

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION
January 7, 2010; 12:00-2:00 pm
Training Institute, 1950 S. Sunwest Lane, Suite 200
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0019

Commissioners Present:

Monica Alonso, May Farr, Gabriel Gonzales, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Tom Rivera, Veatrice Jews, Jane Godager, Bill Swift, Roberto Casas, Chris Massa, Michael Hill and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Excused Absence:

David Ford, Tanya Perry, and Jane Mercer

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Linda Haugan, Assistant County Administrator; Michael Townsend, Field Representative for Supervisor Josie Gonzales; Joe Guzman, EMQ Families First; Paul Findley, Family Service Agency of SB; Richard Louis, III, Veronica Kelley, Paula Roby, Michele DeCourten, Martha Jorgenson, Lupe Rosas, Jonathan Buffong, Megan Johnson, Stefanie Paredes, Michael Knight, Dorean Glenn, Lynn Neuenswander, Cynthia White, Benita Ramsey, David Denkers, Laretta Ross, Mariann Ruffolo, Gary Atkins, Michelle Dusick, Linda Charkins, Andy Gruchy, Maria Coronado, Lisa McGinnis, Bob Sudol, Richard Hernandez, Jason Hill, André Bossieux, and CaSonya Thomas, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

In the absence of Chairperson David Ford, Vice Chairperson Susan McGee-Stesel called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. She welcomed everyone and self introductions followed.

The Vice Chairperson asked if the name change from "Mental Health Commission" to "Behavioral Health Commission" should be on today's agenda. Director Rawland stated that he first needs to work with County Counsel on this process. The agenda for this meeting was then approved. The minutes from the November 5, 2009 Mental Health Commission Public Session were adopted as written.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Veronica Kelley, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, presented Martha Jorgenson, LCSW, Clinical Therapist, with the January 2010 Cultural Competency Award of Excellence. Ms. Jorgenson has worked for DBH for over 11 years; starting as a Patients Rights advocate, went back to school to earn her Masters Degree and is currently working for Agewise. Martha trains and supervises others to be a listening ear to other older adults and responds to crisis calls in the community when it involves older adults.

Nomination:

"Martha is committed to older adults. She is a true advocate for this always overlooked "culture", always addresses the needs of older adults and is very respectful of their diversity. Martha always brings the needs of older adults to the forefront, in many meetings she pushes for the inclusion of this group and represents the older adult community everywhere she goes, such as the Cultural Competency Advisory Committee (CCAC)."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel requested a calendar of DBH/County events be provided to the members of the Mental Health Commission. Director Rawland stated that he will have staff prepare a calendar to be available at the February 4th meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales attended the Cultural Competency Summit on November 17-18 in Burlingame, CA. He was honored to attend as the image of his artwork had been selected by the CA Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) to be displayed on the conference material. He also celebrated his 49th birthday on November 20.

Commissioner Bill Swift stated that Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) and the Crisis Walk-in Center (CWIC) in the High Desert have been instrumental in handling mental health interventions.

Second District:

Commissioner Michael Hill stated that he has been assisting his son who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Commissioner May Farr attended the Cultural Competency Summit in Burlingame which provided great outreach. She also attended the Holiday Tea, Training Institute Open House, the Homeless Summit and the Homeless Outreach event. TEAM House and Amazing Place had very nice Holiday events, providing lunch for many members.

As a new member of the Commission, Monica Alonso will focus on raising mental health awareness in teenagers and young adults. Like herself, symptoms often begin in this age group.

Third District:

Commissioner Chris Massa has been gone for a few months and is glad to be back as he enjoys being a member of the Commission. He also stated that the economy has been tough on everyone and hopes that we can all work together to get back on track.

Fourth District:

As a State employee Commissioner Roberto Casas attended a 2-day annual mental health training centered on wellness and recovery.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Jane Godager attended the Older Adult Conference in Riverside on December 2-3. She was thrilled to see that the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), the CA Department of Mental Health (DMH) and DBH are working together to provide services to this population.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews enjoyed the Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony on December 3, 2009. The African American Mental Health Commission are awaiting a response from the State Department of Mental Health regarding their proposal submitted designating a week in February as African American Mental Health Awareness Week.

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel attended the Cultural Competency Summit in November and shared contact information with other attendees/participants. She also attended the Inland Empire Perinatal Coalition meeting which focused on depression. The gingerbread houses created by members of the Clubhouses/Transitional Age Youth (TAY) were a great addition to the event, and as a member of the Award Nomination Committee, she encouraged more nominations from all partners of DBH. She also attended the DBH Training Institute Open House in December.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Rawland welcomed everyone to the second decade of the 21st century. He congratulated Martha Jorgenson for receiving this month's Cultural Competency Award of Excellence. Allan reintroduced Linda Haugan, Assistant

County Administrator, Human Services, and his boss. Under Linda's leadership, the Human Services Group; Veterans' Affairs, Transitional Assistance and Healthcare Services continually interact and collaborate. Allan welcomed Monica Alonso, new Commissioner for the Second District, who brings with her a new perspective to young adults. Dr. Roberto Casas, new Commissioner for the Fourth District brings his experience with the Department of Mental Health and the San Bernardino School Districts. Director Rawland announced that the DBH, Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO), a division of our Juvenile Justice Programs and under the leadership of Terri Franklin, has been certified for meeting the competencies for Functional Family Therapy by CiMH. The Rialto Planning Commission approved a Conditional Release Permit to operate the Crisis Walk-in Center at 850 E. Foothill Blvd. 24/7. The 2010 Consumer Art Calendar will be out in a few days. The calendar includes the artwork of Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales.

FY 2009-2010 State and County Budget

The State budget is faced with a \$20 billion shortfall. The Governor will release his January budget tomorrow; then we will proceed with our budget analysis, working closely with the County Administrative Office.

Due to our cost containment strategy, DBH is looking at a \$1 million shortfall. DBH staff need to be commended for their hard work. We are working closely with Nancy Swanson, Director, Transitional Assistance Department, to obtain Medi-Cal eligibility for our clients.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update

MHSA funding is declining. We will be able to absorb the reductions in FY 2010-11; however FY 2011-12 it may be necessary to look at our Prudent Reserve.

Director Rawland met with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission in Sacramento yesterday to discuss the Statewide Initiatives; Suicide Prevention, the Student Initiative, and Stigma and Discrimination. We should be able to move forward on these projects by the end of January.

We received the CA External Quality Review Board (EQRO) Statewide Report, part of our Managed Care Plan. Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Program Manager II, will provide you a brief overview at the February 4th meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: MHSA INNOVATION

Director Rawland introduced Mariann Ruffolo, MHSA Coordinator. Mariann stated that in order for this to be a Public Hearing she must read the Guidelines directly from the slides. She then introduced Michael Knight, Program Manager, who presented the DBH Innovation Plan, the last MHSA component.

Michael stated that he was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to develop the MHSA Innovation Component. The development process included:

- 51 community planning forums, advertised in the newspaper: reaching 563 people, consisting of all age groups, ethnicity, consumers and family members, faith-based organizations, etc. These forums took place throughout the county including areas such as Trona, Big River and Morongo Basin.
- A 170 member working committee included consumers, family members, staff, contract providers, and diverse community members. The working committee reviewed and selected four Innovation Projects.

The 4 Innovation Projects include:

1. On-line Diverse Community Experiences: DBH will create mental health education pages on social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and MySpace. Access will be provided at clubhouses and TAY centers. Consumers will be taught how to use these sites securely.
2. Community Resiliency Model: Due to the positive effects with clients in crisis, DBH in consultation with the Tauma Resource Institute, will adapt and translate the Trauma Resilience Model to a community-based model.
3. Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE): Develop a model of collaborative care that will facilitate safe haven and clinical rehabilitation for exploited children and youth.

4. Holistic Campus: 80% peer run and focused on providing culturally specific de-stigmatized services with mental health resources.

The Innovation Plan presented today will be sent to the State on January 11, 2010. The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission has 60 days to review the Plan and provide a response.

Director Rawland mentioned and acknowledged Paula Roby and Michelle De Courten for their involvement in the MHSA planning process from the beginning in 2005. In the last 5 years DBH has received \$250 million in MHSA funding. We have learned from each planning process.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Mental Health Services Act Innovation Plan was reviewed by the members of the Mental Health Commission. today
- Election of 2010 Officers: As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Commissioner Tom Rivera, presented the following Slate of Officers: Chair: David Ford; Vice Chair: Susan McGee-Stehsel; Secretary: Tanya Perry; Treasurer: May Farr and Chris Massa.

Chris Massa withdrew his name from the Slate of Officers. No further nominations came from the floor. By acclamation, the **2010 Mental Health Commission Officers** are:

Chair: David Ford

Vice Chair: Susan McGee-Stehsel

Secretary: Tanya Perry

Treasurer: May Farr

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

No comments provided.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 3:

Commissioner Tom Rivera stated that due to no public attendance at the last DAC meeting, conversation focused on Cultural Competency. Commissioner Rivera would like to revisit the District Advisory Committees at the February 4th Executive Session of the Mental Health Commission. Debi Pasco will add to the agenda.

OTHER COMMENTS

Commissioner May Farr will attend the CA Mental Health Planning Council and CALMHB/C in San Diego in mid January.

Commissioner Jane Godager asked if DBH could perform unannounced monthly inspections of board and care facilities. Dr. Ralph Ortiz stated that DBH has no jurisdiction over board and care operations; however we are educating consumers regarding their tenant rights. DBH Patients' Rights has eliminated a list of unlicensed board and care as a resource and steering clients to supportive housing. Request for Proposals have gone out for licensed augmented board and care facilities. Director Rawland will have Kim Rosa, Chief Patients' Rights Advocate, provide a brief board and care update at an upcoming meeting.

Michael Townsend, Field Representative for Supervisor Josie Gonzales, gathers insight of what is going on within the community by comments provided at Mental Health Commission meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Mental Health Commission