

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION**  
April 5, 2012: 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

May Farr, Bill Swift, Gabriel Gonzales, Roberto Casas, Chris Massa, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, Akin Merino, and Susan McGee-Stehsel`

**Excused Absent:** Monica Alonso, Monica Wilson, Jane Godager, Tom Rivera and Michael Hill

**Guests:**

Rosita Woods, D Woods, People's Care Autism Services; Beverly Scott, family member; Lori Marrujo, Lydia Alcaraz, Greg Vander-Haeghen, Louie Diaz, Gary Bustin, Amazing Place Clubhouse; Denise Byrd, Ofelia AC, Michael Moreno, Ronald Lawson, Thomas Castellanos, E.T., Faith Ikeda, Carolyn Bennett, David Eckburg, Edward Deyon, Pathways to Recovery; Patricia Strait, RW, Michele O'Brien, Paul Hiestand, TEAM House; Gabriel Horne, JR Harris, Serenity Clubhouse; Heidi Pelobello, Gregory Sherwood; Loretta Kelly, Center of Refuge; Vanessa Holm, Family Service Association; Felicia Kadeonian, Yung Huang, Anthonia Orimolade, Tony Nguyen, Lydia Wanjau, Alaina Adesina, Shannon Acabal, Argosy University student; Hanna Keith, Community Hospital San Bernardino; Rodolfo Pinon, Rudy Palacios, Casa de San Bernardino; Dr. Christine Bierdrager, Inland Behavioral Health Services; CaSonya Thomas, Cindi Messer, Maria Coronado, Lynn Neuenswander, Karen Cervantes, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Cheryl Long, Sharon Nevins, Paula Rutten, Jonathan Buffong, Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Jason Hill, Michael Oliver, Doris Turner, Esperanza Vargas, Veronica Kelley, Hanh Truong, Susanne Kulesa, Terri Franklin, Susan Abito, Lauretta Ross, Maissa Wolfe, Michael Schertell, Michelle Dusick, Tonia Henderson, Robert Luna, Edith Gonzalez, Janeka Brooks, and Nancy Olsen, 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 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Casas led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

*A motion made by Chris Massa and seconded by Roberto Casas: The 3/1/12 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no abstentions.*

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

Dr. Hanh Truong, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, acknowledged the April Cultural Competency Award of Excellence, Allan Rawland, Director. Nomination:

*"I would like to nominate Allan Rawland for his cultural sensitivity, support, and integrity. I would like to share some sayings Allan inspired me with:*

- *Building trust through transparency*
- *Experience factor*
- *Financial flexibility*
- *Find the flaw and fix it*
- *Information is power and the right information is empowerment*
- *Make good choices, make positive changes*
- *Plateau before reaching potential*
- *To go where we are needed but not wanted; to leave when we are wanted but not needed.*

*This is not the end or true retirement for Allan. Allan has always been a great supporter of leaders, community members, and cultural competency awareness, sensitivity and knowledge. Allan has modeled for us what the right thing to do, what not to say, or how to say it well so others can agree with you.”*

CONGRATULATIONS ALLAN!

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Beverly Scott stated that there have been tremendous cuts to Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS). Due to the closure of the only ADS residential program in Yucca Valley, please consider replacing these much needed services.
- Dr. Christine Bierdrager noticed the item on today’s agenda: Formation of Alcohol and Other Drug Taskforce. She invites the member of the Behavioral Health Commission, DBH and contract agency staff to join the community taskforce already in place.
- Unidentified speaker: If you are interested in protecting human rights, begin looking at mental health hospitals.
- Pathways consumer: Come and learn at Pathways to Recovery.
- Carolyn Bennett, Pathways: Told Allan she is available if he needs any help or someone to talk to.
- Mike Moreno, Pathways: Allan has always been there for the people. Be strong and keep on fighting!

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel announced items discussed during BHC Executive Session:

- Commissioner travel to upcoming conferences – conserving budget
- Proposed workshop topics for August and BHC ethics training
- Reviewed BHC goals for FY 2011-12 to stay focused

Susan visited the new reception area in this building and found it was a first time visit for many individuals. Susan attends the Healthy San Bernardino meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Mayor’s office. The Fifth District Advisory Committee has been discussing concerns regarding AB-109, the re-entry of offenders back into the community. After the ribbon cutting ceremony on 4/2/12, Susan was provided a tour of the One Stop TAY Center by youth who are very proud of their new center.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### **First District:**

After being blind for quite awhile, Commissioner Bill Swift underwent stem cell treatments in China. It is great to finally SEE all of you! He thanked fellow First District Commissioner, Mike Grabhorn, for covering in his absence. Mike is a natural born leader.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn attended the Shine A Light on Child Abuse event. He was glad to see so many in support of children in one room. He also attended the Festival for the Recovering Mind at Cedar House on 3/31/12. Mike is working with a coalition in the high desert to outlaw the sale of “spice” and “bath salts”.

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales has completed five new art projects for the May is Mental Health Art Show at the Government Center.

**Second District:**

Commissioner May Farr attended the County of San Bernardino Health Services Grand Opening 3/7/12. The One Stop Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center Ribbon Cutting on 4/2/12 was well attended by members of the Board of Supervisors, senators, congressmen, the Mayor of San Bernardino and other dignitaries.

**Third District:**

Commissioner Chris Massa would love to see everyone at the next Third District Advisory Committee meeting to be held on 4/17/12 from 11am-12pm at the Redlands Clubhouse.

**Fourth District:**

Commissioner Roberto Casas welcomed the MFT Argosy University students and agency representatives to the meeting. Dr. Casas congratulated Commissioner Jews for her recognition by Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter as one of the 24 women in the Inland Empire who are making a difference in honor of March's National Women's History Month! Dr. Casas has been lining up county and contract provider behavioral health program visits. He will attend his tribe's, Pascua Yaqui, traditional ceremony during Easter week in Tuscon, Arizona.

Commissioner Akin Merino also attended the National Women's History Month conference in Rialto which focused on women's physical and mental health. Counselors on Wheels (COW), a group of students at Argosy University, have been working with child exploitation. Argosy University will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Inland Empire Counseling Psychology Students Conference on 4/14/12 to discuss approaches to youth health and mental wellness. Director CaSonya Thomas is keynote speaker.

**Fifth District:**

Treasurer Veatrice Jews invited everyone to attend the Fifth District Advisory Committee scheduled for 4/23/12, which will also include a congratulatory reception for CaSonya Thomas as the new DBH Director! The African American Mental Health Coalition is working on a grant based on the Promotoras model; utilizing community members to promote mental health awareness, education, and available resources for the members of diverse communities throughout the county. The Commission will take everything Allan has taught them and carry on!

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director CaSonya Thomas thanked Clubhouse members for handing out flowers today with notes saying "Thank You FOR ASSISTING US TO FLORISH!"

Within the last month, two long awaited projects have become a reality:

- County of San Bernardino Health Services Co-location Open House on 3/7/12: ARMC Westside Clinic (primary health care), WIC services and Mesa Counseling and the Crisis Walk-In Center are now co-located at the building formerly known as Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC) in Rialto.
- New One Stop TAY Center on Gilbert Street Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on 4/2/12. Andre Bossieux, Program Manager for TAY thanked everyone for their support; it's all about the young adults. Effective 7/1/12, TAY residential crisis services will be available at this location making it the only true One Stop TAY Center in the county, state, nation and the world!

Director Thomas thanked Beverly Scott for advocating for consumer job training. The MHSA Innovation Interagency Youth Resiliency Team, a mentoring program designed for 250 foster youth and wards of the court, will include a work readiness program. This model can be applied to other age groups.

### **Budget and other Policy Issues:**

The CA Mental Health Directors Association has analyzed the substantial impacts to mental health contained in the Governor's budget proposal for FY 2012-2013.

- We will continue to monitor the revenue to be allocated to the counties for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health and EPSDT, which will be less.
- The budget proposal provided clarification of MHSA; move decisions closer to the people, state is still discussion MHSA Plan approval process.

### **AB 109 - 2011 Public Safety Realignment (reentry of offenders back into the community):**

Director Thomas participates on the San Bernardino County AB 109 Executive Committee led by Linda Haugan, Assistant Executive Officer Human Services. The DBH AB 109 budget proposal for FY 2012-13 includes \$4.4 to implement enhanced Alcohol and Drug Services and a more community based approach for individuals with co-occurring disorders. We look forward to the approval to our proposal.

### **MHSA:**

Director Thomas encouraged everyone to provide their feedback in the development, modification and implementation of programs in the County of San Bernardino during one of the 18 MHSA Annual Update community planning meetings scheduled in April throughout the county. With the passing of AB 100, the state will distribute MHSA component allocations on a monthly basis instead of yearly lump sum.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: CLUBHOUSE UPDATE**

Kristen Martinez, Clubhouse Coordinator, Tim Jackson, Peer and Family Advocate II, and Gary Bustin, Amazing Place Board Member discussed the accomplishments by Clubhouse members over the past six months:

- Wellness Committee was revived-quarterly meeting with county and contract Clubhouse members to share info and collaborate
- Established consumer council to establish standardized rules and regulations
- Increased community participation-attend at least one community meeting per month
- Increased the variety and frequency of member run groups

Upcoming special presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission include:

- 5/3/12: Mental Health Plan and Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- 6/7/12: MHSA FY 2012-13 Annual Update

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- *A motion made by May Farr and seconded by Veatrice Jews: Approve the formation of an Alcohol and Other Drug Taskforce.*
- Election of BHC Secretary due to the resignation of Tanya Perry: Commissioner Merino was nominated from the floor. Dr. Merino accepted the nomination. All Commissioners voted in favor of Commissioner Akin Moreno for the position of Secretary for the BHC.

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

Lynn Neuenswander, DBH Public Information announced the activities for May is National Mental Health Month.

- Evening with the Stars, 5/24/12
- Consumer Art Show at the County Government Center; entire month of May
- Stomp Out Stigma Pep Rally, 5/8/12

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

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Susan McGee-Stehsel  
Chairperson

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Debi Pasco  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission