

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
May 7, 2015 - 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

Ed O'Brien, Michael Grabhorn, Christopher Massa, Catherine Inscore, Troy Mondragon, Monica Wilson, Veatrice Jews, Jane Ann Godager, May Farr, David Miller, Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter and Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

**Excused Absence:** Susan McGee-Stehsel,

Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

In the absence of Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel, Vice Chair Monica Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. Commissioner Ed O'Brien led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

**"FINDING MY PATH"**

André Bossieux, DBH Program Manager II, and Landon Sharp, Stars Behavioral Health Group introduced Selvaughn Keagan, Transitional Age Youth, who shared his personal story of overcoming challenges experienced in his early teens through video <http://mentalhealthchannel.tv/episode/finding-his-path> and answering questions from the audience.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lupita Mendez, El Sol Promotores de Salud, thanked the BHC for their time and effort to promote prevention and early intervention (PEI). Over the last 7 years she has seen how investing in PEI services and resources helps to reduce costs associated with higher levels of care for those in crises.

Irma Cortes, El Sol, stated that Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) services are making a difference in our communities.

Victor and Gwen from Barstow Clubhouse thanked the BHC and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) for providing a public forum to be heard in such a welcoming manner. They are thankful for the Clubhouse Program and services provided.

**VICE CHAIR'S REPORT**

In celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, Dr. Monica Wilson is honored to speak today at a middle school about reducing stigma. National University hosted a Community Mental Health Conference on April 30. She thanked El Sol for always being present. Commissioners Akin Merino and Monica Wilson will host Healing Communities –Inland Empire Mental Health Spirituality Conference on 5/30/15, from 9am-5pm, in Rancho Cucamonga.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Fifth District:**

Treasurer Veatrice Jews stated that Mental Health Friendly Communities, sponsored through San Bernardino County's participation in the PEI Statewide Initiatives, held an "I'm a Winner" training on 4/28/15, designed for faith leaders to learn how to better support the mental health needs of African

American children in educational settings. Veatrice presented Director CaSonya Thomas with a letter of response on behalf of Pastor Hodari. Dr. Gloria Morrow will present at several Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches on May 3 and May 17. Her presentation will introduce common signs and symptoms of mental illness and its impact on families and communities, and strategies to assist the faith community to create programs that focus on prevention.

Commissioner Jane Ann Godager attended the State of the County event on 4/13/15. The DBH Homeless Outreach Support Team was presented by Michael Sweitzer, Program Manager I, at the Fifth District Advisory Committee on 4/27/15. Jane looks forward to attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening with the Stars on 5/27/15.

#### **Fourth District:**

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter works with seniors and students in the schools. She continues to familiarize herself to her role as a new Commissioner.

After a recent suicide at Etiwanda High School, Commissioner Akin Merino and community members organized a prayer vigil at the school. She attended the Women in Action meeting, founded by Commissioner Monica Wilson, which champions change in the community. Her group continues reaching out to homeless individuals; it has been her experience to be patient as one day change happens.

#### **Third District:**

Commissioner Catherine Inscore announced that Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree will have its first Mental Health Fair on May 12. DBH staff will provide resource information at the event.

Commissioner Troy Mondragon announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual mental health event at Cal State was a huge success yesterday. He thanked El Sol for participating. This month he will be speaking at the Diocese of San Bernardino Behavioral Health Conference on May 13, the DBH Diversity Film Series on May 19-20, and at an event at Redlands University. You are invited to attend the Family Service Agency Community Advisory Board on May 26, from 12-1pm at the Redlands Senior Center.

Commissioner Chris Massa enjoyed the State of the County event, which was hosted by Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos. Chris also attended the Meet the Artist Art Exhibit at the Koehler Gallery on May 1, in Fontana.

#### **Second District:**

Secretary May Farr attended the 2015 Cambodia New Year Celebration. She also attended the CA Mental Health Policy Council and CA Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commission meetings that were held in San Pedro. Besides moving to a new location, Riverside County Department of Mental Health and their Mental Health Commission will be changing their name to include behavioral health. She thanked the TAY Center for presenting her with a very cleverly made and beautiful birthday card.

Commissioner David Miller realizes the importance of self-care and support as he balances his volunteer work at Mariposa Community Counseling, his Commission duties and his home life. This last month David participated in spirituality and Community Resiliency Model trainings, the Second/Fourth District Advisory Committee meeting, Rancho Cucamonga Service Council Awards Dinner and a peer certification teleconference.

#### **First District:**

Commissioner Ed O'Brien met with Cynthia White, DBH Chief Patients' Rights Advocate, to discuss preliminary work on the concept of a possible "Expunge Your Record Opportunity" for DBH consumers. Housing disqualification is a major factor of this effort. He is also interested in integrating DBH's system

of care into the criminal justice system. DBH staff provided Mental Health First Aid Training to the Public Defender's Office.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn is working with DBH Deputy Director Andrew Gruchy to provide information to Supervisor Robert Lovingood regarding appropriate care of behavioral health clients in hospital emergency rooms. Michael attended a human trafficking training. In the past victims of human trafficking were treated as criminals; they are now treated as victims and may suffer Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders for many years. Victorville has passed an ordinance prohibiting the possession, sale and distribution of synthetic drugs.

**Board of Supervisors:**

Molly Wiltshire, Deputy Chief of Staff, Third District, stated that Board of Supervisors Chairman James Ramos is passionate about the plight of homeless youth and has been involved in the establishment of a Homeless Youth Committee, which he chairs. The Committee implemented its first homeless youth survey on April 8th. A report is being compiled and will be presented in the next couple of months

**PUBLIC HEARING: MHSA Annual Update FY 2015-16**

Michelle Dusick, MHSA Administrative Manager presented. Per Welfare & Institutions Code 5848, the mental health board shall conduct a public hearing on the draft MHSA Annual Update at the close of the 30-day comment period, which concluded on 4/20/15.

The Annual Update was developed with local stakeholders. Feedback from regularly occurring stakeholder meetings is compiled throughout the year and included with feedback from any special sessions to review the Annual Update.

DBH conducted outreach to promote the Annual Update stakeholder process through press releases, distributing flyers via email in English and Spanish, posting on county and DBH website and DBH social media sites. Comment forms were available in English and Spanish. 241 stakeholders completed a comment form as a result of attending the special sessions or responding to the 30-day public posting. 97% indicated there were satisfied with the overall process and the Annual Update.

A summary and analysis of stakeholder feedback and comments received and the department response has been included in the MHSA Annual Update for FY 2015-16.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – ACTION ITEMS**

Affirm the process of the MHSA Annual Update FY 2015-16

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Jane Ann Godager/ May Farr

AYES: Monica Wilson, Michael Grabhorn, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Ed O'Brien, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, Troy Mondragon, Chris Massa, Akin Merino, Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director CaSonya Thomas stated that San Bernardino County and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA support Senate Bill (SB) 614. If approved, SB 614 establishes a Peer and Family Support Specialist (PFSS), Certification Program administered by Department of Health Care Services by July 1, 2016, to provide services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries with mental health care needs. Benefits include:

- Will improve and expand behavioral health care workforce, and provide new federal Medicaid funding
- Authorizes DHCS to amend the State’s Medicaid Plan to add peer support providers as a provider type within the Medi-Cal Program, and seek any federal waivers or state plan amendments as necessary.
- Honor the professional nature of the work that is being done at the peer level, and raise the expectation and respect for peer positions so people with lived experience can have pride in their position and know the value of their knowledge and support for people with mental challenges.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS**

Karen Cervantes announced upcoming May Mental Health Month activities:

- 5/14/15, 5-8:30pm: **Directing Change Screening & Award Ceremony**, Lewis Family Playhouse Victoria Gardens, 12505 Cultural Center Dr., Rancho Cucamonga
- 5/27/15, 6-8:30pm: **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening with the Stars**, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave, Ontario

Kristen Mungcal, Program Manager, stated that Clubhouse and Transitional Age Youth partners are working hard to earn your sponsorship at Evening with the Stars.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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*Monica Wilson, Vice Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission