MINUTES
County of San Bernardino
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
January 5, 2015 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:
Susan McGee-Stehsel, Ed O'Brien, Monica Wilson, Akin Merino, May Farr, Michael Grabhorn, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews and Lizett Santoro on behalf of Supervisor Ramos, Third District

Excused Absence: Christopher Massa, Jane Godager, David Miller

Guests:
Victoria Ostermann, County Administrative Office; Beverly Scott, family member; Lawrence Gonzaga, IEHP; Claire Karp, Pacific Clinics; Robyn Freeman, Family Service Agency; Gary Atkins, South Coast Community Services; Mariann Ruffolo, Douglas Fazekas, Lauretta Ross, Cynthia Gutierrez, Michael Oliver, Doris Turner, Michael Sweitzer, Imo Momoh, Sherwin Farr, Leann Mast, Erica Porteous, Veronica Leon, Michael Schertell, Andrew Gruchy, Tracy Bomberger, Jonathan Benvenisti, Merida Saracho, Jeany Zepeda, Dianne Wolkenhauer, Cynthia White, Karen Cervantes, Caitlyn Ratliff, Erica Castro, Miriam Clark,
Allison Cunningham, Jamesia Brown, 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 12:04 p.m. Michael Grabhorn led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission announced that Supervisor Janice Rutherford appointed David Miller to the Behavioral Health Commission, Second District, on November 18, 2014.

Review Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Minutes of November 6, 2014
APPROVED
Motion/Second: May Farr/Veatrice Jews
AYES: Susan McGee-Stehsel, Akin Merino, Ed O'Brien, Monica Wilson, Michael Grabhorn, Troy Mondragon, Lizett Santoro on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments provided.

CHAIR'S REPORT

On November 13-14, Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel, co-presented Perinatal Services and Treatment at the Odyssey Nursing Symposium. She thanked Mariann Ruffolo and staff for the outstanding Workforce Education and Training presentation at the December Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:
Commissioner Ed O'Brien attended the BHC Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony. He was hoping to receive one of the 2014 consumer artwork that was available through the opportunity drawing. He was also impressed with the gingerbread houses created by clubhouse and Transitional Age Youth members.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn met with DBH Deputy Director, Andrew Gruchy, law enforcement and hospitals to discuss plans for a crisis residential facility in the High Desert. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) presented at the last District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. They want to become more connected with hospitals and doctors for increased referrals. He also visited St. John of God Health Care Services, a residential treatment center. They currently have four beds and are looking to expand; services provided include: intensive classes for life skills, coping skills, anger management, relapse prevention, etc. On another note, #X is a new texting term, which means you are not able to text at this time as you will be driving.

Second District:
Commissioner May Farr is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Inland Valley. The Talent and Awards Night event is getting better every year. Supervisor James Ramos provided opening remarks at the BHC Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony, where it was standing room only. The CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commission quarterly meeting will be held in San Diego January 15-17.

Third District:
Commissioner Troy Mondragon participated in the week long Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) provided by DBH to law enforcement. CIT is an amazing collaboration where law enforcement is able to interact with clubhouse members and participate in training reenactments. He also learned that law enforcement personnel are at high risk for suicide. There are only five months left to plan activities in celebration of May Mental Health month!

Fourth District:
Secretary Akin Merino, in conjunction with Commissioners Wilson and McGee-Stehsel, is planning a Behavioral Health Conference with three local colleges to occur in May 2015, for students, stakeholders and agencies in the behavioral health field.
Her group is still reaching out to homeless individuals in San Bernardino and Palm Springs to provide resources. The nex' Second/Fourth DAC meeting will be held 1/8/15, at the Rancho Cucamongo Resource Center.

Vice Chair Monica Wilson congratulated the BHC Holiday Tea award recipients for their service this past year. She announced the CA Mental Health Planning Council Meeting will be held January 15-17 in San Diego. The good work being done by San Bernardino County is highlighted at every meeting. Chris Brown, serving as keynote speaker, presented suicide prevention at the African American Mental Health Conference. Dr. Monica Wilson will present at the "Pushing Beyond Your Pain Into Your Purpose" workshop in Los Angeles on 1/10/15.

Fifth District:
Treasurer Veatrice Jews announced that André Bossieux, DBH Program Manager II, will be recognized at the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC) 35th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast on 1/19/15, at 7:30am; tickets are $25.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director CaSonya Thomas acknowledged the new 2015 consumer calendar artwork displayed in the Auditorium.

Under the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program, Round 2, the CA Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) has approved funding for DBH to build a 16 bed crisis residential facility near the Gilbert Street complex in San Bernardino; timeline until opening is 16-18 months. DBH will also submit an application for Round 3 funding prior to 3/15/15.
Recently passed by CA voters, Proposition 47, the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act" means that more individuals convicted of nonviolent drug and property crimes will be sentenced to county interventions such as jail terms or community based supervision. If a savings materializes due to Prop 47,

- 65% will be used for mental health, drug treatment and other diversion programs
- 25% for programs to improve outcomes for K-12 public school students; reduce truancy, support students at risk of dropping out or victims of crimes
- 10% for trauma recover centers to provide services to victims of crime

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION:

DBH Children and Youth Programs Continuum of Care by Michael Schertell, Deputy Director, DBH

There are many partners in the support of children/youth in San Bernardino County: the family, faith based community, public schools, DBH, contract providers, Children's Network, Children's Fund, Children and Family Services, Public Health, law enforcement and Probation.

The majority of children/youth seen by DBH's continuum of care have experienced trauma, poverty or social injustices. Our goal is to help resolve issues with services at the lowest level, for example:

- Prevention and Early Intervention: family resource centers, Preschool Services Program, Resilience Promotion in African American Children, Child and Youth Connections and Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation.
- Regional outpatient clinics
- School based: Student Assistance Program; School Age Treatment Services

Services available for children/youth requiring more intensive services include:

- Success First wraparound; Therapeutic Behavioral Health, Screening Assessment, Referral and Treatment (SART); Children's Assessment Center; Healthy Homes; Katie A; Juvenile Justice; Children & Youth Collaborative Services.
- Placement: Acute hospital; Foster Care Agency; Group homes; Children Residential Services; Community Treatment Facilities

Over the last several years, DBH's relationship with the schools has become more extensive. We are now serving more than 7,000 children/youth in schools.

NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS – Election of 2015 Officers

Commissioner Ed O'Brien, assumed the role of Chair during the election of officers. He called for further nominations from the floor. Commissioner Akin Merino withdrew her nomination as Secretary. The only position that required a vote was for Vice Chair as there were two nominations.

Voting of Vice Chair was conducted verbally

Ed O'Brien voted for Michael Grabhorn
Michael Grabhorn voted for Michael Grabhorn
May Farr voted for Monica Wilson
Akin Merino voted for Monica Wilson
Monica Wilson voted for Monica Wilson
Susan McGee-Stehsel voted for Monica Wilson
Veatrice Jews voted for Monica Wilson
Troy Mondragon voted for Monica Wilson
Lizett Santorro, on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos, voted for Monica Wilson

The 2015 Behavioral Health Commission Officers were presented as follows:

- Chair: Susan McGee-Stehsel
- Vice Chair: Monica Wilson
- Secretary: May Farr
- Treasurer: Veatrice Jews

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

Karen Cervantes announced the Office of Homeless Services Point in Time Count will be held 1/22/15, throughout San Bernardino County, from 6am-10am.

DBH is requesting artwork from consumers for the 2016 – 2017 DBH Calendar. Selected art will also be displayed in the Auditorium for an entire year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

_____

Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

_____

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission