

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
Executive Session
October 3, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Akin Merino, Bill Swift, Christopher Massa, Gabriel Gonzales, Jane Ann Godager, May Farr, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Veatrice Jews

Excused Absence: Monica Wilson, Troy Mondragon, Roberto Casas

Unexcused Absence: Monica Alonso

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Debi Pasco, Esmeralda Sanchez, Mimi Swift, Manual Aybar

CALL TO ORDER and SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., self-introductions followed.

A motion made by Commissioner Farr and seconded by Commissioner Massa: The 09/05/13 minutes were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commissioners will discuss their efforts at meeting BHC Goals and Objectives at the next meeting. Commissioners requested an electronic copy to review.

The Board of Supervisors approved the Behavioral Health Commission Bylaws on September 24, 2013.

2014 Ethics and HIPAA Training will be offered as in person training as well as online training.

Commissioners suggested edits to the award nomination form and instructions: add an award category for "Consumer Conscious Agency".

Chair described a situation when ARMC did not honor the prescription of a discharged patient from a contract hospital physician. What options are available after hours? To provide more specific client information the discussion will continue after the meeting. Director Thomas was very interested in a follow-up discussion to improve the quality of care for consumers.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bill Swift announced his resignation. He stated the Department of Behavioral Health has been wonderful. He thanked Patient's Rights and David Denker's for their assistance in the past. He was grateful to Director Thomas for adding a doctor at Federally Qualified Health Center in the High Desert.

Commissioners provided a brief description of the reports they will give during the afternoon commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were given.

PRESENTATIONS

Manual Aybar, program manager for Project Hope reported after 6 months of operation 3400 clients have been reviewed for eligibility. There are 329 families living in new homes or approved for the program. Applications generally take less than six weeks to process and gather the required documents.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thomas announced Covered California, health care insurance for individuals at poverty level, will open on October 1, 2013. Covered California will offer four different plan levels. The Medi-Cal program will also change to include the non-disabled, non-elderly and childless adults. The new California Health Exchange programs will improve continuity to mitigate fluctuations in income. The Parity Act of 2008 mandates all providers must offer behavioral health services. Sarah Eberhardt-Rios will give quarterly presentations beginning in November.

San Bernardino County received 17 achievement awards for 2013 from the National Association of Counties. Four programs in the Department of Behavioral Health were recognized for improving the services they deliver to the public:

Vintage Kendall – Senior Apartments Housing Projects
Prevention and Early Intervention Community Health Workers Program
Community Crisis Response Team Collaboration with SBPD
Interagency Youth Resiliency Team Mentoring Program

The Parity Act of 2008 mandates all providers must offer behavioral health services.

SB82 – Investment in mental health crisis designed to create alternatives to hospitalization. San Bernardino County could potentially have \$5-6 million dollars to enhance crisis through grants. Director Thomas will keep commission up to date.

12:00 p.m: Adjournment

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair

Esmeralda Sanchez, OAIll
Recorder