MINUTES
County of San Bernardino
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
April 3, 2014 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:
Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn, Monica Wilson, Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti and Supervisor James Ramos, Third District

Excused Absence: Akin Merino
Absent: Jane Godager

Guests:
Molly Wiltshire, John Futch, Office of Supervisor James Ramos, Third District; Otis Greer, County Administrative Office; Sherie Park, Steve Hale, Wandolyn Lane, Valley Star; Wayne Henkelmann, Mental Health Court; Terry Boykins, Street Positive; Lorraine Smith, Lazaro Ab, TEAM House; Lupita Mendez, El Sol; Faith Ikeda, J. Gomez, Michael Conte, Smoky, Patricia Barnes, Gus Villagran Jr, David Redondo, Pathways to Recovery; Elyvanie Mukangaga, Connie, Sisifa, Camelia Escarzaga, David Miller; Lisa Viveros, Brian Mejia, Marcus Denby; Greg Vander-Haeghen, Chris Morton, Amazing Place; Linda Hart, Roshon Paulson, Reginald Crosby, Catherine Beamer, African American Mental Health Coalition; Krystal Daniels, Shubi Singh, Cal State University; Horacio Jones, Monique Tarver, Gigi Crowder; Mental Health Friendly Communities; Owusu Hodari, Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches; Hanna Keith, Charles Pearson, Community Hospital Behavioral Health Services; Ashley Jones, ASM; CaSonya Thomas, Karen Torres-Gonzalez, Erin Zamora, Tracy Bomberger, Sherwin Farr, Viviana Esparza, Justine Rangel, Karen Cervantes, Michelle Dusick, Michael Oliver, Andy Gruchy, Jonathan Benvenisti, Michael Sweitzer, André Bossieux, Mariann Ruffolo, Stephanie Hsieh, Doris Turner, Erica Porteous, Kristen Mungcal, Joanne Mitchell, Clifford Craig, 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 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Alonso led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

Tab 3: Approve Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes of 3/6/14.

APPROVED
Motion/Second: Monica Wilson/May Farr
AYES: Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chris Massa, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn, Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti, Supervisor James Ramos

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Lorraine Smith, TEAM House, announced some of the groups offered at the Clubhouse: nutrition, cooking, budgeting, healthy eating choices, art and dancing. Average daily membership has increased from 15-27 individuals.

Chris Morton, TEAM House: Sheriff Deputy trainees participated in Crisis Intervention Training at the Clubhouse. Consumers partnered with deputies in various training activities.

Terry Boykins, Street Positive CEO, announced a free informational meetings about preventing child abuse, neglect and sex trafficking; for further information visit www.streetpositive.com.

Linda Hart, President, African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC) prepared and read a letter addressed to the BHC. The letter is in support of the African American Community Mental Health Outreach Workers (AAMHOW) Program. The purpose of the letter and testimony of outreach workers today is to prove how important AAMHOW's work is in the community. With current work plans in progress we will have to cut back our outreach in the community. The letter was submitted for inclusion in the official meeting record.

Pastor Owusu Hodari, Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC), provided a letter in support of AAMHC. The AAMHC is a viable part of the community and provides a necessary service in the African American community and the larger community benefits as well. IECAAC has been informed that due to budgetary restraints services will have to be cut back even though the number of clients served by AAMHOW have exceeded over 200%. IECAAC asks that DBH consider the value of this service and increase, not decrease, the ability to provide this much needed service. The letter was submitted for inclusion in the official meeting record.

Roshon Paulson, Catherine Beamer and Reginald Crosby, AAMHOW, expressed their concerns about funding reductions. Comments included, "too often our community is the last to receive services that are presently lacking; funding reduction would not send a favorable message; kids, siblings, grandparents are taking literature home to share with other family members."

Director CaSonya Thomas responded. The community outreach worker Request for Proposal is for $450,000 to serve four groups; African American, Native American, LGBTQ, and Asian Pacific Islander. El Sol was recommended a contract award and we are currently in negotiations; the plan/contract has not been finalized. El Sol will work with the sub-contractors to determine funding amounts. In response to stakeholder feedback, $50,000 has been cut aside to address challenges in the High Desert.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel provided a strong recommendation that everyone carry a list of current medications in their wallet in case of emergency, as new hospital regulations require reconciling medications.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Mike Grabhorn announced April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Bikers Against Child Abuse will present at the 4/16/14, District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting to be held at the Victor Community Holistic Campus from 11am-12pm. He participated on the Mental Health Boards/Commissions training webinar: Addiction and Motivational Interviewing.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr attended the Open House for Magnolia @ 9th senior apartments, an MHSA funded housing project. The MHSA Integrated Plan has been discussed at each of the March DAC meetings.

Commissioner Monica Alonso attended the Inspire Holistic Campus Grand Opening. She's learning to be more supportive to family members through psychotherapy.

Third District:
Commissioner Mondragon attended the grand opening of the Inspire Multi-Cultural Holistic Campus located on Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino. He was highly impressed with the services to be provided. Mental Health Month Solidarity Day event at CSUSB are still progressing.

Fourth District:
Secretary Akin Merino's report was provided by Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel: Commissioner Merino spent a few Saturdays referring homeless individuals in San Bernardino to resources. Rialto and the Redlands have no shelters for women and men that provide a place to sleep, eat and shower.

As Chair of the CA Mental Health Planning Council, Monica Wilson, will be attending the meeting on April 16-18 in Irvine. Cynthia White, DBH Chief Patients' Rights Advocate will be presenting to the Patients' Rights Sub-committee. The 2nd/4th DAC meeting will be held on April 10 from 2-4pm at the Rancho Cucamonga, Family Resource Center.

Commissioner Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti attended The Gathering on Mental Health and the Church in Lake Forest, CA, on 3/28/14, from 8:30-9pm. Co-hosted by Pastor Rick Warren, Bishop Kevin Vann and NAMI, discussed the importance of churches working together to address critical mental health issues. An overflow crowd of 3,300 people attended the event at Saddleback Church and online audience was able to join during a live webcast.

Fifth District:
Treasurer Veatrice Jews attended the Children's Network Shine A Light on Child Abuse breakfast, where Michelle Dusick, DBH MHSA Coordinator was honored with an award. She's been assisting members of the community to get enrolled in Covered CA prior to the deadline of 3/31/14.

Board of Supervisors:
Supervisor James Ramos congratulated DBH for their hard work. He will celebrate National Mental Health Awareness Month by attending the annual Evening with the Stars event on 5/28/14, at the Hilton San Bernardino. The Board of Supervisors have been actively advocating for homeless individuals and families.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thomas stated that without the support of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Office, DBH service enhancement programs would not be possible. The Mental Health Services Oversight Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) unanimously approved our MHSA Innovation Plan, on 3/27/14.

We have been informed by the MHSOAC that we will receive a funding announcement for the SB 82 Triage Grant after the Governor's May Revise. We were not successful for the first round of funding for the SB 82 Grant administered by the CA Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA). We will apply for the second round of funding focusing on services in the High Desert.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

CalMHSA Overview of African American Spirituality Initiative by Gigi Crowder, Pastor Horac Jones, Monique Tarver, Mental Health Friendly Communities Spirituality Trainer/Consultants: To better understand the cultural extent of stigma and discrimination in the African American community and to identify best practices, informational interviews were conducted with individuals and organizations throughout the state; key findings included:

- Rather than rely on mental health system, many draw support from faith, family and communities
- Harnessing the power of the faith community to deliver messages of support, education and hope is the most effective way to address stigma and discrimination.

Objectives include:

- Spirituality Initiative creates "mental health friendly communities." Participating churches must complete four training modules and create a team of church members to oversee program implementation.
- County mental health agencies and community based organizations will partner to support community wellness.

Four communities were selected to pilot the Spirituality Initiative: Solano, Fresno, Sacramento, San Bernardino/Riverside. These communities contain some of the largest population of African Americans in the state and have faith and community leaders willing to develop strategic alliances for a sustainable stigma reduction initiative. Technical assistance will be provided and a kick-off event will be held in June.

African American Community Mental Health Outreach Workers by Linda Hart, President, AAMHC: This program is a model for community health workers whose goal is to provide informati and educational services regarding mental health, mental illness and mental health services available in the community. Mental health outreach worker classes develop and strengthen:

- Personal, leadership and community working skills, community working skills, leadership skills
- Learn how to send positive and effective messages regarding mental health and available resources
- Identify resources; assist community members to participate in their mental health improvement and quality of life.

The role of the community health workers is to break the silence of mental illness by building an audience, establishing a friendly environment, inviting participants to talk about their own experiences, and that listening to the experience of others is important because we learn from each other.

The AAMHC collaborates with El Sol so that community health workers can promote mental health and inform about available resources in the African American community.

ADJOURNMENT: Today's meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair, Behavioral Health Commission

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission