

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION
September 1, 2011 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:

Chris Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Gabriel Gonzales, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Tanya Perry, Jane Godager, Bill Swift, Roberto Casas, Tom Rivera, May Farr and Monica Wilson.

Excused Absent: Michael Hill and Jane Mercer

Guests:

Dianna Lee, Field Representative for Supervisor Janice Rutherford; Beverly Scott, Lorie Eklund, Katherin Franklin, Jared Chapman, Public; Stacy Sparks, Linda Hart, Inland Behavioral Health Services; Jintill Hart, Knott's Family Resource Center; Sherman Garnett, Patricia Garnett, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools; Denise Byrd, Doug Norcross, Carolyn Bennett, Faith Ikeda, Jarrod Chapman, Patricia Turner, Pathways to Recovery; Rodolfo Pinon, Casa de San Bernardino; Joe Guzman, Armando Ontiveros, EMQ FamiliesFirst; Hanna Keith, Charles Pearson, Community Hospital; Debbie Reno-Smith, Victor Community Support Services; Wayne Henkelmann, Court Mental Health Counselors; Tim Johnson, Department of Public Health; Allan Rawland, CaSonya Thomas, Michael Oliver, Megan Cuy Castellanos, Veronica Kelley, David Denkers, Mariann Ruffolo, Jason Hill, Georgina Yoshioka, Dennis Terrones, Michelle Dusick, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Tim Jackson, Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Ron Smith, Carolina Mendoza, Doug Fazekas, Terri Franklin, Linda Porter, Andy Gruchy, Gary Bastajian, Susanne Kulesa, Sherrie Alexander, Maria Coronado, Curtis Williams, Jonathan Buffong, Michael Schertell, and Kim Rosa, DBH. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance and self introductions followed.

A motion made by Roberto Casas and seconded by May Farr: July 7, 2011 Behavioral Health Commission minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no abstentions.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Veronica Kelley, Deputy Director presented the August award to Sherman Garnett, County of San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools.

"Mr. Garnett trains school district personnel up and down the State of California and at the National level. He is an expert on child welfare and attendance. He is the Homeless Coordinator for County schools. He has written the hand books used by every school district in SB County, Riverside County and districts in the state on "Guidelines to Pupil Records" and "The Guidelines for Suspension and Expulsion". He has impacted every ethnic student by his training on diversity to others around the State and Nation. He is a foremost expert on educational laws and ensures that school practitioners are up to date on legislation that will impact all students such as the new health legislation on Whooping Cough, etc. He is culturally competent and culturally relevant in all of his trainings."

Mr. Garnett thanked the members of the Commission and acknowledged his wife, Patricia, and his boss, Margaret Hill for their support. This county is undergoing a crisis in education; 30% + of youth aren't graduating. They are out in our communities having serious problems and no support. As resources dwindle we need to pool our resources and work together, as this battle is far from over. Congratulations, Sherman!

The September award was presented to Linda Hart, community advocate, founder and President of the African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC):

“After the passage of Proposition 63, many meetings were held to see how San Bernardino County would implement the law. It was a long arduous process, and many in the community were frustrated. Linda Hart decided to do something about it. Her concern was for a community that seemed to be left out of the mainstream of mental health. She formed the African American Mental Health Association to bring information to those who left out and to lessen the shame associated with mental health in the community. She has been successful in developing awareness about the issue. Many times in the African American community mental health has carried terrible stigmas and has kept many who need services from seeking help. Linda’s organization has begun to redefine and relieve that stigma. An example of her work not only has resulted in accolades from state agencies, but she wrote legislation that I introduced and was passed by the legislature designating February as African American Mental Health Month. In February 2011, she celebrated its passage with a successful conference to educate the community.”

Ms. Hart was nominated for this award by Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter. Ms. Hart thanked Ms. Carter's office and the members of the Commission for the recognition. She has been a resident of San Bernardino for 40 years and has recently participated in workgroups for the dismantling of the CA Department of Mental Health (DMH). She has also received a draft of Dr. Diane Woods California Reducing Disparities Project, and is sure DBH will implement suggestions. Ms. Hart introduced her daughter Jintill, who she is mentoring, and encouraged others to mentor our youth. Congratulations, Linda!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margaret Hill stated that Linda Hart and Sherman Garnett continue working with kids in our community. She also thanked Director Rawland and the Commission for their support of schools.

Jared Chapman stated he continues with his medication, attending church, and staying strong and alert.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel stated the Commissioners received Brown Act training by Bart Brizzee, Principal Assistant County Counsel, during the Executive Session this morning.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

First District:

In August, Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales attended the CA NAMI conference in Sacramento, attending the Spirituality and Behind the Mask workshops.

Commissioner Bill Swift is particularly interested in AB100, as well as the stakeholder process to dismantle DMH. In order to reduce stigma he would like to see a “Department of Growth and Development”. He also thanked Veronica Kelley and Gary Atkins for attending District Advisory Committee (DAC) meetings for the First District.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr announced that DBH took part in 6 of the 27 NACo awards received by San Bernardino County:

- Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE)
- Customer, Assistance and Resource (CARE)
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Program (FACT)
- Performance Indicators Dashboard Project
- Project First Steps
- Project Journey House Housing Program

Commissioner Farr attended both the National and CA NAMI conferences. The May 2011 mental health clothing drive resulted in 348 \$10 Goodwill clothing vouchers for consumers. She attended the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) VOICE awards in Hollywood. Upcoming events include: Latino Behavioral Health Institute Conference, September 14-16; Patton Mental Health Conference, September 28-29; California Planning Mental Health Planning Council, October 19-21; CA Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions, October 20-22; Mentally Ill and Law Enforcement (MILES) Conference, October 27; NAMI Walk, October 29.

Commissioner Monica Alonso also attended VOICE awards which highlighted mental health and trauma. She continues to work through her recovery.

Third District:

Commissioner Tom Rivera thanked Maribel Gutierrez for her support during the health fair in May.

Commissioner Chris Massa attended the CA NAMI California conference in Sacramento. He also announced the Behavioral Health Wellness Triathlon events:

- 9/23/11 - miniature golf, Fiesta Village
- 10/29/11 – NAMI Walk, Diamond Valley Lake
- 12/6/11 – Talent and Awards Night, BHRC Auditorium

Secretary Tanya Perry stated that during the July DAC meeting held at Phoenix Clinic, a family member inquired whether DBH has pre-employment counseling, testing, or training opportunities for consumers that could lead to employment. Director Rawland suggested an employment presentation be provided to the BHC at an upcoming meeting. Linda Hart suggested that DBH collaborate with the schools as they provide a model employment program for students.

Fourth District:

Vice Chair Monica Wilson announced that San Bernardino County is the 2nd county to submit the performance outcome data report to the CA Mental Health Planning Council. There was a large turnout at the DAC meeting held at the TAY Center; attendees were able to see the Building H expansion. Monica will participate in the LA County African American Mental Health Conference. She is pleased to see a swell in mental health awareness among African Americans across the nation.

Commissioner Roberto Casas made a presentation to Southwest University class regarding the differences between Section 504 (civil rights law ensuring that a child with a disability has equal access to an education; may receive accommodations and modifications) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and how school districts differentiate between the two.

Fifth District:

Treasurer Veatrice Jews participated in the "Ask the Doctor" workshop during the CA NAMI Conference, which focused on children and adolescents. Dr. Woods has completed data collection for the disparity project.

Commissioner Jane Godager participated in the August Data Workshop. September DAC meeting was canceled.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget:

Federal - "Super committee" is dealing with the debt ceiling and budget cuts.

State – Tax revenue not what expected; education impacted. Holding stakeholder meetings throughout the state seeking input on:

- Dissolving the Department of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP).
- Short Doyle Medi-Cal will transfer to the Department of Health Care Services – Sarah is our state liaison.

County – Budget gap of \$21 in general fund; impacted departments include law enforcement, District Attorney, Probation, etc.

DBH – approved balanced budget; addressing cost issues and services. Allan commends staff and contractors for working diligently. Benefits Strike Teams have been valuable in assisting clients obtain benefits.

AB-109 legislation is the early release of non-violent, non-sexual, non-serious offenders. San Bernardino County will receive approximately 3,000 individuals beginning next month. AB-109 talks about rehab to sustain them in the community. The county is proactive in planning for this event.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: EMQ FamiliesFirst – Family Search and Engagement

Armando Ontiveros, Regional Executive Director stated that EMQ partners with DBH, Children and Family Services and Probation to help create permanent, supportive relationships for foster youth who have lost family connections. They work with youth to identify, find and engage biological and other relatives who can become permanently invested in the well-being of the child. Emphasizing lifelong connections with family members or positive role models, 150 children have been served.

Upcoming special presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission include:

- 10/6/11: Alcohol and Drug Services County Demographics by Gary Atkins, Program Manager II, DBH
Clubhouse Update by Kristen Martinez, Mental Health Education Consultant, DBH
- 11/3/11: San Bernardino County Request for Proposal Process by Natalie Kessie, Contract Manager, DBH
Consumer Employment Training by Doug Fazekas, Housing and Employment Manager, DBH
- 12/1/11: “**DARK**” for Behavioral Health Commission Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony; 2-4pm
- 1/5/12: Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Projects by Michelle Dusick, Program Manager, DBH

NEW BUSINESS

- Reaffirm Stakeholder Process and Recommend to Submit MHSA Annual Update and Capital Facilities Plan to the Board of Supervisors for Approval – Mariann Ruffolo, MHSA Coordinator explained that due to AB100 county MHSA plans will no longer be evaluated by DMH. The local stakeholder process including community forums, 30-day posting, and Public Hearings will continue. *A motion was made by Jane Godager and seconded by May Farr. Motion passed; no abstentions.*
- Approve Performance Outcome Data Report – Linda Hart suggested a change on page 5. *A motion was made by Tanya Bratton and seconded by Monica Wilson. Motion passed; no abstentions.*
- Nominate FQHC Governing Board Member – *Jane Godager moved to nominate Bill Swift, First District, and seconded by Chris Massa. Motion passed; no abstentions.*
- November 3, 2011 Behavioral Health Commission Meeting conflicts with the Southern Region Cultural Competence Mental Health Summit that is being hosted by San Bernardino County. *Chris Massa made a motion to reschedule the BHC meeting to November 10, 2011, and was seconded by Gabriel Gonzales. Motion passed; no abstentions.*

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission