

County of San Bernardino
Behavioral Health Commission
Executive Session
September 4, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Members Present: Monica Alonso, Monica Wilson, Christopher Massa, Ed O'Brien, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews

Excused Absences: Michael Grabhorn, Jane Ann Godager, Akin Merino, May Farr

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Debi Pasco, Esmeralda Sanchez, Alicia Cortes - El Sol, Beverly Scott - ITS, Leea Kasten,- Inland Empire Community Collaborative ITS, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Joshua Taylor, Michelle Dusick, Lupita Mendez, Darla Mondragon, Evelyne Kubinski.

CALL TO ORDER and SELF INTRODUCTIONS

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

Tab 1: Review Executive Session Minutes from 07/3/14

Approved

Motion/Second: Veatrice Jews/Christopher Massa

Ayes: Monica Alonso, Monica Wilson, Ed O'Brien, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Troy Mondragon

Objections: None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel gave a summary of her report regarding program visits she conducted over the summer and residential sober living centers in the mountain areas.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioners gave a brief summary of their reports for the afternoon session.

Commissioner O'Brien voiced concern regarding conversations during a First District Advisory Committee meeting. There seems to be a disconnect between multiple service providers in the High Desert:

- Adolescents required to wait hours, sometimes days, for a bed at Loma Linda Hospital
- DBH Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) and Sheriff disagree who should stay with patient until a bed is found; CCRT vs taking a Deputy off the streets

Director Thomas responded that there are challenges in the High Desert with a lack of inpatient behavioral health beds, which we are working on. She will have Deputy Director Sharon Nevins follow up with him.

Commissioner Mondragon will discuss his experience at the CA NAMI Conference and the award he received.

Commissioner Massa will discuss the workshops he attended at the CA NAMI Conference.

It was reported to Vice Chair Wilson that the wait time to see a provider at Barstow Community Counseling is 2-4 months out. Director Thomas responded that there is a shortage of professional staff in Barstow, but we continue to recruit. Additionally, the Barstow area is designated as a mental health shortage area for loan forgiveness. She suggested that Deputy Director Andrew Gruchy can assist in navigating the system and answer any questions. Debi Pasco will send her list of county and contract providers in Barstow. Vice Chair Wilson also requested additional mental health advocates at Community Vital Signs meetings.

Commissioner Jews congratulated Troy on his award. Mental Health Friendly Congregations/Community conference for pastors and congregations will be held on 9/20/14 at the Ingram Community Center. CaSonya stated that the Mental Health

Friendly Communities/Congregations is supported by our participation in the PEI Statewide Initiative funding administered through the CA Mental Health Services Authority (CALMHSA). This is a unique opportunity for San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC) are actively participating.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Scott inquired whether DBH provides priority services to individuals with borderline personality disorder. Director Thomas responded that DBH does not rank individuals by diagnosis.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thomas shared the community feedback received by the CA Mental Health Planning Council during the "Community Dialogue on Mental Health" held in our county on 7/29/14. 112 individuals signed in - comments were generally favorable, but also included: Hire additional professional staff; lack of quality residential treatment facilities in CA; barriers at the state level for funding nursing programs; lack of services for post-partum and mental health issues related to pregnancy; concern about the quality of vocational rehab services provided by the Department of Rehabilitation. DBH will use comments to inform quality improvement.

BRIEFINGS

CA External Quality Review Organization (CAEQRO) by Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Deputy Director

San Bernardino County's CAEQRO Report for Fiscal Year 13-14 was distributed. CAEQRO found strengths in the programs, practices, or information systems that have significant impact on the overall delivery system. CAEQRO also noted opportunities for quality improvement, such as: lengthy wait times for Transitional Age Youth services; low follow-up rates after inpatient discharge

Mandated County Performance Contract with Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) by Sarah Eberhardt-Rios

DBH is required to enter into a mandated County Performance Contract with the DHCS in order to receive various funding. The contract outlines the performance standards for the delivery of local mental health services to county residents. The BHC is required to review this item prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This item is a New Business item during the afternoon session.

ADJOURNMENT: Today's meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair

Debi Pasco, Executive Secretary II
Recorder