MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
July 1, 2013
12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:
Roberto Casas, Christopher Massa, Bill Swift, Troy Mondragon, Gabriel Gonzales, Jane Godager, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso and Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

Excused Absence: May Farr, Mike Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson, Akin Merino

Guests:
Beverly Scott, family member; Mimi Swift, public; Angy Areebola, Gus Villagran, Edward Deyon, Doug Norcross, Esther Parrell, Denise Boyd, Faith Ikeda, Connie Sisifor, Charles Torres, Pathways to Recovery; Lupita Mendez, El Sol; Vikki Ostermann, Legislative Analyst, County Administrative Office; Jose Solorzago, IEHP; Norda Freeman, Family Service Agency; Debbie Reno-Smith, Stephen Garrett, Victor Community Support Services; Adam Panos, Fire Department; Trisha Hendriksen; CASA of San Bernardino; Gil Navarro, Education Advocate; Michael Myers, Orlando Montoya, Ronald Kincaid, Delquina Roney, La Vernon, Luis Saucedo, Marvin Toms, Michael Edman, STAR Program; Veneta Greene, TSL Career Prep; Jose Solorzago, IEHP; CaSonya Thomas, Nancy Olsen, Sherwin Farr, Lynn Neuenswander, Miriam Romero, Cindy Messer, Serritta Johnson, Michael Schertell, Jane Smith, Michael Oliver, Sharon Nevins, Doris Turner, Lauretta Ross, Anthony Baca, Tom Hernandez, Theresa Brandon, Paula Rutten, Michelle Dusick, Susanne Kulesa, David Denkers, Terri Franklin, Andy Gruchy, Rebecca Ghelke-Baez, Georgina Yoshioka, Jennifer Gonzalez, Karen Cervantes; Clifford Craig, Mariann Ruffolo; Jonathan Buffong; 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 Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, Treasurer Veatrice Jews called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Commissioner Casas led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

A motion made by Commissioner Casas and seconded by Commissioner Godager: The 6/6/13 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Irma Obregon, Clinical Therapist I, Mesa Community Counseling:
"As an intern at Mesa Clinic, I am extremely grateful for clinician Irma Obregon for her dedication to educate me about multicultural awareness specific to the Latino Culture. In interaction with Irma she recognizes the importance of addressing culture-specific issues that others who were not culturally competent wouldn't have noticed. Irma goes above and beyond in not only addressing culture-specific needs of her clients, but also assists others in becoming aware of the impact that culture has on their client's lives. Irma always takes time out of her busy schedule to assist in making sure I am meet the culture-specific needs of my clients. For example, Irma has offered to translate a letter into Spanish language for me. She did not simply take my letter and translate it herself, she sat down with me and went through the letter line by line to make sure I communicated effectively to the client and

addressed their specific needs. Irma also serves as an interpreter to assist in acquiring information from a client who was Spanish speaking only. She assisted me in conceptualizing this case and taking culture related issues into consideration, which in turn allowed me to build a foundational rapport and understand my client better. CONGRATULATIONS, IRMA!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gil Navarro is an education advocate for those children not doing well in school. The same voters who voted for Prop 63 voted for Gil to serve on the San Bernardino County Board of Education and the San Bernardino Water District. He is very concerned about the problem of drugs, teen pregnancy, gangs and the dropout rate in our schools. During the June Behavioral Health Commission meeting Gil offered suggestions to ensure successful outreach. He would like to meet with DBH to discuss further.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Treasurer Veatrice announced Dr. Oscar Wright, CEO, United Advocates for Children & Families, will be meeting with the Inland Empire African American Churches on 7/11/13, to discuss faith-based work in the mental health arena. She is also working with CA Action Partnership to raise the poverty level in San Bernardino County to $1200, so more residents will be eligible for ArrowCare. Veatrice attended the Innovation community forum meeting in the Fifth District to discuss service gaps and provide suggestions.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Gonzales is honored to have been contacted by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission in Sacramento requesting to display selections of his artwork in th gallery.

Commissioner Swift mentioned that representatives from DBH Community Crisis Response Team, as well as the Holistic Campus were present at the First District Advisory Committee meeting.

Second District:

Commissioner Alonso announced a moment of silence for the passing of Greg Sweetwood, member of Amazing Place Clubhouse. She applied for Project Hope 5 weeks ago and received her housing voucher today. All local clubhouses participated in Fun Day at A Place to Be Clubhouse in Redlands. She recognized DBH and Patients' Rights for outstanding work in addressing a recent issue.

Third District:

Commissioner Massa, along with Commissioner Swift, participate on the Substance Abuse Taskforce which meets once a month at Mesa Clinic in Rialto. The Third District Advisory Committee will be held in Morongo Basin at the Santa Fe Social Club on 7/25/13. TEAM House and Pathways to Recovery will enjoy a 4th of July barbeque.

Commissioner Mondragon looks forward to attending the NAMI CA Conference in August. He is interested in mental health policy and the University relationship. Troy continues to familiarize himself with his role as a Behavioral Health Commissioner.

Fourth District:
Commissioner Casas attended a City of Chino planning meeting for "Military Freedom Court." This program honors veterans and wounded warriors including those in need of mental health services. In addition, he has been invited to assist Dr. Paul Rodriguez on a workshop presentation pertaining to grieving in youth during the Latino Behavioral Health Institute in September.

Fifth District:
Commissioner Godager stated the Fifth District Innovation stakeholder meeting prompted stimulating discussion/input among attendees. Discussion at the CA Senior Legislature meeting centered on forming a caucus in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Board of Supervisors:
Representing Supervisor James Ramos, Molly Wiltshire, Communication Director, thanked the Commission for the warm welcome and offered assistance from the Third District.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director CaSonya Thomas announced that the Governor has signed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 state budget.

- Medicaid Expansion has passed
- Additional funds will be redirected back to schools.
- Mental health funding is stable

San Bernardino County (SBC) $4.4 billion budget was approved on 6/25/13.

On 6/12/13, the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) released the AB109 Public Safety Realignment Act 18-month overview of the impacts in SBC.

- During this time period 4800 non-serious, non-violent and non-sex related offenders were released.
- Day Reporting Centers (DRC) have been opened in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville. 82% enrolled in DRC were not re-arrested for a new crime. Rancho Cucamonga site is the first in the state receive Medi-Cal and alcohol and drug treatment services certification.
- Multi-agency services provided include employment, vocational training, assistance with educational needs and transportation, transitional housing, case management, medical services behavioral health and substance abuse services.
- In 2012, SBC AB 109 Program was recognized by CA State Association of Counties (CSAC) with an Innovation Award

Commissioner Casas stated that 11% of released offenders are 18-24 year old. During incarceration, does anyone identify whether they had active Individual Educational Plans (IEP) while in school to ensure educational needs are being met? Director Thomas responded that Georgina Yoshioka, Forensics Program Manager will follow up. Gil Navarro will also follow up with Dr. Gary Thomas, Superintendent of Schools.

On July 8-12, the Southern Region Student Wellness Conference will be held in Indian Wells.

The Community Vital Signs Initiative will hold a stakeholder summit on 7/10/13 at the National Orange. Input from community leaders will shape a collective strategy for improving the wellness of SBC residents and our communities. Greg Devereaux, County Chief Executive Officer and Supervisor Janice Rutherford will be in attendance.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Trish Hendricksen, Program Manager of Court Appointed Special Advocates (C.A.S.A.) of San Bernardino County presented. C.A.S.A. mission is to recruit, screen, train and supervise volunteers to work with vulnerable foster children. Volunteers must pass a rigorous screening process, complete 30 hours of training, be sworn-in by the court, spend about 10-17 hours a month with their youth and come from a variety of professional, educational and personal background. Volunteer goals include:

- Know the child well enough to make appropriate recommendations to the court
- Establish and maintain proper boundaries
- Be a consistent and stable presence in their life
- Be cognizant of the confidentiality of the relationship while at the same time letting the child know you are a mandated reporter
- Serve as temporary intervention designed to help establish long term connections and permanency so that foster youth aren't lost in the system.

Educational advocates participate in IEP and meetings at school. For more information please call (909) 881-6760 or visit www.casaofsb.org.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

OUTISIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

No further reports

ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Veatrice Jews	*Debi Pasco*
Acting Chair	Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission