MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
November 7, 2013 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:
Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Gabriel Gonzales, Veatrice Jews, Monica Wilson, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Roberto Casas and Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

Excused Absence: Bill Swift, Jane Godager, Mike Grabhorn, Akin Merino

Guests:
Vikki Ostermann, County Administrative Office; Matthew Parra, Gus Villagrane Jr, Faith Ikeda, Pathways to Recovery, Steven Hale, Valley Star; Charles Pearson, Community Hospital; Ben Jauregui, IEHP; Beverly Scott, family member; Elsie Barton, Valley Star Community Services; Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Karen Cervantes, Janeth Tran, Cheryl Long, Tracy Bomberger, Jonathan Benvenisti, David Denkers, Larissa Crossno, Joshua Taylor, Imo Momoh, Mariann Ruffolo, André Bossieux, Michelle Dusick, Susanne Kulesa, Douglas Fazekas, Teresa Frausto MD, Nancy Olsen, Victoria Hall, Sherwin Farr, Joanne Mitchell, Jonathan Buffong, Marilyn Ashton, Sue Abito, Doris Turner, 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
Chair McGee-Stehsel 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 Farr and seconded by Commissioner Casas: New Business Items on the agenda was moved to after Approval of Minutes. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

A motion made by Commissioner Jews and seconded by Commissioner Gonzales: The 10/3/13 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. *Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS
Presentation of the 2014 Slate of Officers - As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Commissioner Massa presented the 2014 slate of officers:

- Chair: Michael Grabhorn
- Vice Chair: Monica Wilson
- Secretary: Akin Merino
- Treasurer: Veatrice Jews

A motion made by Commissioner Massa and seconded by Commissioner Alonso. Motion passed; no further abstentions.

Reschedule January BHC meeting to Monday, January 6, 2014 due to New Year Holiday - *A motion made by Commissioner Jews and seconded by Commissioner Massa. Motion passed; no further abstentions.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS
No public comments were provided.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Chairperson McGee-Stehsel announced the upcoming annual BHC Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony will be held on 12/5/13, from 2-4pm. She encouraged everyone to submit nominations to honor individuals/agencies who promote consumer input and decision making to improve program access and outcomes. She recently attended a disaster preparedness presentation and the effect of disasters on seriously mentally ill individuals.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS
First District:
Commissioner Gonzales reported his church group in the high desert is a safe haven for the LGBTQ community.

Second District:
Commissioner Alonso attended the Wellness Triathlon first two events, miniature golf and the NAMI Walk. She participates in the Full Service Partnership program, which provides placement for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, depending on their level of recovery. She attended the celebration of life for Cindy Messer, Peer and Family Advocate (PFA) for DBH, who will be missed by all she came in contact with. She recognized Cliff Craig, PFA at Pathways for his advocacy.

Commissioner Farr attended the STAY (crisis residential services for Transitional Age Youth) Open House. She recently attended the INFO graduation, a program where teams work with families conflict. The Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) conference will be held in San Mateo January 9-10.

Third District:
Commissioner Chris Massa will attend the Native American Heritage celebration on 11/13/13, where Supervisor Ramos will provide opening remarks. Chris looks forward to the annual Holiday Tea, reviewing nominations and presenting awards. There was a huge turnout at this year's NAMI Walk. Various clubhouses met at TEAM House for a Halloween party.

Commissioner Mondragon was proud of San Bernardino County as the most spirited at the NAMI Walk. For National Mental Health Month in May 2014, he's planning events to promote education and mental health.

Fourth District:
Vice Chair Wilson missed the October meeting due to a serious car accident. She missed her fellow Commissioners as the work we do pushes me forward to advocacy!

Commissioner Casas has started a new position as Affiliate Faculty for Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, School of Cultural and Family Psychology. Tomorrow he's attending the Latinola Conference at Cal State North Ridge.

Fifth District:
Commissioner Jews participated in the recent review of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) by the CA External Quality Review Organization. She is proud to say DBH staff are audit ready wit

excellent data. The African American Mental Health Coalition is planning their 3rd annual Mental Health Symposium in February 2014, at Valley College.

Board of Supervisors:
On behalf of Supervisor James Ramos, Molly Wiltshire, Communications Director, attended the Wellness Triathlon miniature golf event. As Supervisor Ramos looks forward to the Native American Heritage Month Celebration, he extends an invitation to all of you to attend. This year, Supervisor Ramos' office has spearheaded the development of the Give BIG San Bernardino County campaign for donations to your favorite non-profit agency. She will forward the flyer to the Clerk of the Commission for distribution.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director Thomas announced that Patrick Petre is resigning as CEO of Arrowhead Regional Center (ARMC) to return to the private sector, effective 11/15/13. Dr. Richard Pitts will serve as interim CEO. ARMC is a valued partner of DBH. Gwen Morse, DBH Disaster and Safety Coordinator, will be retiring after 22 years of service, effective 12/27/13.

The High Desert Crisis Walk In Center was temporarily closed due to plumbing issue which caused contamination to the carpet, walls and furnishings in a section of the facility. During the closure, clients were diverted or transported for alternate services. DBH regrets the inconvenience this may have caused for clients in the High Desert.

Director Thomas thanked everyone who participated in the NAMI Walk. She was inspired by Commissioner Mondragon's remarks to take action against stigma.

On 11/5/13, the Board of Supervisors approved an electronic health records and billing system for DBH.

DBH is in the process of applying for grant opportunities:

- Medicaid Outreach - focused on target populations
- SB 82: The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 - funding is available to enhance crisis services through two grant opportunities.
    1. Provision of 600 additional triage personnel statewide, peers with lived experience due 1/2/14
    2. Provision of alternative settings to inpatient care due 1/22/14

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Medi-Cal Expansion and Health Care Reform
Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, DBH Deputy Director, discussed the changes to behavioral health benefits in CA. 700,000 more individuals in San Bernardino County are now eligible for Medi-Cal. DBH, IEHP and Molina are Medi-Cal HMO's. Beneficiaries between 0-138% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) fall into three tiers of benefit levels:

- Tier 1: IEHP/Molina within the scope of Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) - usually mild symptoms
- Tier 2: IEHP/Molina out of the scope of PCP but does not meet Specialty Mental Health criteria – mild to moderate symptoms
- Tier 3: DBH serves individuals that meet medical necessity criteria for Specialty Mental Health Services (significant to severe)

Covered California is for individuals between 139-400% FPL. DBH does not serve.

Behavioral health benefits include more adults eligible for Medi-Cal or other insurance that will have access to behavioral health services. Care will be more coordinated between primary, behavio health and/or substance use.

Patient expectations include:

- Same day appointments for acute illness
- After hour care with your medical history available electronically
- Nurses handle prescription renewal immediately
- Test results available online; electronic record tracks/reminds of needed follow up
- Your doctor knows when you are hospitalized and follows up

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

Karen Cervantes, DBH Public Information Office and Community Outreach announced that Pathways to Recovery is our top fundraiser for the NAMI Walk. The Wellness Triathlon Talent and Awards Night will be held on 12/18/13.

Commissioner Farr announced that El Sol graduated 60 new community health workers yesterday. The Promotores de Salud have serviced 5527 families.

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

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair, Behavioral Health Commission

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission