

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
October 1, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Auditorium
Rialto, CA 92376

Commissioners Present:

Gabriel Gonzales, Tom Rivera, May Farr, Veatrice Jews, Tanya Perry, Jane Godager, Bill Swift, Michael Hill, and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Excused Absence:

David Ford and Christopher Massa

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director, Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Debbie Banuelos, Christina St. Onge, Sarah Mckee, Elisha Boyd, MariGrace Banks, Stephanie Place, Cathi Patterson, Bunny Brown, Ng Eboka, Genevieve Fallesgon, Christina Holder, Cal State Nursing Students; Marsha Mathews, Hope Anderson, Mental Health Systems, Inc.; Dr. Roberto Casas, Diversified Educational Consulting Group; Faith Ikeda, Pathways to Recovery; Debbie Reno-Smith, Victor Community Support Services; Armando Onitiveros, EMQ Families First; Cecilia Uribe, Livier Acosta, Maria Gallegos, Virginia Magana, Soledad Andrade, Susy Ortiz, Olivia Valadez, Mariana Ruiz, Maria Lopez, Angelica Ramirez, Alex Fajardo, Rosalia Garcia, Esther Buenvostro, Ernesto Buenvostro, Graciela Llamas, Flor Zecena, Lupita, Pilar Zavala, Julio Morales, Luisa Garcia, Lucio Sanchez, El Sol; David Miller, Veronica Kelley, Bob Sudol, André Bossieux, Megan Johnson, Doris Turner, Maria Coronado, Loretta Ross, Tracy Bomberger, Cynthia White, Mike Oliver, Tim Jackson, Cindy Messer, David Denkers, Mike Schertell, Carolina Mendoza, Gary Atkins, Lisa McGinnis, Jatin Dalal, Dorean Glenn, Andy Gruchy, Lynn Neuenswander, Arelis John Martinez, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Due to the absence of Chairperson David Ford, Vice Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. Commissioner McGee-Stehsel welcomed everyone and self introductions followed.

The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes from the September 3, 2009 Mental Health Commission public session were adopted as written.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Veronica Kelley, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, presented David Miller, Peer and Family Advocate II, the October 2009 Cultural Competency Award of Excellence. Mr. Miller has worked for 2 ½ years at DBH Upland Community Counseling Center providing peer support and counseling, assisting members with benefits and finding resources. He runs 6 peer groups per week at Amazing Place Social Club and Chairs the Spirituality Workgroup where persons of all faith can feel safe. Mr. Miller is a good role model and treats everyone with respect. Congratulations, David!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Bill Swift stated that Di Di Pope is reviving NAMI in the High Desert. She will assist Commissioner Swift in educating the school district on available services.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr stated that the Big Bear Family Fun Night was a huge success with 2500 community members in attendance. She will be attending the California Mental Health Planning Council and the California Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) meeting in Folsom, CA on October 13-16. The Yucca Valley Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Open House is scheduled for October 8 and the NAMI Walk is scheduled for November 7th.

Commissioner Michael Hill attended the 15th Annual Latino Conference in Los Angeles on September 23-25.

Third District:

Commissioner Tom Rivera also attended the 15th Annual Latino Conference where he attended a workshop on Human Trafficking, a commercial sex trade.

Director Rawland thanked Commissioner Rivera for bringing this problem forward today. He introduced Mike Schertell, Acting Deputy Director, Children's Services, as a participant on the Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE). Mr. Schertell stated that CASE was formed by the District Attorney's Office involving participants from multiple San Bernardino County departments, the FBI, faith-based organizations and community members. The average age of these children is 13 years old and many are coerced into this lifestyle through violence and the use of drugs. CASE is developing strategies modeled after a project in San Diego County. Mr. Schertell has submitted a proposal for this project to the Innovation Committee to obtain funding to improve services and get these children off the streets.

Fourth District:

Jane Mercer continues to work with homeless individuals in the Ontario area.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Jane Godager has been following the newspaper reports regarding the recent findings at a local board and care home. She requested that the Commissioners be invited to participate in future DBH meetings involving board and care homes.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews shared the wonderful news that the African American Mental Health Capacity Building Group was recently awarded a \$1 million grant. She also attended the Hispanic Employee Alliance dinner on September 24th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Rawland acknowledged the Board of Supervisors for supporting Hispanic Heritage month.

The NAMI Walk is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. Director Rawland encouraged everyone to join a team. If you are unsure of which team to join; Big Al's Team will provide you with a free collector item T-Shirt.

Monday nights at 10:00pm, the A&E channel will provide a series of mental health topics; Hoarding, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, etc.

Several CA Mental Health Directors have recently formed a Joint Powers Authority to address statewide projects; Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination and the Student Initiative. They have meeting scheduled with Stephen Mayberg, Director, CA Department of Mental Health, to discuss.

Director Rawland has suggested expanding the role of the Mental Health Commission to include Alcohol and Drug programs. He will present a draft copy of the by-laws to the members of the Commission at the November 5th meeting.

Board and care homes are not part of the County; however DBH is investigating the recent incident involving a board and care facility victimizing their tenants. We are currently and reviewing our resource process.

Director Rawland congratulated the African American Coalition for receiving a grant for the statewide study in San Bernardino County. DBH will continue to work closely with this agency.

FY 2009-2010 State and County Budget

The County of San Bernardino is being frugal as revenue from sales tax and vehicle license fees is still down and more cuts may be seen.

MHSA funding is also driven by the economy. Allan encouraged everyone to attend the October and November Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC) meetings to find out how MHSA funded programs are building in cost savings for future funding reductions.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Promotoros de Salud

Veronica Kelley, Cultural Competency Officer, introduced Alex Fajardo and Angelica Alvarez, Program Coordinator, from El Sol Neighborhood Education. Ms. Alvarez thanked the Mental Health Commission for providing them the opportunity to present today. The Promotores De Salud Program partnered with DBH under Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention funding to serve the most in need and hardest to serve, non-English speaking members of San Bernardino and Riverside communities.

Twenty-one Promotores were trained to bridge the gap between the mental health care system and the community, increase active care and access to preventative care, and provide linkage to a wide range of services. They provide leadership as agents of change to eliminate stigma, remove cultural and linguistic barriers, and promote recovery and resilience related to the behavioral health care system. Promotores have educated 3,603 community members to live better healthier lives.

NEW BUSINESS

- The members of the Commission approved the payment of \$300 for the annual CA Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) membership dues.
- The 2009 Holiday Tea Special Recognition Nominating Committee was established. Commissioner Veatrice Jews, Jane Godager, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel were selected by the members of the Commission to review nomination forms and select the award recipients.
- The 2010 Election of Officers Nominating Committee was established. Commissioners Tom Rivera, Michael Hill and Bill Swift will present the 2010 Slate of Officers at the November 5th Public Session of the Mental Health Commission. Members of the Commission will vote for the 2010 New Officers at the January 7, 2010 public session.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Lynn Neuenswander, Public Information Officer, announced a tribute to veterans on October 28 at the De Anza Community Center in Upland. Veterans and their families will be honored with a free dinner.

The Mental Health Loan Assumption Program (MHLAP) recently awarded \$124,000 to students in the County of San Bernardino to offset their student loans. Twelve of the fourteen individuals work for the Department of Behavioral Health or our contracted agencies. This is excellent news during these tough economic times.

A Hispanic Art Exhibit will be held at the County of San Bernardino Government Center from 9/15-10/14. The artwork of Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales will be part of the display.

Gary Atkins, Deputy Director, announced that a behavioral health fair will be held in Needles on November 7th.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 1:

Commissioner Bill Swift announced that NAMI is being resurrected in the High Desert. Commissioner Swift state that David Denkers, DBH Program Manager, recently came to the rescue by obtaining services for two homeless consumers.

District 2 & 4:

Commissioner May Farr stated that there were no concerns reported at the August 27th DAC meeting. Attendees were complimentary of DBH and Allan Rawland. West End Family Counseling is opening a Children's Center on Euclid Avenue.

District 5:

Commissioner Veatrice Jews stated there was no attendance at the last DAC meeting. The Commissioners will discuss with Michael Oliver, Program Manger, a change in date and time to promote increased attendance.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Director Rawland announced the Open House of DBH's new Training Institute on December 8, 2009.

"Third Tree from the Left", a play written and performed by people in Orange county with mental illness and funded with a grant from Orange County Behavioral Health performed shows in July and August 2009. Allan suggested to Lynn Neuenswander that we try to get the production to perform in San Bernardino County.

Director Rawland also suggested that we obtain further information about The "Suitcase Exhibit---Suitcases From a State Hospital Attic" and how we might bring it to San Bernardino County in May 2010 during Mental Health Month.

NAMI is partnering with DBH to recruit family members for Spanish support groups to be conducted the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All literature will be translated in Spanish.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Vice Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Mental Health Commission