. A Napa Valley College graduate, Ms. Nelsen earned her BA in Philosophy from UCLA and her M.A. in Film & Television at the University of Melbourne; she is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Napa Valley. Ms. Nelsen is an international guest speaker whose films have screened all over the globe. Her passions include advocacy for mental health, Indigenous Rights, LGBTQ equality, adoption, and identity, all of which have been fodder for her storytelling. She seeks collaboration on projects with potential for heavy social impact, not confined to only the screen. Ms. Nelsen resides in Napa with her partner Oriana and their daughter.

Edward Ortiz was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2021. He was previously the Chief Network Officer for the Health Plan of San Mateo and is currently a founding partner of Cruz Consulting Partners, a specialty consultancy focused on safety net health care. Mr. Ortiz has deep experience leveraging the resources of Medi-Cal and County-based services/supports to improve beneficiary wellness while optimizing health systems to improve care costs. Some of his notable accomplishments are the DHCS award-winning implementation of housing and health care programming and the development of community supports that are both now integral components of California Advancing and Innovating in Medi-Cal (CalAIM). Mr. Ortiz served in the Illinois National Guard as a veteran of the Gulf War and graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in business management.
**Robert Palmer** is a lawyer in private practice. His practice focuses on litigation matters and, in recent years, on representing at-risk clients in human rights and refugee asylum cases. He and his wife Mary live in Yountville, close to two of their three grown daughters and three grandchildren, who live in Napa. A graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School, Mr. Palmer practiced law in Washington, D.C., and Arizona before coming to California in 1995. He served on the board and is a past president of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest. Mr. Palmer was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2019 and is currently chair of the Board.

**Patricia Sullivan** was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2021 to represent those who live with mental health conditions. Her personal life experiences have given her a sense of compassion and empathy for others facing mental health challenges. She is a strong proponent of the benefits of peer supports for mental health consumers. Since 2016, Ms. Sullivan has worked as an Independent Living Advocate at the Napa Office Disability Services & Legal Center, where she assists seniors and people with disabilities. Since 2013, she has been a volunteer with Collabria Care and Hospice. Ms. Sullivan holds a bachelor’s degree in Hospitality Management and has completed both Culinary Arts and Accelerated Wine and Beverage Programs at The Culinary Institute of America.

**Heidi Van De Ryt** has lived experience from parenting her son who was diagnosed at age 16 with schizoaffective disorder plus alcohol and drug addiction. At the time, intensive in-patient mental health resources were non-existent locally, so she worked to educate herself about the mental health community and what resources were available nearby. Ms. Van de Ryt was appointed to that Mental health Board in 2021 with a strong desire to contribute her experience and voice as a parental advocate and champion for the mental health community.

**Members Leaving the Board During the Past Year**

*Thank you for serving on the MHB!*

**Theresa Comstock** is the Executive Director for the CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions, where she previously served as President. Ms. Comstock is a Governor-Appointed Member of the CA State Rehabilitation Council, where she currently serves as chair. She also serves on the CA Reducing Disparities Project Steering Committee. Past community and leadership roles include: Past Co-Chair of a Dallas-based community organizing group, Past Legislative Chair of the Houston Council of PTA’s, Past President of The Kiwanis Club of Greater Napa, Past President of New Technology High School’s Parent Club. Ms. Comstock is an artist (oil painting) and has a BA from U.C. Davis. She was appointed in 2014 and chaired the Mental Health Board from 2015 - 2017.
**Mirna Leiva-Gullord** is a Licensed Vocational Nurse and is currently a student at Napa Valley College seeking an Alcohol and Drug certification. She works as a peer mentor at Innovations Community Center where she also provides bilingual perspective for participants. Ms. Leiva-Gullord was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2018, with a desire to share her lived experience with mental health issues both personally and as a family member. She especially wants to provide hope to others that they can live successful lives and learn to live with mental health issues. Ms. Leiva-Gullord lives in Napa with her husband.

**Oliver “Rocky” Sheridan** is a long-time Napa resident who served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1955. Following an honorable discharge, he obtained an A.A. degree from Napa College, completed a four-year apprenticeship as a marine machinist, and finished a two-year course in management at Solano College. After 37 years of federal service, Mr. Sheridan retired from Mare Island in 1992 where he worked as a Production Shop Planner. Since his retirement, Mr. Sheridan has been extremely active in community organizations and has served on several nonprofit and County boards. Mr. Sheridan joined the Napa County Mental Health Board in June 2014 and is dedicated to advocating for broader and better geriatric mental health services.

**Shari Staglin** owns and runs a family vineyard in Rutherford, Napa Valley. Inspired by her son, Brandon, who suffered an acute onset of schizophrenia at age 18, in 1990, she and her husband have run toward the problem of mental illness, seeking answers to causes and cures. Over the last 25 years, they have been hosting the annual Music Festival for Brain Health at their Rutherford vineyard and have raised over $300 million for brain health research. The Staglin family chaired Auction Napa Valley in 2013, which raised $16.9 million for Napa County beneficiaries, including a $3.9 million ‘fund-a-need’ to start an Early Psychosis Intervention program that now operates as the Aldea SOAR program. Ms. Staglin holds a BA in International Relations from UCLA, an MPA from NYU, and has done additional graduate work at UC Davis. In March 2018, she and her husband received the Research America award for their commitment to accelerating cures for brain disorders through scientific research. Ms. Staglin was appointed to the Board in 2018.

**Summer Thompson** is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner working with the physicians group Community Psychiatry in both the communities of Napa and Vacaville. Prior to this, she worked at Ole Health in Napa. Ms. Thompson is an Air Force veteran experienced in working with active-duty military and veterans, both abroad and in the US. As a member of the Napa community and as a mental health practitioner, she feels a vested interest in promoting the mental health of our community. Ms. Thompson has a BA from Gonzaga University, a BS from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, an MS in Nursing from UCSF, and is currently working on her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at UCSF. Ms. Thompson was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2019. She lives in Napa with her husband and two children.
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- Jamie Bongiovi, Director of Behavioral Health, Ole Health
- Julie Burns, LCSW, PPSW, Chief Program Officer, Aldea Children and Family Services
- William Chadwick, Chair, Napa County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Services
- Dr. Herbert Cruz, Kings View Tele-Psychiatry
- Carolyn DeTierra, Buckelew Programs
- Michele Grupe, Executive Director, Cope Family Center
- Elizabeth Hernandez, Progress Place
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Napa County Health & Human Services Mental Health Division Staff:
- Felix Bedolla, MHSA Project Manager
- Amanda Jones
- Lynette Lawrence, Provider Services Coordinator
- Jennifer Menges, Quality Coordinator
- Sandy Schmidt, Staff Services Analyst
- Courtney Vallejo, Assistant Deputy Director

Napa County Health & Human Services Staff:
- Kimberly Danner, Chief Fiscal Officer
- Susan Kingsford, Supervising Staff Services Analyst, Fiscal Division
- Mike Mills, Napa County Comprehensive Services for Older Adults

Thank you to everyone in the community who works to provide the best mental health care system possible to the children and adults of Napa County!