

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
November 5, 2015 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Ed O'Brien, Troy Mondragon, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, May Farr, David Caine, Chris Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel

Excused Absence: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Akin Merino, Monica Wilson

Guests: Regina Weatherspoon-Bell, Wayne Henkelmann, Maria Anguiano, Faisal Alserri, Kathy Brann, Paula Rutten, Faith Ikeda, David Reyes J, Joanne Mitchell, Cynthia White, Jon Buffong, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Clifford Craig, Sharon Nevins, Hanna Keith, Kristen Mungcal, Merida Saracha, Scott Garner, Cecilia Avelar, Douglas Fazekas, Colbi Pickl, Jamesia Brown, Doris Turner, Sherie Park, Monica Rosas, Michael Sweitzer, Linda Marcoux, Karen Cervantes, Melloni Cherry, Roshon Dodson, Rosa Villegas, Michael Schertell, John Futch, André Bossieux, Paul Avila, Zulma Acevedo, Matt Parnell, Leeann Ficarra, Jennifer Gonzalez, Jonathan Benvenisti, Lupita Mendez, Ray Blevins, Irma Cortes, Michelle Dusick, Mariann Ruffolo, Ashley Banks, Charles Pearson, Eddie Estrada, Cynthia Gutierrez, Lauretta Ross, Sherwin Farr, Aimara Freeman, Tiffany Keeler. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Commissioner Catherine Inscore led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

Regina Weatherspoon-Bell, Field Representative for Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood, First District, presented Commissioner Michael Grabhorn with a plaque recognizing him as Prevention Advocate of the Year. Congratulations, Michael!

Lorraine Armenta, Social Worker II, DBH Juvenile Justice Program, was recognized as the Cultural Competency of Excellence award recipient for November. Congratulations, Lorraine!

Tab 3: Review Minutes of October 1, 2015 – Page 1: Change Commissioner Catherine Inscore's attendance from Absent to Excused Absence.

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Michael Grabhorn/Troy Mondragon

AYES: Ed O'Brien, Troy Mondragon, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, May Farr, David Caine, Chris Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel

ABSTAIN: Catherine Inscore

ABSENT: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Akin Merino, Monica Wilson

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to a change in CalWORKS income qualification, Cecilia Avelar was upset that she was dropped from receiving beneficial services at Mariposa Community Counseling. She believes the county could do a much better job at transitioning clients out of programs. Assistant Director Veronica Kelley, will follow up and provide a report at the February meeting.

Jonathan Buffong attended the Cal State University San Bernardino Black-Brown Summit. Data shows that college enrollment among African American and Latino youth has declined. Mentors of color in San Bernardino County are targeting schools to encourage students to pursue higher education.

Roshon Dodson introduced herself as the new coordinator for the African American Mental Health Coalition support group.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel announced this is her last meeting as Chair of the BHC. Elections of new officers will occur during the January 2016 meeting. She attended the Crisis Residential Treatment Center Groundbreaking Ceremony this morning in San Bernardino. The center is expected to open in 2017.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner O'Brien continues to work on strategies, in collective partnership with other county departments, to meet the needs of consumers arrested during a mental health crisis. He suggested a public forum that would include leadership of our county partners in law enforcement, the Public Defender and District Attorney's office to determine the challenges of criminal law related to behavioral health issues. He also requested a future presentation regarding DBH's efforts in workforce retention. Veronica Kelley will follow up with Director CaSonya Thomas on his suggestions.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn reported that many city councils have added salvia and cannabidiol to the list of substances banned through synthetic drug ordinances.

Second District:

Commissioner David Caine attended the Gathering on Mental Health and the Church at the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, October 7-9. The event was hosted by Pastor Rick Warren and his wife, whose son died by suicide over two years ago. Topics of discussion included; mental health, addiction, suicide prevention, stigma reduction and recovery.

Secretary May Farr will attend the quarterly meetings of the CA Mental Health Planning Council and CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commission in San Diego January 20-23.

Third District:

Commissioner Christopher Massa will assist in reviewing nominations submitted for the BHC Annual Award Ceremony. We anticipate about 2,000 participants at the NAMIWalk on 11/7/15.

Commissioner Troy Mondragon commended Susan McGee-Stehsel on her leadership as chair. He participated in the Crisis Intervention Training provided the CA Highway Patrol Officers. His mom also participated to present from a family perspective.

Commissioner Catherine Inscore was happy to be back after sustaining a significant injury. She thanked DBH and the Commission for providing support and hope for her son's recovery.

Fifth District:

Treasurer Veatrice Jews announced the Community Wellness Resource Fair hosted by the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches will be held on 11/7/15 from 10am-2pm.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Liberty Lane Apartments: A proposed Mental Health Services Act Housing Project for Veterans presented by Tara Barauskas, Director of Housing for A Community of Friends and Eddie Estrada, Executive Director of U.S. Vets:

Ms. Barauskas stated that A Community of Friends provides permanent supportive housing for low-income people with special needs. The Liberty Lane Apartments, an 80-unit project located in Redlands, is anticipated to break ground in December 2016.

Mr. Estrada stated there are approximately 139,000 veterans living in San Bernardino County. Approximately 14,000 are on the brink of homelessness. Causes of homelessness among veterans include the lack of affordable housing, physical health and mental illness. U.S. Vets offers housing programs and services: case management, meals, outreach services, sobriety support, life skills classes, transportation assistance, laundry services, and referrals to benefits. In 2014, U.S. Vets served 819 individuals

and approximately 69,000 meals. For veterans seeking services from U.S. Vets, permanent housing placement was provided to 94% and job placement to 62%.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS(S)

As chair of the Nominations Committee, Commissioner Mondragon presented the 2016 slate of prospective officers:

- Chair - Monica Wilson, Chair
- Vice Chair - Akin Merino,
- Secretary - May Farr
- Treasurer – Veatrice Jews

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Veatrice Jews/ May Farr

AYES: Ed O'Brien, Troy Mondragon, Mike Grabhorn, Veatrice Jews, May Farr, David Caine, Chris Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Catherine Inscore

ABSENT: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Akin Merino, Monica Wilson

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DBH Assistant Director, on behalf of Director CaSonya Thomas, announced that DBH was notified on 10/28/15 that we were successful in the fourth funding round grant from the Investment in Mental Health Wellness (IMHWG) Grant Program. The \$7.5 million will allow us to construct a Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) center and a Crisis Stabilization Unit in the West Valley region. DBH was also successful in receiving funding through this same grant:

- Third round - \$3 million for CRT in High Desert region
- Second round - \$3.9 million for CRT in Central Valley region

SB 11, recently passed into law, will require law enforcement to receive training to recognize, deescalate and appropriately respond to persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance use disorders.

Kirsten Barlow has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Karen Cervantes thanked the Commission for their support and attendance at this morning's Crisis Residential Treatment center ground breaking ceremony in San Bernardino. We hope to see everyone at the NAMIWalk on Saturday at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet.

Irma Cortes announced that Lupita Mendez , Promotores de Salud, will retire in December. Congratulations Lupita!

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission