

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
March 7, 2013: 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present:

May Farr, Bill Swift, Mike Grabhorn, Monica Wilson, Jane Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Roberto Casas, Akin Merino, and Chris Massa

Excused Absent: Gabriel Gonzales

Absent: Michael Hill and Dena Nunez

Guests:

Regina W. Bell, Field Representative for Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood; Vikki Ostermann, County Administrative Office, Beverly Scott, family member, Gretta Sitompul, Pirave Brown, Cal State nursing students; Chad Ashbaugh, Grand Canyon University; Mimi Swift, public; Alex Fajardo, El Sol Education Center; Donna McKee, Faith Ikeda, Greg Sweetwood, Alec Renard Hill, Carolyn Bennett, G. Villasenor, Thomas Castellanos, Derek Marshall, Clubhouses; Director CaSonya Thomas, Laretta Ross, Sharon Nevins, Doris Turner, Cynthia White, Susanne Kulesa, Susan Abito, Paula Rutten, Tracy Bomberger, Michael Schertell, Melinda Ancrum, Michelle Dusick, Andy Gruchy, Cynthia Curbow on behalf of Cheryl Long, Janeth Tran, Michael Oliver, Sherwin Farr, Veronica Kelley, Carol Davis, Rebecca Gehlke-Baez and André Bossieux 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.

Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission announced the following reappointments to the Behavioral Health Commission:

- Akin Merino and Monica Wilson, Fourth District
- Gabriel Gonzales and Michael Grabhorn, First District
- Jane Godager, Fifth District

A motion made by Commissioner Farr and seconded by Commissioner Grabhorn: The 2/7/13 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes were approved as written. Motion passed; no further abstentions.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Alex Fajardo, Executive Director, El Sol Neighborhood Education Center was presented with the Cultural Competency Award of Excellence for March 2013. ***Nomination:*** *“For the past seven years Mr. Alex Fajardo has been developing cultural competence skills at an individual, community, and organizational level. His knowledge and experience on cultural competence influences attitudes and effectiveness among staff and Promotores. He considers it important to know about cultural differences and to explore cultural organizations in the community. The diversity of the Latino community and also working with other ethnic communities such as the African American community in implementing the Promotores de Salud program has increased his familiarity, sensibility, and respect to persons of all cultures.”*

“Mr. Fajardo developed training on cultural competence among Latino/Hispanic communities that gives understanding of the diversity of the Latino community. He has also facilitated workshops on cultural competence among staff, Promotores, and community members. In addition he is currently working on implementing a Latino model called Promotores de Salud into the African American community. It has been a learning process for those who are working around him and an increase of learning knowledge for him.” Congratulations, Alex!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Derek Marshall stated that people in crisis have many issues that need to be addressed; such as post traumatic stress disorder, being victims of violence, and other tragedies. It is important to keep clients from falling through the cracks and he commends the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) for providing services.

An unidentified speaker stated he is new to the city and what he has seen is very beautiful. Thank you for helping me.

Director Thomas thanked the speakers for their comments and mentioned that DBH will be hosting an upcoming symposium called Enlightened and Equipped: Knowledge Changes Lives on 5/28/13. More information will be provided at the April BHC meeting.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel mentioned items discussed during today’s Executive Session:

- BHC bylaws are being revised due to increased responsibility. Revised bylaws will be presented at an upcoming BHC meeting prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
- Susan attended a health fair in Hesperia at the Senior Center and was pleased to find both mental health and primary health providers represented.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Swift announced the integration of primary health and mental health in the High Desert, with the opening of a Federally Qualified Health Center in Hesperia.

Commissioner Grabhorn stated that Riverside County has passed a law banning the sale of synthetic drugs.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr attended the African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC) Symposium at Valley College. She also attended the Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) Program graduation, which is always a moving experience. Marci Adkins with San Bernardino Police Department is teaching Clubhouse members how to interact with law enforcement.

Commission Alonso has been participating in Clubhouse activities at Amazing Place. She especially enjoys the improv group.

Third District:

Commissioner Chris Massa attended the San Bernardino County African American Association of Employees Black History Month and Scholarship Recognition Celebration on 2/28/13. He will be absent from the April and May afternoon sessions of the BHC due to college courses.

Fourth District:

Vice Chair Monica Wilson announced that the CA Mental Health Planning Council April meeting will be held in Ontario on April 17-19. There will be major discussion on gun violence.

Secretary Akin Merino announced an upcoming Inland Empire Counseling Psychology Students Conference hosted by Argosy and National University scheduled on 4/27/13 from 10am-4pm. The BHC Education Committee's initial meeting will be held on 4/4/13, at 9am in F119-120, prior to the BHC Executive Session.

Commissioner Casas congratulated Mr. Fajardo for receiving the Cultural Competency Award of Excellence. He will attend his tribe's, Pascua Yaqui, traditional ceremony during Easter week in Tucson, Arizona. School districts have realized their responsibility for providing mental health services. Chino Unified School District has been awarded a grant to hire a mental health director, counselors and aides.

Fifth District:

The AAMHC is in the process of training outreach workers for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services, as well as hosting a NAMI Family 2 Family twelve week training conducted by May Farr.

As a member of the CA Senior Legislature, Commissioner Godager stated that legislators in Sacramento are being encouraged to introduce legislation benefiting seniors.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director CaSonya Thomas made several announcements.

- Major accomplishments achieved in the first year of the Affordable Care Act include:
 - Mandates requiring treatment of mental health and substance use
 - Must be aligned with federal parity
 - Access provided to those who were uninsured in the past – CA will participate in the Medicaid expansion to include this new population
- On 3/14/13, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) will be hosting a community forum in Loma Linda to discuss the impact and progress of the Mental Health Services Act in our communities. The forum will be held at Loma Linda University.
- The Guide to Homeless Service Providers has been updated. Please contact Marleana Roman at mroman@dbh.sbcounty.gov for copies.
- DBH provides Housing to clients who qualify:
 - Must have stable income from employment or SSI/SSDI
 - Be able to perform 10-20 hours per week of enrichment activities (gainful employment, volunteer work or formal training/education)
 - Pass review process

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: PEI Statewide Initiatives Update by Michelle Dusick, Program Manager I

CA Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is the funding administrator of three statewide PEI projects. Listed below are the local impacts of each project.

1. Student Mental Health Initiative:
 - Higher Education: meet monthly with local universities; faculty and peer training; Cal State University San Bernardino has implemented wellness activities and anti stigma messaging; San Bernardino Valley College provides support groups for veterans.
 - K-12: training educators on early identification of mental health issues starts next week; Directing Change high school student video contest-create a 60 second public service announcement to prevent suicide and change minds about mental illness (winning video team will win \$1000 cash prize for their school and be recognized at the award ceremony).

2. Suicide Prevention: Six trainers have been trained in ASIST (model for caregivers who want to feel more competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide); SafeTALK training of trainers scheduled for May 2013; Know the Signs media campaign www.suicideispreventable.org has been in effect since December 2012; quarterly CA Suicide Prevention Network meeting scheduled throughout the southern region.

3. Stigma and Discrimination Reduction: social marketing campaign www.ReachOutHere.com; training for families; expansion of NAMI programs; advancing policy to eliminate discrimination; promoting mental health in the workforce by encouraging employers to implement employee wellness programs.

Upcoming educational presentations to the Behavioral Health Commission:

- 4/4/13: Coordinated Care Initiative, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, DBH Deputy Director
- 5/2/13: Hospital Services Diversion Program, Paula Rutten, DBH Program Manager II
- 6/6/13: MHSA Annual Update Public Hearing, Susanne Kulesa, DBH Program Manager I

NO NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Commissioners Jews, Merino, Wilson, McGee-Stehsel and Massa were selected for the BHC Annual Report taskforce.

OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

Lynn Neuenswander, Program Manager I announced upcoming DBH events

- 3/12/13-Victor Community Support Services Holistic Campus open house in Victorville
- 3/21/13-partnering on a senior health fair in Hesperia
- 5/7/13 –consumer art exhibit at the County Government Center
- 5/23/13 –Evening with the Stars at San Bernardino Hilton
- 5/28/13–Enlightened and Equipped: Knowledge Changes Lives Symposium

ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel
Chair

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission