

MINUTES  
County of San Bernardino  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
June 7, 2012: 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

May Farr, Gabriel Gonzales, Roberto Casas, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Alonso, Monica Wilson, Jane Godager, Akin Merino and Chris Massa

**Excused Absent:** Bill Swift, Michael Hill

**Guests:**

Jose Marin, Field Representative for Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Beverly Scott, family member; Lisa Stetler, Amazing Place Clubhouse; Vanessa Holm, Family Service Association; Kara Hunter, C.A.S.A. of San Bernardino County; Lorie Eklund, consumer; Patrick McKinstry, LaBaron Group; Dr. Harper, JJLC; Eugenia Matamala, interpreter, Abel Corral, Maria Verduzco, Doug Norcross, Linda Ballard, Faith Ikeda, Matthew Pham, Esther Panon, Michael Moreno, Pathways to Recovery; Shari Scott; Donita McKee; Larissa Guinn, Pacific Clinics; Carol Gressmann, Volunteers of America; Gwen Rodgers, EMQ FamiliesFirst; Deborah Day, CSUSB student; Director CaSonya Thomas, Michelle Dusick, Vivien Limon, Cynthia Curbow for Cheryl Long, Janeth Tran, Viviana Esparza, Claudia Silva, Georgina Yoshioka, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Lauren Marlotte, Michael Schertell, Paula Rutten, Tim Jackson, Manuel Aybar, Veronica Kelley, Maria Coronado, Laretta Ross, Susanne Kulesa, Karen Cervantes, Lynn Neuenswander, Cynthia White, Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Susan Abito, Erica Porteous, Dr. Teresa Frausto, Jackie Pringle, Sharon Nevins, Cindy Messer, Hanh Truong, Jonathan Buffong, Doris Turner, Douglas Fazekas, 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 Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Commissioner Casas led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

On 6/5/12, Supervisor Neil Derry posted the vacancy for Dr. Tom Rivera of the Behavioral Health Commission Third District. The BHC now has two vacancies in the Third District.

*A motion made by Jane Godager and seconded by Monica Alonso: The 5/3/12, (BHC) minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no abstentions.*

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – MAY 2012**

Dr. Hanh Truong, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, acknowledged the June Cultural Competency Award of Excellence, Cindy Messer, Peer and Family Advocate II. Nomination:

“Since Cindy has taken over at Pathways, the canteen has shown a profit, she is always there to listen and help the clubhouse members. She drives members from all the clubhouses. She sits on the Native American subcommittee where she is very active. She gets along with everyone without seeing anyone as different. She also is part Mayan Indian so she understands both Native American and Mexican/Hispanic situations. She has turned around Pathways for the better and her lasting influence in other clubhouses still stands. Cindy speaks Spanish to those who cannot speak English or have little English skills. She makes people feel good about themselves, including those who speak little English. They don't feel inadequate if they can't speak English. Cindy brings them aboard and shows them the different groups. They really feel like their part of the clubhouse when she talks to them. As for Native Americans, Cindy's ideas for Native American day and other projects are fun and non-threatening.” Cindy enjoys what she does with support from her DBH family.” CONGRATULATIONS CINDY!

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Abel Ponce Corral: When Abel started seeing Dr. Mejia at the Mesa Clinic he was depressed and suicidal. He heard about Pathways to Recovery, met with Faith Ikeda and has been involved ever since. He thanked everyone for their assistance.

Patrick McKinstry, CEO, The LaBaron Group, Inc. in San Bernardino County, stated he is outraged that DBH Cultural Competency Officer, Dr. Hahn Truong, has yet to correct the problem with the Asian American Resource Center Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The La Baron Group has been in operation for 15 years, a contract provider of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) since 2008-2009 and now Dr. Truong tells them how to manage their contract with DBH.

Dr. Winifera Harper, Juvenile Justice Law Center, is appalled by the disparity treatment of contract providers by Dr. Hanh Truong, Cultural Competency Officer. Dr. Truong has been negligent in his duties to resolve the contractual agreement for the Asian American Resource Center (AARC).

*Chairperson, Susan McGee-Stehsel thanked Mr. McKinstry and Dr. Harper for bringing their concerns forward.*

*In her role as Director, CaSonya Thomas is very interested in addressing concerns expressed here today in hopes of an amicable resolution. As appropriate for public disclosure, a report will be provided at the 7/5/12 BHC meeting.*

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel discussed the following items:

- Dr. Tom Rivera was unable to be present today to receive this plaque thanking him for his service. The plaque will be mailed to his home.
- During today's Executive Session, it was determined that the BHC will go DARK in August 2012 (no meeting scheduled for 8/2/12). The BHC will reconvene on Thursday, 9/6/12.
- Each BHC is required to complete ethics training every 2 years. Some members have completed online, the others met this morning at 8am for training provided by Marina Espinosa, Chief Compliance Officer.
- Director Thomas and Chair McGee-Stehsel meet once a month to discuss planning and research.
- San Bernardino County has become known for effective implementation of MHSA.
- Susan has visited Telecare, Pathways, TEAM House, Community Crisis Response Team and the Crisis Walk in Center. She continues to learn from every person she meets.
- Susan asked Deputy Director Veronica Kelley to report out regarding the Public Comments made by the Morongo Basin Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) during the 5/3/12 BHC meeting. *Ms. Kelley stated that she met with CAB after their comments on 5/3/12, to acknowledge their concerns. She also spoke to Morongo Basin Executive Director, who met with CAB to address concerns, initiate transparency and bridge the gap. Susan mentioned that Cal State Palm Desert may provide educational presentations for CAB.*

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

### **First District:**

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn attended an autism workshop. CA will soon pass a law requiring insurance to cover mental health and primary health treatment of autism. Tough Cases is an alternative 12-step program for those coming out of prison that may not be comfortable with hugging others. He appreciates that the Holistic Campus in the High Desert is interested in acupuncture, yoga and other alternative medicine.

### **Second District:**

Commissioner Monica Alonso is concentrating on her recovery by spending the majority of the week at Upland Community Counseling and Amazing Place Clubhouse. Cal State San Bernardino nursing students provided educational presentation at the Clubhouse. She enjoyed Evening with the Stars speaker Dave Pelzer, and the artist entertainment. Amazing Place Governing Board has been planning outings, discussing disciplinary actions and clubhouse budget. Kristen Martinez, Clubhouse Coordinator, has been very present in all clubhouse activities.

Commissioner May Farr attended the Meet the Artists with their art work at the Government Center on 5/8/12. The Asian Pacific Islander celebration held on 5/11/12 here in Auditorium was a great success. She attended the ASPIRE graduation provided by DBH which trains small businesses to run efficiently. This year's evening with the Stars exceeded the attendance of past years. Tammy Dickey, DBH Public Information Office was able to obtain sponsorship for those consumers interested in attending.

**Third District:**

Commissioner Chris Massa requested a moment of silence for Robert Frost, TEAM House member, artist and friend, who recently passed away. Chris will attend the NAMI CA meeting in Irvine in August. Commissioner Grabhorn asked Chris to assist him on the Substance Abuse Taskforce.

**Fourth District:**

Vice Chair Monica Wilson invited everyone to attend the free Mental Health First Aid Course that will be held June 18-19 at National University in San Bernardino. She attended Evening with the Stars as well as the Minority Health Equity conference in Anaheim. The quarterly meeting of the CA Mental Health Planning Council will meet in San Jose in June. During her visit to Upland Community Counseling, Dr. Wilson was proud to see all programs going strong.

Secretary Akin Merino stated that the May Fourth District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting was very productive. It was discussed whether to change the meetings from monthly to quarterly. She would like a list of mental health and faith based organizations in the area to involve in the meetings.

Commissioner Roberto Casas has been teaching educational leadership and educational law.

**Fifth District:**

Commissioner Jane Godager attended Evening with the Stars and is amazed at how the event has grown in size and quality through the years. She also attended the Fifth DAC meeting for the first time in many months and is pleased with the continued participation.

Treasurer Veatrice Jews stated that the artist who performed at Evening with the Stars was phenomenal. The Fifth meeting will continue to take place at the New Hope Family Life Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. The African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC), in partnership with El Sol Neighborhood Education, is working on community outreach based on the Promotores model. An attendee at the AAMHC had a concern regarding the lack of beds for children taken to area hospitals on 72 hour holds; the child had no bed/room for almost the entire time. *Director Thomas will have staff address this concern and provide a follow up report at the July meeting.*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Thomas wanted to thank Dr. Harper and Mr. McKinstry for expressing their concerns today. The Holistic Campus is a new program and there are lessons to be learned. We will defer to County Counsel, keeping in mind the sensitivity of the issue as well as our commitment to transparency, as there may be limitations to our report next month. Chair McGee-Stehsel would like to know the extent of the limitations.

**Federal, State, County Budget and Other Policy Issues**

It has come to light with the Governor's FY 2012-13 May Revise that the mental health funding stream is not a guaranteed amount, but will come from vehicle license fees and sales tax. It is likely we will receive 5-9% less funding than last year. In planning ahead, DBH based FY 2012-13 budget according to funding received in FY 2010-11. The reduction will not impact programs or staff layoffs.

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update:**

It is good news that we are beginning to see movement with the MHSA permanent supportive housing collaborative projects. Horizons at Yucaipa senior housing project was approved by the Board of Supervisors on 5/22/12. Six applicants have been approved to move in to the Phoenix Apartments Transitional Age Youth project. Ashley Furniture donated furniture to all nine apartments.

### **Shelters for Homeless Youth**

Our House	Visionary House
940 Stillman Ave	3171 Sierra Way
Redlands	San Bernardino
909/335-2676	

These programs are designed to help teens identify permanent solutions for the problems they face, while meeting the immediate need of housing and food.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: MHSA ANNUAL UPDATE FOR FY 2012-13 PROCESS**

Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Deputy Director facilitated the Public Hearing:

- Community meetings, plan posting and the public hearing were advertised through press releases, media contacts and flyers (both in English and Spanish) to all stakeholders including community coalitions, public libraries, contract providers, DBH clinics, and DBH internet and intranet.
- Prior to the preparation of the Annual Update, stakeholders attended 18 community meetings to give feedback and input into the planning process.
- 30 Day Posting written comment period was May 1-31, 2012. One comment evaluated the overall plan as satisfied. The second comment was that the A-8 Alliance for Behavioral and Emotional Treatment program left off the main contractor, Lutheran Social Services. This was corrected for the approved plan.

Sarah thanked Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales for allowing us to use his artwork as the cover for the Annual Update. There were no questions or comments during the public hearing.

Upcoming educational presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission include:

- 7/5/12: Mental Health Plan and Important Medi-Cal Changes
- 8/2/12: BHC will be DARK (*no meeting scheduled*)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- BHC unanimously approved the MHSA Annual Update for FY 2012-13 process that was competed and affirmed that it was conducted to meet the regulation as described during the Public Hearing.
- 2011 Sunset Review Recommendation - At the end of each four-year cycle, Boards and Commissions are subject to review for determination of whether to continue or discontinue operation. Director Thomas prepared a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to continue the Behavioral Health Commission. A *motion made by Jane Godager and seconded by May Farr*: Director Thomas' recommendation was approved for submission. *Motion passed; no abstentions.*

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS**

Lynn Neuenswander, Public Information Officer, thanked everyone for all their help during May Mental Health Month. San Bernardino County local artists' artwork has been selected to be showcased at CIMH/CMHDA building in Sacramento from July through December 2012.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

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Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair

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Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission