

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
February 4, 2016 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Ed O'Brien, Monica Wilson, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Lizett Santorro on behalf of Supervisor Ramos

Excused Absence: Michael Grabhorn, Akin Merino

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Brigitte Shaw, Supriya Barrows, Tiffany Espinoza, Miriam Clark, Balneg Emmanuel, Kim Booth, Sherie Park, Angela Coggs, John Robles, Sue Abito, Denise Byrd, Jamesia Brown, Lauretta Ross, Linda Hart, Faith Ikeda, Sarah Wright, Lindsey Fallis, Michelle Dusick, Karen Cervantes, Victoria Hall, Lynn Neuenswander, Graham Allen, Lesford Duncan, Mayra Barregos, Rosa Villegas, Michelle Pollard, Linda Reynolds, Kathy Turnball, Doris Turner, Xeneida Brown, John Stokes, Heather Granger, André Bossieux, Laurence Gonzaga, Jose Castillo, Paula Rutten, Cynthia Gutierrez, Tiffany Keeler, Sarah Hayes, Mariann Ruffolo, Douglas Fazekas, Hanna Keith, Andy Gruchy, Delilah B., Edwin Henderson, Michael Oliver, Leeann Ficarra, Wayne Henkelmann, Paul Maldonado, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Imo Momoh, Brenda Garcia, Jessica Garcia. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Monica Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Catherine Inscore led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- **Sue Abito, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)-Nomination:**
During the critical time following the December tragedy for San Bernardino County and its governmental employees, Sue took many proactive steps to ensure support for those victims and community members by emphasizing our collective culture as a San Bernardino County family. Her innovative and powerful social media campaign to join her on the Inland Regional Memorial site and bring individuals together was an example of true leadership for not only our DBH employees, but for all those affected by the tragedy. Sue expressed that she wanted individuals that may be hurting and deeply concerned to be around other individuals as a way of empowering each other through positive reflections, relaying good memories, singing encouraging songs and uplifting prayers. Sue voluntarily organized this effort starting with her family and then extending to the general community. Another powerful element is that Sue is a past Department of Public Health (DPH) employee, and she was able to bring groups of both DBH and DPH together to the Inland Regional Memorial site as a sense of organizational brotherhood and sisterhood. Many who know Sue personally, knows that she relates to consumers, staff and general public from a cultural perspective that acknowledges everyone's unique heritage, traditions and ways, but is very strong on ensuring that all of our distinct mental health needs are addressed. As an active participant in the Asian American Awareness Subcommittee, we know that Sue Abito is a leader within the DBH family, but we are so proud of her efforts that we recognize and rely on our San Bernardino County family in times where resilience is needed.

- **Lesford Duncan, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Children's Network-Nomination:**
Lesford is one of the most professional, involved, dedicated men I know. He is very resourceful and easy to approach. I have seen Lesford engage many different communities, agencies, coalitions and committees, where he has the utmost respect and understanding of the persons he interacts with. He plays a huge role in the Maternal Mental Health Workgroup where he assisted in organizing the marketing campaigns, the promoting and organization of the group. When necessary, he will chair the meeting. He demonstrates a vast eagerness to be of service to ALL members of this County. His humble nature is keen in the work he does, serving the County as a Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator. It is a great pleasure to not only know Mr. Duncan, but to work alongside him with great respect and dignity. His compassion and dedication to all members of the County make him truly deserving of this award.

Congratulations Sue and Lesford!

Review Minutes of 11/5/15

APPROVED

Motion/Second: May Farr / Susan McGee-Stehsel,

AYES: Ed O'Brien, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Monica Wilson, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, May Farr, David Caine, Catherine Inscore, Chris Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel and Lizett Santorro on behalf of Chairman James Ramos

ABSENT: Akin Merino, Michael Grabhorn

Review Minutes of 1/7/16

APPROVED

Motion/Second: May Farr / Susan McGee-Stehsel,

AYES: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Monica Wilson, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, May Farr, David Caine, Catherine Inscore, Chris Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel and Lizett Santorro on behalf of Chairman James Ramos

ABSTAIN: David Caine, Ed O'Brien

ABSENT: Akin Merino, Michael Grabhorn

PUBLIC COMMENT

Delila Bahamonde stated that she looks up to Commissioners May Farr and Troy Mondragon, who inspire her to join NAMI and help abused kids. She also thanked the county for providing services that help individuals to stay off the streets and succeed in their goals.

Linda Hart, Executive Director, African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC) presented Director Thomas with a certificate of recognition in recognition of African American Awareness Week. AAMHC continues to promote family unity and legislation to eliminate mental health stigma and keeping individuals healthy.

Michelle Pollard, Community Health Worker (CHW) Coordinator, announced that 18 additional CHWs have been hired and recently graduated from the training program. Outreach services provided to families in the community include; mental health presentations and referrals for food, shelter, clothing and tutoring. They also work with the Public Defender's Office to help individuals restore their criminal record to a better level.

Brigette Shaw, CHW, works in the schools to provide student wellness activities and mental health wellness trainings to parents.

Tiffany Keeler, RI International, announced Peer Employment Training will be conducted at the DBH Training Institute on May 2-13, 2016. Applications are due by 4/15/16.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Monica Wilson announced a cultural event in recognition of Black History Month and African American Mental Health Awareness Week: From Trauma to Triumph, on 2/9/16 at San Bernardino Valley College. Keynote speakers include Dr. Monica Wilson and Dr. Akin Merino. SB 614 will allow for a peer support specialist certification programs to be implemented statewide with funding provided by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Upon certification, the services provided by peer support specialists will then be reimbursed by Medi-Cal.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

First District:

Commissioner Ed O'Brien is concerned about the number of DBH professionals leaving the county for a higher rate of pay elsewhere. He hopes policymakers will consider pay parity.

Second District:

Commissioner David Caine stated the BHC covered many topics during the Executive Session today to structure a work plan. On 1/23/16, David attended Mental Health Boards/Commission training in San Diego. It was exciting to see other counties in attendance, their involvement and networking. Next week, David will participate in a ride-a-long with Twin Peaks Deputy Sheriff.

Secretary May Farr attended the January CA Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) meeting. They continue to praise San Bernardino County for submitting comprehensive and well thought out Data Notebooks. The new Data Notebook should be released to counties in April 2016. In June 2016, the quarterly meetings of the CMHPC and the CA Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commission will meet in Ontario, CA.

Third District:

Commissioner Christopher Massa is proud that the BHC recognized a record number of award recipients during the BHC Annual Award Ceremony on 1/7/16.

Commissioner Troy Mondragon presented at the CA Highway Patrol Crisis Intervention Training. Officers were very receptive to the training. In fact, one of the officers would like to share his experience from a law enforcement perspective during an upcoming BHC meeting.

Commissioner Catherine Inscore attended the BHC Annual Award Ceremony on 1/7/16. She appreciates the hard work provided by the award recipients in the community throughout the year.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter is looking for resources for elders experiencing depression. Recently, five women she knows have become victims of assault.

Fifth District:

Treasurer Veatrice Jews attended the AAMHC Community Health Worker graduation. She thanked DBH for facilitating the opportunity for Dr. Gloria Morrow to provide a workshop to the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches entitled "How to Present Mental Health Wellness to Congregations" including a self-care session for pastors. The workshop will occur on 2/23/16.

Immediate Past Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel and her nursing students have been visiting behavioral health and public health agencies in the Coachella Valley region. Coachella Valley overlaps San Bernardino and Riverside counties and there is a real need for a collaboration of services in that area to meet the needs of the population. Mutual education is extremely valuable between consumer and mental health workers.

Commissioner Jane Ann Godager attended the BHC Awards Ceremony. She reminded everyone to stay "SB Strong"!

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Managed Care and Health Care Reform Updates

DBH Deputy Director Sarah Eberhardt-Rios presented a brief history of behavioral health services from institutionalization a few hundred years ago, to the establishment of community-based mental health services in the mid-20th century. Through the work of the State of CA and counties, coverage of specialty mental health services would continuously grow into the robust system that exists today.

In 1974, CA counties were required to have mental health programs, which later organized into Mental Health Plans (MHP). San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is a MHP. DBH is contracted with the Department of Health Care Services to provide mandated services to individuals who meet certain criteria, called Tier III, or who live with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness, require Substance Use Disorder Treatment or are unserved, underserved or inappropriately served.

- Medi-Cal
- Certain types of Medi-Cal and Medicare
- Those without insurance who meet Tier III criteria
- Defined benefits

County MHP specializes in recovery services through targeted case management and rehabilitative services.

Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) and Molina Healthcare have the responsibility to pay for and/or provide coverage:

- An array of health services

- Tier I and Tier II behavioral health services (mild to moderate mental health symptoms and minimal functional impairments)

DBH has the responsibility to pay for and/or provide coverage:

- Tier 3 (persistent severe and chronic mental health conditions) Specialty Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services

DBH works closely and meets monthly with IEHP & Molina to coordinate care across systems, focusing on care transitions and consumers' journey between Tier II and Tier III and SUD as needed.

Challenges and opportunities include:

- Expanded Medi-Cal eligibility and coverage – more individuals have access to care and limited health care providers
- County MHP resources and services are in the community, but we continually strive for better coordination
- County MHPs have tremendous expertise in navigating complex health and social support issues

NEW BUSINESS

No new business items

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director CaSonya Thomas thanked the AAMHC for their presentation and is pleased with the outreach in the community.

Workforce Development: Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for county professional unit is currently in discussion about increases in compensation.

The Board of Supervisors adopted an initiative to end veterans' homelessness. Housing was provided to over 500 veterans in our county. On 1/28/16 from 6-10am, San Bernardino County conducted our annual Point in Time Count to count and survey homeless persons throughout the county. This effort helps promote government and private grant funding and other resources to help people exit life on the streets and prevent homelessness.

As a result of the tragic shooting on 12/2/15, DBH staff were activated to provide debriefings to numerous individuals experiencing trauma. DBH staff were recognized for their hard work at an All Staff Meeting by Mr. Devereaux, members of the Board of Supervisors and the DBH Exec Team.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Victoria Hall, Mental Health Education Consultant, DBH announced the MHSA Stakeholder Engagement meetings being held throughout February and March, including an evening online session and Spanish session. The twenty one meetings will be focused on sharing how MHSA has been integrated into existing services and a discussion regarding the future of mental health policy and program planning. These engagements will focus on MHSA Annual Update.

On 3/1/16, the MHSA Summit will be held at the University of Redlands Orton Center from 8am-4:30pm. Learn, discuss and contribute to MHSA programming in San Bernardino County. Topic themes include:

- MHSA Program Planning
- Crisis Management
- Innovating Practice
- Recovery and Systems Supports

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Monica Wilson, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission