

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
November 1, 2012: 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:

May Farr, Roberto Casas, Monica Wilson, Bill Swift, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Gabriel Gonzales, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, Akin Merino, Monica Alonso, Chris Massa and George Watson on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry

Excused Absent: Michael Hill, Jane Godager and Dena Nunez

Guests:

Dianna Lee, Field Representative for Supervisor Janice Rutherford; Rudy Palacios, Casa De San Bernardino; Beverly Scott, Family Member; Peggy Rowe, Trauma Resiliency Institute, Wayne Henkelmann, Mental Health Court; Emilia Arellano, Marianne Austin Williams, Gary Bustin, Cherice Franklin, Amazing Place Clubhouse; Faith Ikeda, Pathways to Recovery; Mimi Swift, visitor; Sheila Umbaji Futch; Debbie Reno-Smith, Stephen Garrett, Victor Community Support Services; Lea Michelle Cash, Brightest Star, Inc; Hanna Keith, Community Hospital Behavioral Health; CaSonya Thomas, Doug Fazekas, April Guzman on behalf of Cheryl Long, Jonathan Buffong, André Bossieux, Andrew Gruchy, Cindi Messer, Marilyn Ashton, Susanne Kulesa, Larisa Crossno, Sherwin Farr, Mariann Ruffolo, Arelis Martinez, Lynn Neuenswander, Claudia Silva, Melissa Grable, Janeith Tran, Doris Turner, Tracy Bomberger, Karen Cervantes, and Georgina Yoshioka, 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 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Casas led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

A motion made by Commissioner Casas and seconded by Commissioner Grabhorn: The 10/4/12 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no abstentions.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Susanne Kulesa, Program Manager I announced the November award recipient to Sheila Umbaji Futch.

NOMINATION: “In today’s world where communities are moving into a ever more multicultural and pluralistic society, to empower people from all backgrounds and walks of life is critical to elected officials for their regions and districts. Hence, I believe a hallmark of excellence in the political system is embracing the rich cultural diversity of the individuals, families, and communities it serves. As Senior Field Representative for Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter, 62nd Assembly District—Mrs. Sheila “Umbaji” Futch has these values embedded into everything that she does for others and the Assembly district that she serves. Mrs. Futch elevates, honors, and celebrates preferred languages, cultural beliefs, and practices of others, building a strong network that reflects diversity and successful outcomes for culturally diverse populations. In her normal everyday experience, she reflects training that builds up cultural awareness, skills, and practices. I believe, being culturally proficient in today’s fabric of diversity is more than a goal for her—it is integrally the foundation of her personal mission to be cultural proficient.”

Ms. Futch thanked the members of the Commission for this award. She considers it a service and duty to share cultural diversity. CONGRATULATIONS, SHEILA!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beverly Scott, family member, asked whether DBH provides oversight of Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) facilities. Director Thomas responded that Community Care Licensing provides oversight of IMDs. DBH currently has 28 individuals placed at either Sierra Vista or Shandin Hills, contract IMD providers. There have been no physical or sexual abuse occurrences during the last two years. DBH Patients' Rights handles grievances pertaining to the use of restraints, lack of privileges, etc.

Beverly Scott also mentioned her ongoing concern regarding the lack of consumer employment training. There's got to be a better way to get consumers trained and employed quickly. Commissioner Casas proposed a meeting with key DBH staff, Beverly Scott and himself to look at consumer job skills training for the future. Director Thomas will arrange the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel stated that the Behavioral Health Commission Education Committee, established in September 2012 has not yet met. We will report out at our January meeting. Susan is a member of the Inland Empire Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative, which supports Riverside and San Bernardino County. There will be a seminar on 1/24/13, focused on perinatal mood disorders and mental health issues.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn announced that today is the Day of the Dead. Some cultures believe their ancestors come to earth to visit loved ones. Michael has participated in LGBTQ meetings. There are 16 LGBTQ churches in the community that helps youth feel part of the community.

Commissioner Bill Swift mentioned that Holistic Therapy was presented at the last District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. These services have been beneficial in the High Desert community.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr attended the October CA Mental Health Planning Council meeting (CMHPC), where the newly appointed Deputy Director of mental health and substance use disorder services at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Vanessa Baird spoke. Also presenting was the Office of Patient Advocacy. CMHPC is a 40 member board, which currently has 9 vacancies. During the CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions (CALMHB/C) meeting, San Jose high school students presented their "Friday Night Live" group which teaches 4th graders to live life alcohol, tobacco and drug free.

Commissioner Monica Alonso stated that the results of the Clubhouse Transformation Study shows each Clubhouse has individualized needs; Amazing Place will soon begin a smoking cessation class. Not too long ago, Monica walked out of a therapy session due to a change of psychiatrist. She is so glad she went back as she is doing extremely well in her recovery. She thanked staff for their patience and the many ways they assist clients to be successful.

Third District:

Commissioner Chris Massa announced the Third District Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Redlands Clubhouse on 11/27/12. Chris will attend the 6th Annual Homeless Summit, the Native American celebration at Redlands University and the Cultural Competence Mental Health Summit in San Diego.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Akin Merino has been working with church leaders to increase participation at DAC meetings.

Commissioner Casas attended the Grand Opening of the Chino Police Department. They have set up an outstanding police museum. He will also attend the Native American Celebration on 11/9/12, representing the Pascua-Yaqui tribe.

Fifth District:

Treasurer Veatrice Jews announced the Annual Health and Wellness Festival, sponsored by the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches, will be held on 11/3/12. The African American Mental Health Coalition is working on their Community Resiliency Program.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director CaSonya Thomas announced the statewide Suicide Prevention Media Campaign will be held from November 2012 through February 2013. During this time, you will notice advertisements, commercials, radio announcements regarding "Know the Signs Suicide Prevention". For more info visit www.suicideispreventable.org

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Crisis Intervention Training: Jonathan Buffong, DBH Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Coordinator – CIT is a tool belt for law enforcement officers to use to handle, engage and work with individuals with mental illness. Objectives include:

- Enhance law enforcement understanding of mental illness and developmental disabilities
- Reduce use of force, lawsuits and administrative inquiries.
- Increase law enforcement awareness and ability to access community resources.

New officers are automatically registered for CIT. Over 45 different law enforcement departments in San Bernardino County have participated in the training. To date, 237 officers are CIT graduates.

Clubhouse Program: Lynn Neuenswander, Program Manager I

- Identified county operated clubhouse facility improvements
- Adopted standardized rules for all clubhouses
- Clubhouse annual picnic
- Increased attendance at public meetings and cultural celebrations
- Increased Peer and Family Advocate (PDA) support
- Consumer boards continue to take an active role in planning, coordinating and direction of all clubhouse activities. Members participate on DBH staff interview panels.
- Clubhouse members partner in educating the community
- Increased integration of clubhouse members into DBH culture

In August 2012, nine focus groups were conducted throughout the county to evaluate contract and county operated adult clubhouse programs. In addition, individual evaluations were collected. Over 144 individuals participated in the clubhouse evaluation process. Overall 89% of the participants are either very happy or happy with the clubhouse program.

Upcoming special presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission include:

- 1/3/13: Job training for behavioral health clients by Carmen Campbell, Department of Workforce Development
- 2/7/13: Perinatal Mental Health by Faye Herrmann, Clinic Supervisor, DBH

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval to pay CALMHB/C Annual Dues: *A motion made by Commissioner Farr and seconded by Commissioner Casas to submit payment. Motion passed; no abstentions.*
- Present 2013 Behavioral Health Commission Slate of Officers:
 - Chair: Susan McGee-Stehsel
 - Vice-Chair: Monica Wilson and Veatrice Jews
 - Secretary: Akin Merino
 - Treasurer: Christopher Massa and Veatrice Jews

A motion made by Commissioner Jews and seconded by Commissioner Grabhorn to accept slate of officers. Motion passed; no abstentions. Voting will occur during the January 3, 2013 meeting.

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

\$80,000 was raised for NAMI by San Bernardino/Riverside counties during the 10/29/2012 NAMI Walks!

ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission