

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION  
February 4, 2010; 12:00-2:00 pm  
BHRC, 850 E. Foothill Blvd. - Auditorium  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Commissioners Present:**

May Farr, Gabriel Gonzales, Susan McGee-Stehsel, David Ford, Tanya Perry, Jane Mercer, Jane Godager, Bill Swift, Christopher Massa, and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

**Excused Absence:**

Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Michael Hill, Roberto Casas and Tom Rivera

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Michael Townsend, Field Representative for Supervisor Josie Gonzales; Rebecca Stafford, Heather Lint, Children's Fund, Linda Hart, African American Mental Health Coalition, Wayne Henkelmann, San Bernardino Superior Courts, Joe Guzman, EMQ Families First; Mark McGuire, Public; David Miller, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Veronica Kelley, Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Paula Rutten, Bob Sudol, Donny Yeun, Mariann Ruffolo, Michael Knight, Gary Atkins, Laretta Ross, Doris Turner, Jonathan Buffong, Tina Pham, Linda Charkins, Richard Hernandez, David Denkers, Maria Coronado, Cynthia Curbow, Barbara Ferri, Frances Quiroz, Ralph Ortiz, Megan Johnson, Kristen Martinez, Benita Ramsey, Michael Oliver, Marilyn Ashton, Christina Entz, Kim Rosa, Michael Schertell, Manpreet Rai, Lynn Van Gilder, and Arelis John Martinez, DBH.

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

Chairperson David Ford called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. He welcomed everyone and self introductions followed.

On January 26, 2010, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved the reappointment to the Mental Health Commission of Christopher Massa and Tom Rivera, Third District; Jane Mercer, Fourth District; and Jane Godager, Fifth District,. Their new term will expire on 1/31/2013.

It was brought to the attention of Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission, of an error on the November 5, 2009 Mental Health Commission meeting minutes at the bottom of page 1, under **PUBLIC COMMENTS**. The minutes should read, "Linda Hart, African American Mental Health Coalition, thanked the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) for working with the Coalition to establish several programs". The members of the Commission moved to approve the November 5, 2009 minutes as amended.

Today's agenda was approved and the minutes from the January 7 Mental Health Commission Public Session were approved as written.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Veronica Kelley, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, presented the February 2010 Cultural Competency Award of Excellence to Tina Pham, Mental Health Specialist. Ms. Pham began working for the County in 2002. She assists clients in obtaining SSI and/or Medi-Cal benefits, employment, housing, food, clothing and utility bill assistance. Ms.

Pham was a key player in the pilot project for the Benefits Orientation Team. Due to the team's success, DBH created a policy and procedure for department-wide implementation.

**Nomination:**

*“Tina Pham always looks out for the health and welfare of her consumers. She pays attention to language and cultural beliefs, acknowledging that both can affect how a person responds to treatment. She is always willing to lend a hand and is an uplifting person.”*

Congratulations, Tina!

**COLLABORATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Clinic Supervisor, of the Rialto Crisis Walk-in Center, read a letter she received from a client thanking Frances Quiroz, Peer and Family Advocate III, for going above and beyond to provide emotional support and much needed assistance. After understanding the immediate needs of the client's family, Frances Quiroz contacted Children's Fund who were able to provide the family with additional resources. Ms. Gehlke-Baez recognized the contributions provided by Children's Fund with a certificate of appreciation presented to Rebecca Stafford, Director.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Townsend, Field Representative, Fifth District, attended the Hispanic Employee Alliance (HEA) Mentor graduation on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales. He had a chance to speak with Dr. Brenda Navarrete, a pre-licensed psychologist, who shared with him that her family members are agricultural workers. Through the encouragement of her family, she was greatly motivated to obtain a PhD. Dr. Brenda Navarrete is an example of the kind of people who work for DBH.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson David Ford attended the January California Local Mental Health Board and Commission (CALMHB/C) meeting in San Diego. To describe the meeting, he quoted, "It is said that Groups must storm, and then norm, before they can perform".

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**First District:**

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales stated that he is honored that his father has come to live with him due to deteriorating health.

Commissioner Bill Swift is pleased to see that Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) will be presented at today's meeting. Things are looking very positive as DBH continues to provide this training to law enforcement in the High Desert.

**Second District:**

Commissioner May Farr attended the January California Mental Health Planning Council in San Diego. A topic of discussion by the Human Resource Committee was the nursing shortage. Recent graduates are unable to be placed. In observance of the National Day of Human Trafficking, Commissioner Farr attended the January 11<sup>th</sup> Coalition against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) special event. Approximately 600,000 – 800,000 children are exploited annually and the problem is becoming worse in San Bernardino County, particularly in the west end. She also attended each of the Wellness Triathlon events: 1) NAMI Walk, 2) Bowling 3) Talent Show and Awards Ceremony. Pathways to Recovery/Cultural Competency Team took the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for overall performance.

### **Third District:**

Commissioner Chris Massa announced that TEAM House took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Wellness Triathlon. Also, there will be a meeting tomorrow at TEAM House for consumers and staff members to discuss the standardization of Clubhouse policies and procedures that would apply to all clubhouses.

Commissioner Tanya Perry has been isolated in Big Bear due to all the snow. It's good to be here!

### **Fourth District:**

Commissioner Jane Mercer finds that the District Advisory Committees are very useful and informative. The homeless center in Ontario is moving to a new facility as they are expanding to acquire a residential area.

### **Fifth District:**

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel participates on the Inland Empire Perinatal Health Collaborative. Concerns include: 15% of families have members with mood disorders; 35% in Coachella Valley. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Department of Behavioral Health will host a Perinatal Mood Disorder Workshop, presented by Dr. Diana Lynn Barnes and Dr. Merrill Sparago.

### **Board of Supervisor Delegate:**

Talli Simmons, Constituent Services Representative for Supervisor Neil Derry, expressed that DBH has had a lot of negative press lately in regards to the (Conditional Release Program) CONREP incident in Upland. The members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Office commend Allan for taking full responsibility and immediate action to address areas of concern.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Rawland thanked Ms. Simmons for her positive comments. Allan Rawland, Supervisor Paul Biane and representatives from Senator Dutton's office met with community members last night from the Upland neighborhood to answer questions and address their concerns. CONREP is fully funded by the State and has been in operation for 25 years as a successful program. Director Rawland took immediate action to address the operational concerns, and has assigned Richard Louis, III, Assistant Director, to provide administrative oversight of CONREP due to his law enforcement background. Senator Dutton is presenting CONREP modifications at the State level.

Director Rawland also recognized May Farr for receiving the 2010 National Council Award for her Excellence in Consumer and Family Advocacy Programs of Significance. Pacific Clinics submitted the nomination of Ms. Farr for her work dedicated to improving the behavioral healthcare system. Richard Van Horn, of Los Angeles, also received a 2010 Visionary Leadership Award from the National Council.

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

The Governor's Budget Hearings go on next week. One of the Governor's proposals includes MHSA monies be diverted for EPSDT and Managed Care. This proposal will need voter approval in June.

Due to the county budget shortfall, DBH will be going through additional cost containment strategies.

### **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update**

MHSA funding is declining and trends show that:

- FY10-11 will be \$7 million less
- FY 11-12 will be additional \$7 million less
- FY12-13 will most likely need to use Prudent Reserve.

We received a letter from the State of their intent to release Innovation Plan funding of \$5.6 million.

We are in the process of refurbishing Building H on Gilbert Street for the One Stop Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center and Crisis Residential Program with MHSR Capital funds received. Jane Godager belongs to the Neighborhood Association in that area and is pleased that all of their concerns have been met.

### **California External Quality Review Organization (CAEQRO)**

Sarah Eberhardt-Rios provided a Power Point presentation for the CAEQRO Five Year Report Summary. The Medicaid Managed Care regulations require the State to review County Mental Health Plans annually; however due to budget constraints, eleven CA counties were identified as top performers and would only need to undergo a desk audit. Handout provided to all attendees: County of San Bernardino Individual Mental Health Plan Summary-FY09. The only drawback of a desk audit compared to an in-person review is that our ratings will not change. Linda Hart brought attention to the Handout, Side 2, Letter G: African Americans are not represented in the Element list. Sarah will provide Linda with a contact number for APS Healthcare. For the record, the Mental Health Commission would like to express their objection to this process.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING**

Director Rawland introduced Lisa Hamilton, Mental Health Education Consultant, Forensic Programs. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) provides police officers and San Bernardino County Sheriffs intensive training and certification to enhance officer understanding, judgment, competence, physical safety, and safety of others when responding to situations involving the mentally ill. Linda Hart asked if San Bernardino Police Department participates in CIT. Lisa Hamilton responded that Chief Kilmer will have 350 of his officers trained within three years. Ontario, Redlands, Colton and Fontana Police Departments have participated in training. Chu Le, Information Technology, demonstrated the on-line CIT tracking system used for data compilation and outcomes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was conducted.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No comments provided.

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

#### **District 2 and 4**

Commissioner May Farr stated that their next DAC meeting is scheduled February 25 at 1:30pm at Upland Community Counseling.

#### **District 3**

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that DAC meetings were canceled in January due to the storms.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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*David Ford*  
Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Mental Health Commission