

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
March 3, 2016 - 12:00-2:00 pm

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

**Excused Absence:** Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson

**Guests:** Michael Schertell, Imo Momoh, Linda Hart, Lupe Rosas, Ashley Banks, Tina Sellers, Aimara Freeman, George Davis, Vanessa Torez, Michelle Dusick, Mariann Ruffolo, Matthew Parnell, Loretta Ross, Cynthia Gutierrez, Beverly Paulson, Cassandra Alvarado, Heather Branson, Tracey Bomberger, Jamesia Brown, Michael Oliver, Kristiann Wolfe, Mary Tansey, Luis Hernandez, Edwin Henderson, Cheryl Morin, Kristen Mungcal, Vianey Diaz, Paula Rutten, Michael Sweitzer, Liz Leuvano, Claudia Toscano, Tracy Foht, T. Ingram, Joanne Mitchell, Linda Marcoux, Cheryl Placide, Eduardo Juarez, Raymond Geisel, Brandesa Garcia, Carlos Casanova, Angel Conroe, Carolyn Lain, Evandro Yanes, Michelle Pollard, Supriya Barrows, Karen Cervantes, Victoria Hall, Douglas Fazekas, Sherwin Farr, Cynthia White, Sherie Park, Brenda Garcia, Beverly Scott. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice Chair Akin Merino called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

**Review Agenda of 3/3/16:** The agenda was revised as follows: Move New Business Items to immediately follow the Review of the Minutes of February 4, 2016

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: David Caine / May Farr

AYES: Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Lizett Santorro on behalf of Supervisor Ramos

ABSENT: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson

**Review Minutes of 2/4/16**

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: Jennifer Spence-Carpenter / May Farr

AYES: Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Lizett Santorro on behalf of Supervisor Ramos

ABSENT: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson

**NEW BUSINESS**

Review MOU with Department of State Hospitals for Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Beds

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: May Farr / Christopher Massa

AYES: Akin Merino, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews, Catherine Inscore, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Lizett Santorro on behalf of Supervisor Ramos

ABSENT: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michelle Pollard, African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC), coordinates Community Health Workers (CHW), who go out in the streets, homes and apartment complexes to educate individuals and families about mental health and available resources. If the AAMHC is unable to find a fiscal sponsor, their program will cease.

Matthew Parra thanked Corey Brisk for the opportunity to volunteer in DBH Medical Records. He's back as Chairperson of Pathways to Recovery and thanked Joanne and Tiffany for their support.

Linda Hart, Executive Director AAMHC, introduced her granddaughter, who also works with the CHWs in the community. This is a difficult time for our organization; however, DBH is actively working with us to find another fiscal sponsor. AAMHC has the support of the community and has not stopped their continuum of care.

Tiffany Keeler moved to San Bernardino from another county, is a student at Cal State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) and has grown to enjoy her new community. She attended one of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Stakeholder meetings. As a former client she noted that peers were seated on one side of the room and providers on the other. When you see someone who has a challenge be kind and demonstrate empathy.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice Chair Akin Merino provided the keynote speech at the Black History Month cultural event, From Trauma to Triumph, on 2/9/16. She appreciates the hard work of therapists, who are overworked and underpaid. Take care of yourself so you can continue to "Do No Harm".

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

### **First District:**

Commissioner Ed O'Brien stated the BHC heard a legitimate concern during the Executive Session regarding a family who called the Morongo Basin Crisis Walk-In Center (CWIC) when their son was in crisis. No one answered the CWIC phone, so instead the family called law enforcement. The BHC has requested DBH provide a presentation to determine where the disconnect lies. Also during the Executive Session the BHC approved a proposal pertaining to a gap in services for incarcerated seriously mentally ill individuals as a result of AB 109. The BHC hopes distribution of the proposal to appropriate entities will result in a legislative fix.

### **Second District:**

Commissioner David Caine participated in a 32 -hour Crisis Intervention Training, where members of law enforcement learn terms and techniques to help de-escalate persons in crisis. He also participated in a ride-along with Twin Peaks Sheriff. David is scheduling an upcoming tour at the Hazeldon Betty Ford Center. Please let him know if you are interested in attending.

Secretary May Farr attended the Forensic Center for Change Drug Court 70<sup>th</sup> graduation. It's inspiring to see individuals successfully complete programs. She also attended the memorial for David Miller, former Behavioral Health Commissioner, held at the Amazing Place Clubhouse. We will miss him. The MHSA Summit was outstanding and showcased many of the services provided.

### **Third District:**

Commissioner Christopher Massa attended the Black History Month event at Team House on 2/10/16, "African American Accomplishments". Team House is providing "Coping Skills" training to reinforce how members handle problems.

Commissioner Troy Mondragon is working as an advisor for the annual Parade of Flowers event in May at CSUSB, and coordinating participation with other schools to end stigma. He appreciates the AAMHC for their work in the community and for setting an example for other young folks.

Commissioner Catherine Inscore stated that March is Womens' History Month. She thanked Ms. Keeler for her public comment and advocating for others.

**Fourth District:**

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter thanked Karen Cervantes, DBH, for providing resources for women who are victims of assault. They are no longer living in harmful situations. She is happy to be part of the BHC and provide resources to others.

**Fifth District:**

Treasurer Veatrice Jews stated that Dr. Akin Merino provided an inspirational keynote speech during the Black History Month event. She participated in the MHSA Annual Update stakeholder event during the 5<sup>th</sup> District Advisory Committee (DAC), which generated a lot of discussion. We need to do a better job of getting the word out about programs. She requested to meet with Karen Cervantes to discuss publishing a monthly article regarding behavioral health services. Karen will follow-up with Commissioner Jews

Commissioner Jane Ann Godager attended the MHSA Summit at the University of Redlands, with excellent presentations by DBH staff. She also attended the MHSA Stakeholder event at the 5<sup>th</sup> DAC.

**EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Older Adult System of Care**

DBH Program Manager II, Maria Coronado introduced Kristiann Wolfe, Program Manager I to present. DBH provides services to older adults (59+) with severe mental illness (Tier III) in their natural environment. The goal is to maintain clients in their own independent housing or with family whenever possible. Older adult services include:

- DBH's Age Wise Program provides mental health treatment and medication, , case management, crisis services, referrals and consultation to seniors and families in the West, East and Desert Areas of San Bernardino County.
  - A limited number of DBH clients may qualify for a DBH subsidized apartment. We currently have two complexes we work with, both in San Bernardino. Future sites in Bloomington and Yucaipa will expand this service to DBH older clients in need.
- In addition to clinical staff contract agencies provide trained senior peer counselors who focus on suicide prevention, behavioral health prevention, education and treatment
- County Department of Aging and Adult Services includes: Adult Protective Services and In Home Support Services

Criteria for being considered Tier III client: includes

- Significant impairment in one or more areas of functioning:
  - Health/Self-care/Housing
  - Occupation/Education
  - Legal
  - Managing money
  - Interpersonal/Social
- Currently at risk of violence or suicide
- Experiencing psychotic features not secondary to substance use

Upcoming BHC Educational Presentations include:

- 4/7/16 – Life at TAY (Transitional Age Youth)
- 5/5/16 - MHSA Annual Update Public Hearing and DBH Crisis Services

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In the absence of Director CaSonya Thomas, Deputy Director Michael Schertell stated that DBH is aware of the problem with live operators on a contract basis not prioritizing our calls and we are working on it. He commended Sarah Eberhardt-Rios and Michelle Dusick for an excellent MHSA Summit. The annual Children's Network Shine a Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast will be held on 4/7/16; former County Board of Supervisor Gary Ovitt, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. DBH is keeping an eye on major legislative changes that will effect foster children placement, residential treatment and psychotropic medications.

## **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

Jamesia Brown, DBH Program Specialist I, announced that artwork that highlights wellness, recovery and resiliency will be collected through 3/25/16, to be displayed during Mental Health Month 2016. There is still time to participate in the MHSA Stakeholder Engagement meetings, focused on the Annual Update, being held throughout March.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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*Akin Merino, Vice Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission