

MINUTES
Behavioral Health Commission Executive Session
November 10, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Members Present: Gabriel Gonzales, Veatrice Jews, Bill Swift, Tom Rivera, Roberto Casas, May Farr, Chris Massa, and Tanya Perry

Absent: Michael Hill, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Alonso, Jane Godager and Monica Wilson

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Bridgett Quinn, Beverly Scott, Debi Pasco, and Betty Schneider

Call to Order

Secretary Tanya Perry called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Approval of Executive Minutes and Agenda

Executive Session minutes dated 10/6/11 were approved as written. The Executive Session agenda for today was approved.

Chairperson's Report

Acting Chairperson Perry announced Jane Mercer's resignation from the Commission which takes effect immediately. Clerk of the Commission Debi Pasco has a plaque for Jane Mercer for her service on the Commission to present if she attends today. Dr. Akin Merino has submitted an application for the District 4 vacant position. The Commission will meet and interview her later in this meeting.

Commissioners' Report

Secretary Perry asked each Commissioner to identify the topic they will discuss in the afternoon session.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Travel and Attendance

Clerk of the Commission briefly discussed all upcoming travel with the Commission.

Slate of Officers

The slate of Officers was discussed amongst Commissioners. The Commission will need to finalize the slate during the afternoon session. Commissioner Casas nominated Director Rawland to become Honorary Commission Member.

Voting for officers will be done in January 2012

Assistant Directors Report

Federal, State and County Budget

Assistant Director Thomas discussed a news release issued on October 27, 2011, "Department of Health Care Services Announces Approval of Medi-Cal Budget Reductions." The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

has approved key elements of the state's 2011-12 budget proposals to reduce Medi-Cal provider reimbursement rates. This will save \$623 million General Fund from the reimbursement proposals.

Assistant Director pointed out that based upon the analysis, DHCS concluded there were some areas where an additional 10% payment reduction was not advisable.

Redistricting of the County of San Bernardino

The new redistricting of the County of San Bernardino, by the Board of Supervisors, became effective on 10/27/2011. Barstow is now a part of the third district.

Countywide Vision

The Countywide Vision Statement was adopted on 6/30/11. Community discussions will be held in the coming months to discuss innovative ideas to achieve the Countywide Vision. Participants will include volunteers from a wide spectrum of industries. The Behavioral Health Commission received a letter from Supervisor Josie Gonzales inviting them to affirm their support by formally adopting the Countywide Vision. This item will be added to the January 2012 agenda.

Legislation

Assistant Director Thomas provided an overview of the legislation signed into California State Law during FY 2011-12. The bills passed are listed below:

- Bullying (AB 9 and AB 1156)
- Foster Care (AB 212)
- Medi-Cal (AB 396, AB 1296 and SB 695)
- Mental Health Services Act (AB 989)
- Inmates: Involuntary Psychotropic Medication (AB 1114)
- Healthy Families (SB 36)

Interview with Dr. Akin Merino

Dr. Merino expressed her interest to join the Commission for the Fourth District. Dr. Merino has a PhD in Psychology, specializing in Family Psychology. She also oversees the Mental Health Programs at Argosy University, which is located in the Fourth District. She is the Executive Director for the Center of Refuge Counseling Services in Yucaipa. A question was raised as to whether Dr. Merino can represent the Fourth District since she lives in the Third District. This decision is ultimately decided by the Board of Supervisor for the district in question.

Dr. Merino was dismissed from the meeting. Commissioner Casas suggested that we make a recommendation to the Supervisor to consider Dr. Merino to join the Commission. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Betty Schneider
Recorder

Tanya Perry
Secretary