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

Commissioners Present:
Susan McGee-Stehsel, Ed O'Brien, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, David Miller and May Farr

Excused Absence: Catherine Inscore, Veatrice Jews, Monica Wilson, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn and Akin Merino

Guests:
Lydia Alcaraz, Greg Vander-Haeghen, Joseph Lewis, Andrew Castregon, Emilia Arellano, Amazing Place; Denise Byrd, Lori Marrujo, Ray Blevins, Joanne Mitchell, David Lillesfo, Michael Moreno, Patricia StratFaith Ikeda, Pathways to Recovery; Beverly Scott, family member; Steven Hale, Valley Star; Wayne Henkelmann, San Bernardino County Mental Health Court; Maria Murillo, Family Service Agency; Heidi Echeveria, Inland Coaltion; Lupita Mendez, El Sol; Jesse Sierra, Public; Thomas Darby, Connie Boring, Sushma Lal, Department of Rehabilitation; Mallen Hernandez, HOST; CaSonya Thomas, Karen Cervantes, Miriam Clark, Paula Rutten, André Bossieux, Douglas Fazekas, Vickie Mack, Cynthia White, Merida Saracho, Lauretta Ross, Doris Turner, Michael Schertell, Jon Buffong, Georgina Yoshioka, René Keres, Veronica Leon, Kara McLeod, Karen Torres-Gonzalez, Alfredo Jauregui, Aimara Freeman, Jamesia Brown, Jonathan Benvenisti, David Denkers, 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 12:07 p.m. Commissioner O'Brien led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission announced:

- Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood reappointed Commissioner Michael Grabhorn to the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) on 1/6/15.
- Supervisor James Ramos, Chairman, appointed Catherine Inscore to the BHC, Third District, on 1/27/15.

Review of the BHC meeting minutes of 1/5/15, will be deferred to the March 5, BHC meeting as there was no quorum available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Faith Ikeda announced that Pathways to Recovery was sponsoring an Opportunity Drawing. Tickets will be on sale after the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT
Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel, attended the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder conference yesterday at Cal State University San Bernardino. Discussion included impacts on the development of the child's brain and body, research and prevention. She is hoping to have a similar presentation at an upcoming BHC meeting. She and her nursing students are involved the redevelopment of Waterman Gardens project site (corner of Baseline and Waterman in San Bernardino); housing will be renovated, services will be available to surrounding areas, a community center and educational facilities will be included in the project.

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel provided the following report on behalf of Commissioner Akin Merino: Drug convictions seriously hinder the ability of college students to get and retain financial aid. For further information, please review The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website rules for financial aid eligibility.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:
Commissioner Ed O'Brien stated that the Public Defender has a program that assists individuals to expunge prior convictions, which also impedes the search for housing services. He also attended the Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast on 1/19/15, where DBH Program Manager II André Bossieux was honored for public service. Well deserved!

Second District:
As a newly appointed Commissioner, David Miller met with Director Thomas for a BHC orientation. He is involved in the Crisis Intervention Training sessions with members of law enforcement. Over 80 volunteers were honored at the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Volunteer Appreciation event. He stated that self-care plays a huge role in the recovery process.

Secretary May Farr met Christina Taylor, new Field Rep for Supervisor Janice Rutherford. May also volunteered for the Point in Time Count on 1/22/15, working in teams to count the homeless in the Upland area. The quarterly CA Mental Health Policy Council and CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions meetings will be held in San Pedro in April. The CA Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions is in the process of coordinating upcoming trainings for mental health boards/commissions.

Third District:
As a member of the BHC Annual Report Taskforce, Commissioner Chris Massa has been meeting with Commissioners Veatrice Jews, May Farr and Debi Pasco to provide a final draft for BHC review. He remains involved in the Substance Use Disorder taskforce and continuing his higher education.

Fifth District:
Commissioner Jane Ann Godager attends monthly meetings of the directors for the Senior and Disabled Fund. This fund provides emergency support to seniors and the disabled for utility payments, groceries, wheelchair ramps, etc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director CaSonya Thomas announced the retirement of Randall Schulz, Director, Children and Family Services (CFS). Marlene Hagen has been appointed as the new CFS Director.

DBH has been granted funding for Round 2 of the CA Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) SB82 grant for crisis residential services. This item will go before the Board of Supervisors on 3/3/15, to accept funds. DBH will also submit an application for Round 3 funding prior to 3/15/15. Our goal is to create a crisis residential program in the High Desert, which will provide intermediate services to avoid hospitalization. We are currently working with agencies in the High Desert to gain support from the community and cities.

Recently, the Little Hoover Commission released a report which was critical of new programs implemented through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA is working on a response to mitigate the report.

Also released in January was a report regarding the lack of services in CA for youth experiencing a mental health crisis. We will be looking at crisis residential services for youth in Round 4 of the CHFFA Grant opportunity.

The use of cheek swabs to determine appropriate medication usage has been discussed during the BHC Executive Session. Director Thomas will request DBH Research and Evaluation conduct research and will discuss findings at the March meeting.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Department of Rehabilitation Cooperative Programs presented by Connie Boring, Thomas Darby and Sushma Lal

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has been working with DBH since 1992, to provide services and advocacy to consumers resulting in employment and independence for individuals with disabilities. DOR and DBH staff work together as a multi-disciplinary team to assist mutual consumers to achieve gainful employment. Services and training include:

- Vocational and situational assessments
- Work adjustment
- Personal, vocational and social adjustment
- Educational training
- Work experience
- Employment preparation
- Job development, placement and retention
- Job coaching

Beverly Scott asked how DOR determines the order of selection? *Response: the most disabled have priority for services; others are put on a waiting list.*

How often do clients receive job coaching? *Job coaching is determined on an individual basis depending on the complexity of job duties.*

What is the percentage of DBH consumers that find employment? *San Bernardino County's goal is 33%. Most cases are successfully closed in after 90 days.*

What future changes will be implemented to improve services? *Within the last 2 years, DOR changed to a team approach. There are changes coming soon for the transitional age youth population. Clients are welcome to reapply for services at any time.*

The Mariposa Clinic in Ontario has employment services staff on-site that refers clients to DOR services.

NO NEW BUSINESS-ACTION ITEMS

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

Karen Cervantes announced that DBH is requesting consumer artwork for May Mental Health Month. Art will also be used in DBH Calendar for 2016-2017.

DBH will celebrate Black History Month on 2/20/15 at Valley College featuring DBH Program Manager II André Bossieux and Hari Jones, Assistant Director, African American Civil War Museum.

There are 21 MHSA Stakeholder Engagement events, scheduled that will focus on the MHSA Annu Update. Special focus will be placed on sharing how MHSA has been integrated into existing services and the future of mental health policy and program planning. Schedule of events are available at the handouts table.

DBH is requesting consumer artwork for May Mental Health Month. Selected art will be featured in the DBH Calendar for 2016 & 2017, and displayed in the Auditorium for an entire year.

ADJOURNMENT:
Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

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Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

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Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission