

MINUTES
County of San Bernardino
Behavioral Health Commission
Executive Session
January 06, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Akin Merino, Christopher Massa, May Farr, Michael Grabhorn, Monica Alonso, Monica Wilson, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews

Excused Absences: Gabriel Gonzales, Jane Ann Godager, Roberto Casas

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Debi Pasco, Esmeralda Sanchez, Beverly Scott

CALL TO ORDER and SELF INTRODUCTIONS

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Farr and seconded by Commissioner Massa: The 11/07/13 minutes were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Akin Merino will not be present for General Session this afternoon. Make proposal to move business items to beginning of general session in order for Commissioner Akin to participate in any votes. Chair McGee-Stehsel requested to add absentee ballot guidelines to BHC bylaws

Chair McGee-Stehsel requested to add to a discussion of leave of absence requests to the next agenda and to incorporate procedures into the BHC bylaws. Casonya Thomas, Department of Behavioral Health Director mentioned the Board of Supervisors should be included in leave of absence decisions.

Chair McGee-Stehsel discussed the Commissioner's letter of support for the Department of Behavioral Health application for the SB82: Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013.

It was suggested Mariann Ruffalo be available to attend the Education Meeting on January 24, 2014.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioners briefly discussed items to report during the general session.

May Farr reported Patton has started an Advisory Board and applications are available online.

PRESENTATIONS

The new Program Specialist I for DBH Alcohol and Drug Services Administration, Lois Mergener, introduced herself to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Scott reviewed the Innovation Plan and believes it covers everything. Beverly asked if family members are a part of program evaluation. Director Thomas explained the state evaluating teams do include peers and family members. Beverly inquired if cognitive therapy was part of the therapies offered. Director Thomas confirmed cognitive therapy is used. Beverly asked if advertising is allowed in mental health. Director Thomas explained funding is normally tied very specifically to direct outcomes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thomas discussed the Department of Behavioral Health's proposed contract with the State Department of Health Care Services for the Mandated County Performance (Agreement No. 13-90330). The County Performance Contract set forth the conditions and requirements that the County must meet in order to receive continued funding. Prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors, the Behavioral Health Commission is required to review all aspects of the contract.

Director Thomas reviewed the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation Plan. Funding for this component allows counties to try new practices and approaches to mental health care. She described the Hot Spotters theory that caring for the neediest patients helps reduce health care costs. The improved care lowers recidivism and improves the long-term outcomes for these patients.

11:31 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Susan Mc-Gee Stehsel and seconded by Commissioner Farr.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair

Esmeralda Sanchez, OAI
Recorder