MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
June 6, 2013: 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:
May Farr, Bill Swift, Mike Grabhorn, Gabriel Gonzales, Monica Wilson, Jane Godager, Akin Merino, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso and Troy Mondragon

Excused Absence: Christopher Massa, Roberto Casas, Susan McGee-Stehsel

Guests:
Molly Wiltshire, Communications Director, Office of Supervisor James Ramos; Vikki Ostermann, Legislative Analyst, County Administrative Office; Beverly Scott, family member; Faith Ikeda, Gus Villagran Jr; Matthew Parra, Esther Parelli, Michael Conte, Keith Vickery, Jose Lopez, Pathways to Recovery; Elsie Barton, Stephen Hale, Gil Navarro, San Bernardino County Board of Education; Jose Solorzago, IEHP; Joe Guzman, Brian Thomson, EMQ; Valley Starr; Lupita Mendez, Maria Quintero, El Sol, Hanna Keith, Charles Pearson, Community Hospital San Bernardino; Burma Lee Manns, African American Mental Health Coalition; CaSonya Thomas, Veronica Kelley, Larissa Crossno, Jon Buffong, Mariann Ruffolo, Carolina Mendoza, Cindy Messer, Susan Abito, Kimberly Olson, Sandra Chavez, Erica McCollum, Susanne Kulesa, Tracy Bomberger, Sherwin Farr, Jaime Gonzalez, Paula Rutten, Jerry Dowdall, Clifford Craig, Doris Turner, Sonia Rubio, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Lynn Neuenswander, Karen Cervantes, Georgina Yoshioka, Dr. Teresa Frausto, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

In the absence of Susan McGee-Stehsel, Vice Chair Monica Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Grabhorn led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

A motion made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Farr: The 5/2/13 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

"Ms. Sandra Chavez, OAII, Barstow Community Counseling, is bilingual and works with our Latino population with sensitivity and grace. She understands concerns beyond the language barrier. For example, there are different expectations of mental health services and family dynamics based on culture. She is able to translate abstract concepts into the underlying meaning; thus, making services accessible. Ms. Chavez also understands the culture of poverty. She is aware of the differences in expectations and treats everyone with dignity and respect."

"There have been numerous occasions that Ms. Chavez has been able to de-escalate an emotional client. There is so much potential for misunderstanding based on culture, and Ms. Chavez explains things in a way that the client can understand it. She is attune to differences in gender roles, perceptions of the aging and socioeconomic factors. All of these strengths have minimized conflicts with clients in our community." CONGRATULATIONS, SANDRA!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lupita Mendez, Program Coordinator of El Sol Promotoras de Salud, appreciates the partnership with DBH. El Sol is currently accepting applications for community workers.

Gil Navarro, County of San Bernardino Board of Education Board Member distributed a news article entitled "President Obama calls on teachers to help identify mental health disorders in students". He offered DBH the following recommendations:

- Increase outreach to children/youth 0-17 years
- Increase outreach to Latino community
- Provide mental health handouts at schools; include contact information on all DBH services listings
- Develop flow chart on how to access services
- All staff should know how to access programs, including front-line staff
- Participate in District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) meetings. DELAC is a captive audience interested in student mental health.

PUBLIC HEARING – Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14
Each MHSA Annual Update shall be developed with local stakeholders' input and feedback.

- DBH held 18 community meetings throughout the county to discuss the FY 13-14 Annual Update, including one Spanish language meeting and two meetings via webcast.
- 224 stakeholders completed a comment form as a result of attending one of the meetings: 86% satisfied with process
- Stakeholders ranked these topics in order of priority
  - Family and Youth Support
  - Increased Access/ Availability of Treatment/Recovery
  - Basic Needs-Transportation
  - Administrative Support and Emergency Preparedness
- FY 13-14 Annual Update draft was posted from May 1-31 for public comment and review.
  - Posting notification was provided at all community stakeholder meetings
  - Comments received: 2 praised the Update; 8 concerning staffing levels of the new ACE program at Mesa
  - DBH will include a full detailed response in the final Update to the comments and concerns received during the posting period.

NEW BUSINESS

- *A motion made by Vice Chair Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Farr:* The BHC affirms the stakeholder process for the MHSA Annual Update FY 2013-14. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*
- *A motion made by Commissioner Merino and seconded by Commissioner Godager:* Reschedule July 4, 2013 Behavioral Health Commission meeting to Monday, July 1, 2013. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chair Monica Wilson attended the fabulous Evening with the Stars. The Behavioral Health Symposium was a stellar event; the best the Inland Empire has ever had.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Gonzales participated in the "Meet the Artists Wellness Expo" at the County Government Center on May 7. He thanked CaSonya for the snacks provided to the artists. Many Clubhouse members were in attendance. He recently taught an art class at Serenity House Clubhouse to show members hov to express themselves through art.

Commissioner Grabhorn participated in an LGTBQ seminar and hopes to have one here.

Commissioner Swift organized a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools and the DBH Community Crisis Response Team in the High Desert.

Second District:
Commissioner Farr attended the Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) graduation from the juvenile justice program, which is always an enlightening experience. May thanked everyone who sponsored consumer attendance at Evening with the Stars.

Commissioner Alonso enjoyed the Evening with the Stars keynote speaker, Dr. Scott Zeller, who discussed how to better care for those in crisis in a manner that creates humane patient care. She appreciates that Clubhouses are provided more outings. Amazing Place Board members are meeting with other Clubhouse Board members.

Third District:
Commissioner Mondragon thanked everyone for their warm welcome as the newest member of the Behavioral Health Commission. Due to recent tragic incidents at Cal State San Bernardino, the campus hosted a community event, "Embrace the Change: Moving Forward with Hope and Healing" on May 9. During the Behavioral Health Symposium he participated on the panel to discuss "Behavioral Health through Shifting Lenses".

Fourth District:
Secretary Merino stated that the BHC Education Committee is gathering information on opportunities offered in our county. Today's meeting was focused on NAMI trainings. Faith based training will be explored at the next meeting.

Fifth District:
Treasurer Jews attended Evening with the Stars and Behavioral Health Symposium. She is now certified by NAMI for Family 2 Family training as well as Mental Health First Aid training. She continues to participate as a member of the African American Mental Health Coalition.

Commissioner Godager looks forward to Evening with the Stars every year for the excellent speakers and great time. The Behavioral Health Symposium was a huge success and included stimulating workshops.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
CaSonya Thomas appreciates the Commission's support in all DBH activities. CaSonya viewed the artwork displayed at the Government Center during the Meet the Artists Wellness Expo. With Commissioner Gonzales's encouragement, she has no doubt that additional artwork will be forthcoming.

CaSonya appreciates Mr. Navarro's observations and suggestions, including providing information on captive audiences.

MHSA Update - CaSonya encouraged stakeholders to provide input and feedback at one the MHSA Innovation stakeholder community forums that will be held throughout the county in June and July. Community forum schedule to be released shortly.

Federal, State, County Budget and other Policy Issues – The Governor released the May Revise for FY 13-14. Highlights include:

- Identified funding to help pay health services for indigent
- With the onset of Health Care Reform in January 2014, more individuals will be eligible for Medi-Cal, allowing counties to accrue a savings. Due to this savings, the Governor has proposed to reduce Realignment funding. The CA Mental Health Directors' Association (CMHDA) has concerns and suggests a three year analysis period.

OUTISIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

Lynn Neuenswander announced that DBH will be well represented at upcoming events in June:

- 6/8/13: Survivor Expo at Glen Helen Regional Park
- 6/15/13: 7th Annual Sports Faire at Valley College
- 6/22/13: Care 4 a Health I.E.: at the National Orange Show
- 6/24/13: Victorville Project Connect
- 6/28/13: Transitional Age Youth College and Career Options in Rialto

In addition, Save the Date for the Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative "Aging Well with a Disability" conference will be held on 9/17/13, at the Hilton San Bernardino. Contact Victoria Hall vhall@dbh.sbcounty.gov for more information or vendor questions.

Vice-Chair Monica Wilson-At the National Conference on Mental Health held on 6/3/13, President Obama calls on teachers to help identify mental health disorders in students; visit www.mentalhealth.gov for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel	*Debi Pasco*
Chair	Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission