

Greetings, it is an honor to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the San Francisco Behavioral Health Commission (BHC). Fiscal year 2023-2024 was a pivotal time for the commission as we built upon our commitment to advocate for the behavioral health and wellness needs of those who call San Francisco home. While many challenges remain, we embraced new opportunities to foster resilience and equitable access to behavioral health services in communities of need.

This year, our focus continued to center on improving the grievance process with Behavioral Health Services (BHS). In collaboration with BHS, we worked to enhance transparency and develop user-friendly systems that better serve clients and providers. Additionally, we continued to champion culturally affirming and evidence-based practices across all programs while reinforcing the integration of mental health and substance use treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders.

In 2023-2024, we achieved significant milestones, including conducting site visits with various community-based organizations and their affiliated programs. These visits provided invaluable insights into the positives of support services, as well as ongoing challenges faced by service providers and the communities they support. The BHC also arranged educational presentations with representatives from behavioral health leaders doing the work to serve communities in need. These sessions were meaningful and deepened our understanding of the critical issues of the communities served, and provided guidance for our future priorities.

Looking forward, we remain steadfast in addressing the urgent needs of our communities. Housing insecurity and substance use/misuse continue to be critical issues that impact communities in San Francisco, and we will persist in advocating for more supportive options tailored to individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral health challenges. We also recognize the ongoing importance of addressing behavioral health in educational settings and advancing training that support transgender people. Our dedication to improving access to behavioral health care for vulnerable populations and fostering collaborations between the BHS department and the communities we serve remains unwavering.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the BHC Rules and Reports Committee members for their tireless endeavors, the California Association of Local Behavioral Health and Boards/Commissions (CALBHB/C) for their training and coaching services for new commissioners and staff. A very special thanks to BHC Commissioners, Harriette S. Stevens, Ed.D. (Rules & Reports Committee Chair), Lisa Wynn, Alex Humphrey, Carletta Jackson-Lane, J.D., and Amber Gray (BHC Clerk) for their invaluable contributions.

In Gratitude,

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