

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
July 2, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm  
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Auditorium  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Commissioners present:**

Gabriel Gonzales, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Tom Rivera, May Farr, Veatrice Jews, Jane Mercer and Michael Townsend on behalf of Supervisor Josie Gonzales

**Excused Absence:**

Tanya Perry, David Ford, Jane Godager, Bill Swift and Michael Hill

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director, Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Wayne Henkelmann, Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; Hope Anderson, MHS Success First; Marsha Mathews, MHS Inc., Rodolfo Pinon, Casa de San Bernardino; Armando Ontiveros, EMQ Families First; Michael Day, Doris Turner, Denise Byrd, Lorie Bernard-Eklund, Paula Rutten, Michael Knight, Laretta Ross, Cynthia White, Faye Herrmann, Tim Hougen, Alan Williams, André Bossieux, Dianne Sceranka, Mariann Ruffolo, Linda Porter, Hope Anderson, Cynthia Curbow, Michelle Dusick, Richard Hernandez, Lynn Neuenswander, Michael Oliver, Gary Atkins, Doug Fazekas, Susan Davis, David Denkers, Andy, Gruchy, Teri Self, Dr. Nerissa Galang-Feather, Dr. Jatin Dalal, DBH.

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Vice Chair, Susan McGee Stehsel, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the Public Session minutes of June 4, 2009 were adopted as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments provided.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel will Chair today's meeting in Commissioner Ford's absence; however she will be leaving at 1:00 p.m. and Treasurer May Farr will take over. She attended the California Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) Annual Conference sponsored by the California Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) in San Jose on June 19-20. The conference focused on "Embracing Wellness in a Time of Crisis" and Director Rawland served as keynote speaker on the evening of June 19 delivering a presentation on Leadership, Inclusion & Collaboration During a Perfect Storm. Besides the sharing of information among the County Boards and Commissions, additional topics discussed throughout the 2-day conference included veterans affairs and spirituality in wellness and recovery.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales stated that the members of Victorville Valley Clubhouse would like to know the status of the following requests:

- ✓ computers
- ✓ bus passes
- ✓ forming a spirituality group

Gary Atkins, Deputy Director, will follow-up with Bob Sudol on each of these items.

Commissioner Christopher Massa stated that Medi-Cal has not yet eliminated dental services all together and the vision plan is still good.

Commissioner Jane Mercer stated that South Coast Children's Society is providing outreach with families out in the field.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews attended the fabulous State of the Department event on June 29<sup>th</sup>. She continues to participate with the African American Coalition. She met with the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) lawyers a couple of months ago who are interested in providing a presentation to the Mental Health Commission and learning more about truancy problems and student mental health issues.. Veatrice will forward contact information to Debi Pasco for scheduling.

Commissioner May Farr also attended the CALMHB/C and Planning Council in San Jose. She regularly attends the Latino Health Collaborative Community Advisory Meetings. The Latino population in San Bernardino county is 50%; however only 20% of Latinos seek mental health services. Ed McField, Executive Director of the Latino Health Collaborative, will be presenting how to deal with disparities at the November 5th Mental Health Commission meeting.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Allan thanked Michael Townsend for attending the Evening with the Stars and the State of the Department events.

The County of San Bernardino won a record 16 National Association of Counties (NACo) awards and was the only inland Southern California honoree. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) received two of those for the following programs:

- ✓ Office of Consumer and Family Affairs
- ✓ Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services (providing the Special Presentation at this meeting today)

All County of San Bernardino NACo awardees will be recognized at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisor meeting.

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales received a letter from Alice Washington at CiMH informing him that his consumer artwork submission was selected to be featured on promotional material for the upcoming Cultural Competency Conference in November, 2009 and any other future literature. Gabriel was awarded \$100 for the selection which he will share with the Victor Valley Clubhouse.

Vista Guidance Centers, a long standing contract provider will be closing their doors as of July 31, 2009. South Coast Children's Society will assume responsibility of their mental health services and Inland Valley Recovery Services and Morongo Basin will assume responsibility for their Drug and Alcohol services.

The Joint Powers Authority (JPA), organized by CA county Mental Health Directors, is now an official entity. The JPA was organized to address statewide mental health issues and budget, with Director Rawland as its first President. As of this date, six counties have joined the JPA.

### **FY 2009-2010 State and County Budget**

The State budget is short \$27 billion. Cash flow problem. State Controller will be issuing IOUs as of today and delayed payments until September 2009.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the County Administrative Office (CAO) approved the DBH budget where we were able to mitigate \$30 million as instructed by the CAO. Director Rawland referred to the "Rough and Tumble" website to find out the latest budget and public policy information.

*Commissioner Rivera stated that Cal State University is initiating furloughs. Has the County?* The response from Director Rawland was "not at the moment". "We have shifted over 200 staff positions to MHS funded programs".

*Michael Townsend asked if the budget will cause reduction in services.* Director Rawland stated that unsponsored clients will receive crisis intervention services only. For the past couple of years, DBH has focused on providing assistance to unsponsored clients in obtaining benefits. In fact, the Director's Award for Excellence was recently awarded to Tina Pham, Mental Health Specialist, and Larry Sanchez, Social Worker II, for their work in educating consumers and assisting them to apply for benefits that they were qualified for; such as, SSI, SSDI, EDD, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, and Food Stamps. In one year, Tina and Larry were successful in securing benefits for 42% of those they assisted, totaling 113 consumers.

*Commissioner Mercer asked about the continuance of the county MIA (Medically Indigent Adult) program.* Director Rawland stated that the MIA program may see future cuts. He also added that there is a healthcare crisis in this country that we need to begin to address.

When the Governor passes the FY 09-10 we will be facing an additional \$8 million in potential reductions in mental health and an additional \$8 million in Alcohol and Drugs; totaling \$15-20 million shortfall. Judges are no longer referring to Prop 36 programs. We will be cutting the Access Unit staff in half and covering for EPSDT cuts. Contrary to a popular perception, the public system is not free.

Michael Townsend stated that 1100 county jobs may be in jeopardy.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services (JCBHS)**

Tim Hougen, Acting Program Manager II, Children Services, stated that DBH along with Children and Family Services jointly received a NACo award this year for the Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services program (JCBHS). He introduced Faye Herrmann, Clinic Supervisor, who presented an overview of JCBHS.

- Senate Bill 543 (Jan 2000) requires request for psychotropic medication for Juvenile Court Dependents in out-of-home placements be approved by the Juvenile Court.
- A significant number of our County's foster children are prescribed psychotropic medications to treat emotional and behavioral problems.
- (Feb 2007) Juvenile Court Presiding Judge collaborated with other county departments to provide oversight and extend the review responsibilities.
- JCBHS recommends services to children by the use of a coordinated team approach by the various disciplines involved with the children.

Dr. Galang-Feather was available to answer questions.

Upcoming Special Presentations to the Mental Health Commission include:

- August 6, 2009 – Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT), Members Assertive Positive Solutions (MAPS) by J. Ralph Ortiz, Ph.D., Deputy Director
- September 3, 2009 – Let's End Truancy (LET), Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), by Kathleen Alvarado, Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division.

## **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

Doris Turner announced that NAMI-San Bernardino Support Group has been meeting at CCRT in Victorville twice a month to discuss mental health issues in the school.

Michael Townsend stated that the consumer artwork located at the County Government Center the entire month of June was the best artwork ever displayed at the building. Lisha Smith, of Supervisor Gonzales office, worked with Laretta Ross and our Public Information Office in organizing the event.

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS**

**District 1:** Commissioners Gabriel Gonzales and Bill Swift attended the June DAC with Gary Atkins, along with members of the clubhouse. Issues discussed included services and medication. The clubhouse also requested an awning be constructed out front for members to congregate.

**District 2 & 4:** Commissioner May Farr stated their June DAC meeting focused on complaints about clinicians and physicians and discussed the need for a Consumer Satisfaction Survey. CaSonya Thomas, Deputy Director, stated that the Public Information Office has been working on the survey to be completed by the end of next week.

**District 3:** Commissioner Tom Rivera attended the June 10 DAC meeting where consumers expressed the following concerns:

- ✓ transportation issues
- ✓ decreased frequency of psychological services

They would also like to coordinate with other clubhouses

**District 5:** The August 20<sup>th</sup> DAC meeting will feature the Innovation Public Forum at TEAM House.

Director Rawland stated that the DACs will provide the hub for MHSA Innovation Public Forum planning process to be held throughout the County on the following dates and locations:

- West-Valley: Jul 22, 1:00-3:00 pm, West End Family Counseling, 855 N. Euclid Ave, Ontario
- Yucca Valley: Aug 12, 1:00-3:00 pm, Santa Fe Social Club, 56020 Santa Fe Trail, Yucca Valley, 92284
- Victorville: Aug 19, 11:00-1:00 pm, Victor Valley Clubhouse, 12625 Hesperia Rd., Victorville, 92395
- Mid-Valley: Aug 20, 1:00-3:00 pm, TEAM House, 201 W. Mill St. San Bernardino, 92408

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1.36 p.m.

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*Susan McGee-Stehsel*  
Vice Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission