

# Minutes: 5<sup>th</sup> District Advisory (DAC) Meeting

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**Meeting purpose** To provide the Dept. of Behavioral Health, through the Behavioral Health Commission, with input on unmet needs of the community for behavioral health services throughout the County. The DAC provides demographic data and other important information regarding the community and its resources.

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**Date, time, and place**  
 Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2011  
 Time: 5:30 p.m.  
 Place: New Hope Family Life Center

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**Attendees** Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chairperson, BH Commission; Veatrice Jews, BH Commissioner; DBH; Jane Ann Godager, BH Commissioner; Cheryl Long, PM II, DBH; Andre Bossieux, PMII, DBH; Lynn Neuenswander, DBH; Gwen Knotts, Knotts Family Services; Jennifer Luu, South Coast Children’s Society; Pastor Owusu Hodari, IECAAC; Jonathan Buffong; DBH; Lisa Hamilton, DBH; Hanna Keith, Community Hospital of San Bernardino; Maria Niemetz, CSUSB; Alyehma Garino; CSUSB; Larry Fletcher, CSUSB; Richelle Argenal, CSUSB; Patricia Azul, CSUSB; Patricia Chavez, NWLS, Spanish Interpreter  
*Minutes taken by Crista Wentworth*

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**Topics discussed** The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Introductions	Veatrice Jews
MHSA Capital Facilities Update	Andre Bossieux, PMII
Community Concerns/Issues	All
Behavioral Health Commissioners Updates	Susan McGee-Stehsel/Veatrice Jews
Announcements	All
Adjournment	Veatrice Jews

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- Introductions**
- The meeting began at 5:45p.m. with Veatrice Jews welcoming everyone to the meeting. Self-Introductions followed.
  - Veatrice stated that these meetings are very important because it’s an interchange between what the community needs and concerns are and DBH staff is here to answer questions and discuss any concerns, and if they do not have an answer at this meeting, they will always come back at the next meeting and provide answers to your questions.
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**Deliverables from CaSonya** Andre Bossiueux, Program Manager II, TAY Program, discussed the

**Thomas, Asst.  
Director, DBH**

deliverables from CaSonya that were requested at the last meeting.

- CaSonya made sure that all participants at this meeting received a Map of the 5<sup>th</sup> District, outlining DBH clients; uninsured citizens, contract and county DBH clinics, and PEI providers, all by zip codes. The map was requested by Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair.
- Community Meetings Listing was also handed out at this meeting, which had been requested from the last meeting.

*Please Note: The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting in the listing has incorrect information: African American Sub-Committee; Where: New Hope Family Life Center, 1505 W. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92411.*

**MHSA Capital  
Facilities  
Update**

- The posting of the MHSA Capital Facilities Plan has been extended to June 8, 2011. This is for the MHSA 1.8 million dollars that the County has not utilized as yet. If we do not receive the monies, they will stay at the State and most probably go into the “pot” that has been designated to be borrowed from MHSA to fund other State human service programs. To give your feedback regarding this project/plan, go to: [www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dbh](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/dbh).

**Susan McGee-  
Stehsel**

- With the passing of AB100, the State oversight committee has been eliminated. At this point, we do not have any information regarding interim plans from the State. CaSonya has been very clear in that the intent of DBH is to continue to hold DAC meetings, hearings, and other public meetings, to get the involvement of the community.

**Andre  
Bossiux**

- Andre stated that he can speak for Allan and CaSonya; that no matter what happens at the state level, the same level of community involvement, if not more, will continue to happen within DBH.

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**Community  
concerns/issue  
s**

- Pastor Owusu Hodari discussed his concern regarding the partnership between the faith-based organizations and DBH. He stated that the partnership was getting better; however, there is still a lot of work to be done, in particular the Westside of San Bernardino. DBH has been very negligent and they (faith-based organization) have been going out of their way to maintain communication. He was thankful for the DAC meetings being conducted on the Westside.

- Pastor Owusu Hodari also brought up the RFP that was just released by DBH; Innovations: Holistic Campus, as an example of the negligence on DBH’s part. He stated that we (DAC meetings) had been discussing ways in which the local faith-based organizations could receive more help from the department, and then this RFP comes out and due to the new language; they have been left out completely. In fact, it tells them that if you don’t have X amount of dollars, don’t even bother to apply.

**Veatrice Jews,**

- Veatrice stated she was reporting to the faith-based ministerial staff that she works with about this RFP release. They had been waiting for two years for the Innovation RFP’s to be released, as they were told by DBH to wait for the Innovation RFP’s as these were tailored to the faith-based organizations, rather than the PEI programs. Then, when it comes out and they read it, they realized they were again excluded from even applying.

- She said that they were so disillusioned by the language in the RFP that they did not want to continue having meetings with DBH, and did not want to attend this DAC meeting, in particular.

**Susan McGee-**

- One of the things that CaSonya Thomas said at the last meeting, is that

- Stehsel,** it would be very difficult to say, “Come one, come all; we’ll open our coffers to you”, because then if it was stated in the RFP that way; it would become problematic in that people who didn’t need the open coffers would be in for it. She said to tell people if there are issues to do with our partnering, in terms of how things are paid, that individually they should come to talk with her.
- Pastor Owusu Hodari**
- Pastor Hodari, after reading the RFP, stated that it became even more exclusive to the point where it was telling them, “Don’t even apply – unless you have X amount of dollars.”
- Susan McGee-Stehsel**
- Susan felt that this must go back to the Behavioral Health Commission. The idea was not to make it worse, but to say to people that on an individual basis, we need to negotiate with DBH about supportive financial opportunities.
- Veatrice Jews**
- There was a lot more problems with the RFP; not just the seed money. It was made much more exclusive for several reasons.
- Pastor Hodari**
- Something like this creates distrust within the community. If we are going to work on something together, then we need to come to an agreement together. To continue this work together, let’s see building blocks along the way that demonstrate that this is not a wasted effort. It’s one thing to be in agreement in the meeting minutes, but when the RFP comes out and says something else, what point is there in continuing these conversations?
- Jane Ann Godager**
- Jane was very pleased to read the minutes of the last meeting to see that CaSonya had been here and said that there was a way to work out, on an individual basis, fiscal concerns and/or issues. Then there’s that other part of me that see’s, where do you draw the line?
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- Susan McGee-Stehsel**
- Susan stated that there have been concerns about how the oversight is going to be done to make sure that the community input continues.
  - Also, Linda Hart had brought up a concern with a particular proposal that their focus group was helping to write. When it was posted, it looked totally different from what they were expecting. When these plans are posted on the DBH website, everyone needs to get on line and look at the proposals and give their feedback. This is the time to voice your concerns and opinions. We, as a committee, can have an impact, and may have space and time to intervene.
- Veatrice Jews**
- Then when an RFP is released, and the RFP doesn’t meet the intent of the plan, we have another issue. Another issue is if one wanted to write for any particular RFP, then they couldn’t be part of the work group that was getting the RFP together, so there is the idea that whoever is going to be involved in that process, is eliminated from proposing for that particular RFP.
- Susan McGee-Stehsel**
- Susan remembered an issue with wanting to make sure that the “Recovery, Resilience, and Wellness” language was included in the RFP, only to be told that it was too late to send that information in. Perhaps the RFP templates need to be looked at.
- Andre Bossiux**
- Andre addressed Pastor Hodari, stating that one of things he, and/or his group of faith-based organizations had wanted was to be involved in the Holistic Campus, and that it is very frustrating when the RFP language makes it almost impossible to propose for it. He will bring this issue to CaSonya Thomas and Allan Rawland.

- Pastor Hodari**
  - Why involve the community in the process when, in the end, they don't have the ability to have access to providing the services? Just because we don't have enough capital, doesn't mean we can't provide the services.
- Veatrice Jews**
  - They (faith-based ministerial group) had me write a concept paper for the process, which was submitted and accepted. We were then told that it was rolled in to the Innovation Holistic Campus concept and when that RFP comes out, we should submit proposals for a contract. Then, we started reading it, and it became clear that we were to be excluded.
- Gwen Knotts**
  - I have had meetings with DBH and CaSonya Thomas regarding our particular situation; however, a final decision has not been made. We already have an existing contract with DBH.

There were several of us that were real attentive from the PEI planning stage and when they mentioned that all the MHSA funds specifically geared toward churches were to be the Innovations plans. And, they simply asked us to not apply for the PEI process, as they didn't quite fit us, and the Innovations would be the right fit for church involvement.

It's the people who have been around and who have interfaced with the community for 20 or 30 years, who have commitment, and have been asked to establish criteria for these programs through the focus groups, and then you (DBH) write an RFP, establishing a principle or policy that prohibits us from participating. It's like we trust to expose what we say are issues, and then you put a policy in there that makes it not viable for us to even apply. How can you help us to be financially successful at what we do?

DBH has really been progressive in coming in and interfacing with the community, but still, we have trust issues at this time. We feel that we are being set up for failure.

We are trusting that you are hearing us, as commissioners, and that you will try to intervene to help change some of the guidelines, and help us to reflect changes the RFP language. They had done an RFP training with the Family Resource Centers, which helped tremendously. Do it the same way; instead of having criteria for the budget that prohibits us from even participating; have a pathway in which we can. We can't do it without you. We need to continue to work together.
- Jane Ann Godager**
  - Jane stated that not always do the out-of-towners receive contracts through the RFP process.
- Pastor Hodari**
  - This is not a good way to have an RFP released, right after we have had all of these conversations for a couple of years with DBH.

- Behavioral Health Commission Updates**
  - We had requested some information on community meetings, which were brought to today's meeting, as well as the Map per district.
  - We were talking before about the green map. We will be receiving more information on May 5<sup>th</sup> that has to do with our cultural groups and where the densities of populations are in relation to the county districts. It will be interesting to see the overlay of the ethnic and other groups in the area, compared to the services. The information needs to be on 81/2 by 14 map, as it's just too small to see the detail otherwise.

- Announcements**
  - South Coast Children's Society is hosting a free "Cultural Competence

and Behavioral Health Services” training, which will qualify for 2.75 hours of continuing education for psychologists, on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jennifer Luu, (909) 204-1561

- 2011 is Mental Health Month. There is a Pep Rally scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am in front of the Government Center. “Nothing to Hide: Mental Health in the Family” exhibit at the County Museum April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 13<sup>th</sup>. Consumer Art Exhibit from May 2 – 31<sup>st</sup> at the Government Center.
- “An Evening with the Stars” Recognition Banquet on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel, Ontario.
- Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Minority Lead Resource and Development Coalition will have the Gas Company talk about their grant and funding opportunities. Spotlight will be the Spanish Radio Station, Lazer 101.7 at the DBH Training Institute.

**Actions**

The table below identifies the actions, responsibilities, and deadlines for implementing the decisions made during the meeting.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
RFP requirement concerns	Andre Bossiux will bring this issue back to CaSonya Thomas/Allan Rawland Susan McGee-Stehsel will bring this issue to the Behavioral Health Commission meeting on May 5 <sup>th</sup> .
Pinpoint the exact RFP language that is at issue	Veatrice Jews will give this information to Susan McGee-Stehsel
New map showing the ethnic group breakdowns per district by zip codes. 81/2 X 14.	Lynn Neuenswander
Correct error in the “Community Meetings” African American Sub-Committee meetings	Lynn Neuenswander
Bring more 5 <sup>th</sup> District Provider Directories to the next DAC meeting	Crista Wentworth

**Adjournment**

Veatrice Jews thanked everyone for their collaboration and attendance. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.