

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

**Commissioners Present:** Susan McGee-Stehsel, Troy Mondragon, Jane Ann Godager, May Farr, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter

**Excused Absence:** Michael Grabhorn, Catherine Inscore, Ed O'Brien, Monica Wilson, Veatrice Jews

**Absent:** Akin Merino, Christopher Massa

**Guests:** CaSonya Thomas, Laurence Gonzaga, Lindsey Fallis, Victoria Rice, Toni Harris, Sonia Rubio, Emilia Arellano, Kristen Mungcal, Victoria Rice, Jonathan Benvenisti, Lupita Mendez, Cynthia White, Doris Turner, Faith Ikeda, Mary Ary, Mariann Ruffolo, Michael Anderson, Tracy Ward, Merida Saracha, Clifford Craig, René Keres, Aimara Freeman, Michael Schertell, André Bossieux, Claudia Silva, Ray Blevins, April Saavedra, Jon Buffong, Sherie Park, Victoria Hall, Irma Cortes, Doug Fazekas, Gloria Mogana, Tanya Bratton, Sherwin Farr, Andy Gruchy, Sarah Wright, Maribel Gutierrez, Nancy Olsen, Tracy Bomberger, Wayne Henkelmann, Lilly Payton, Michael Moreno, Imo Momoh, Michael Oliver, Jamesia Brown, Joanne Mitchell, Elizabeth Cruz, Michael Ezedie. 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 12:15 p.m. Commissioner May Farr led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

**Tab 6:** Review Today's Agenda: Due to the absence of a quorum this item was deferred until 10/1/15.

**Tab 7:** Review Minutes of June 4, 2015: Due to the absence of a quorum this item was deferred until 10/1/15.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

David Okonkwo, Director of Catholics of African Descent Ministry at the Diocese of San Bernardino has shown to be a cultural broker, community connector, and a champion to end stigma around mental health in the San Bernardino community. In March of 2015, David reached out to the Department of Behavioral Health to partner on an event that focused on:

1. Creating unity in the African American community;
2. Educating all communities on the importance of Juneteenth to the African American community'
3. Creating and promoting an environment where quality choices and options in the areas of physical health, mental health, cultural traditions and education are celebrated.

David worked with the African American Awareness Subcommittee to organize the Juneteenth Celebration at Ann Sherill Park in San Bernardino on 6/20/15. This event was a day for all residents to unite and celebrate the rich heritage of all people of African descent. The biggest accomplishment David is credited for is his ability to get Generation X and Millennials engaged in the aspect of American history. CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID!

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Victoria Hall, DBH Public Information Office announced:

- Morongo Basin Crisis Walk-in Center held an open house yesterday and is open for business.
- In celebration of National Recovery Month, San Bernardino County Recovery Happens will be held 9/19/15, from 10am-3pm at Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park in Ontario.

André Bossieux, DBH Program Manager II, announced that the Valley Star Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center in Yucca Valley opened on 6/30/15. Mental Health Systems will open a TAY Center in Ontario on 7/28/15.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel has finished up the quarter at Cal State University San Bernardino (CSUSB). The nursing students are sharing presentations at the Clubhouses and learning from the consumers. Promotores de Salud will conduct outreach worker classes in the Waterman Gardens area.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### **Second District:**

Secretary May Farr attended the 2015 National Innovative Communities Conference June 23-24. Workshop topics include substance abuse prevention and intervention, children and violence, and healthy cities. During the June CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions meeting, members conducted the election of officers, worked on the bylaws and received a presentation on HIPAA laws.

#### **Third District:**

In June, Commissioner Troy Mondragon graduated from CSUSB with a Masters of Social Work degree. Congratulations, Troy! He thanked Amazing Place for inviting him to present his story to kick off the "Spotlight" series. He will also present an advocacy workshop at the CA NAMI Conference on Friday, 8/21/15, at 3pm.

#### **Fourth District:**

Commissioner Jennifer Spence-Carpenter attended the Mariposa Community Counseling Open House on 6/17/15. There was a large turnout of community stakeholders, consumers, DBH staff and law enforcement. The delicious lunch was provided by Amazing Place Clubhouse members.

#### **Fifth District:**

Commissioner Jane Ann Godager is promoting a potential volunteer for the TAY Center to speak with Program Manager II, André Bossieux.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Assistant Director Veronica Kelley stated that San Bernardino County claimed forty-four National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards, more than any other county in the nation! DBH programs received 7 of those awards:

- Culture-specific Subcommittees
- Homeless Outreach Support Team (HOST)
- Mountain Breeze Villas Housing Project
- Remote Group Supervision for Rural Intern Placements
- Access, Coordination and Enhancement (ACE)
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

In June 2014, the Senate and Assembly passed legislation that represents significant advances in mental health policy:

- SB 11: Provides additional training for law enforcement to recognize, deescalate, and refer persons in crisis.
- SB 614: Creates a peer and family support specialists certification program, designating them as providers through Medi-Cal.
- AB 253: links the Veterans Housing Bond and the Mental Health Services Act

Update on Auditorium audio-visual upgrade: DBH Information Technology is working with the vendor to install the new equipment the last week of August.

Historically, 1915(b) waiver renewals for Specialty Mental Health Services, were only approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, on a two-year basis. But now, courtesy of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states are allowed to request an approval term of five years. California's application is the first to be approved at this longer term. This is a significant accomplishment that will benefit the many Californians who are impacted by mental illness or are at risk of mental illness, but in the past may not have received the treatment they needed to live full, healthy, and productive lives.

Through the Investment in Mental Health Wellness grant opportunities administered by the CA Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA), San Bernardino County has been successful in receiving funding to support the development of programs that increase access to and capacity for crisis residential centers located in:

- San Bernardino on Gilbert Street – approved from CHFFA second round of funding
- High Desert – approved from CHFFA third round of funding

DBH is currently working on the grant application for the fourth round of funding due to CHFFA on 9/15/15.

### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Continuum of Care**

Veronica Kelley, Assistant Director presented the many levels of SUD programs in San Bernardino County, which include: prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

- Prevention:
  - Funding provided to the state by Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Five providers offer technical assistance countywide to coalitions, schools, law enforcement and other stakeholders to address alcohol and other drug availability through evidence based research and practices.
  - Utilizes data to impact all services in the SUD continuum.
  - Statewide prevention campaign in its 5<sup>th</sup> year targeting underage drinking in Redlands-work directly with law enforcement.
  - Future prevention efforts include Sobering Centers.
- Treatment: SUD treatment is voluntary and includes:
  - Medical Detoxification (most restrictive level of care) -occurs in a hospital or Chemical Dependency Unit.
  - Residential treatment -24-hour non-medical, short-term rehab for perinatal and non-perinatal clients; provides assessment, individual, group, patient education, safeguarding meds, crisis intervention, treatment planning, transport and discharge services.
  - Transitional housing – a step down from residential – includes on site urinalysis, rules, manager.
  - Sober Living Environment
  - Outpatient counseling provided less than 9 hours a week for adults; less than 6 hours a week for youth.
  - Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOT) includes increased structured programming; provides intake, individual, group, medication services, collateral, crisis intervention, treatment and discharge planning.
  - Perinatal treatment for pregnant and/or parenting women, provided as IOT or residential. Also includes transportation to all OB and pediatrician appointments, education/parenting. Moms keep babies and children under age 10 with them in treatment. Clinical therapist provided at each outpatient site to assess and provide therapy to the children in needed.
  - Withdrawal Management-residential monitoring during detox
  - Narcotic Treatment Program – Methadone replacement therapy
  - Medication Assisted Treatment using Disulfiram, Naltrexone
- Recovery Support Services: Provides a safe and healthy living environment to initiate and sustain recovery. This includes recovery monitoring, outreach, relapse prevention, education, family support, support groups and ancillary services. Special programs:
  - Partnership for Healthy Moms and Babies
  - Drug Courts: 7 adult drug courts, 1 specialty drug court and 3 youth drug courts throughout the county
  - SUD treatment site included in the Rancho Cucamonga Day Reporting Center, for recently incarcerated individuals

- CalWORKS – 48 month cash grants for welfare to work services for low income families with children.
- Mental Health , SUD Life Skills and Family Stabilization – case management, for those at risk of homelessness, domestic violence, untreated behavioral health.
- Driving Under the Influence (DUI) programs licensed by the state.
- Substance Abuse Referral call center provides centralized assessments; currently located in Rialto; future home in San Bernardino and Victorville.

Co-Occurring: Approximately 60% of mental health clients in the DBH system of care have a co-occurring SUD issue; 20% of SUD clients have a severe co-occurring mental health issue. Nationally, of those who get treatment for mental health or SUD, only 7% get treatment for both. Integrated treatment is the key:

- Integrated treatment produces better outcomes.
- Without integrated treatment, one or both disorders may not be addressed properly.
- Services integration means providing coordinated:
  - screening for mental and substance use disorders
  - assessment
  - treatment planning
  - continued care

SUD Data: In Fiscal Year 2013-14, DBH served 6,422 SUD clients. Drug of Choice:

- Amphetamines – 48%
- Alcohol – 19%
- Opiates – 13%
- All others – 20%

DUI's in San Bernardino County ranks 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the state.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Behavioral Health Commission will be DARK in August (no meeting)
- On Thursday, 9/3/15, the Behavioral Health Commission will host a free Data Workshop from 12-2pm in the Auditorium

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

Kristen Mungcal announced the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellness Triathlon events:

- October: Bowling
- November: NAMI Walk at Diamond Valley Lake
- December: Talent and Awards Night

Laurence Gonzaga, IEHP, provided a handout for the Autism Benefit Presentation on 7/8/15, 10am-12pm.

The BHC thanked Pathways to Recovery for providing copies of their newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34p.m.

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*Susan McGee-Stehsel, Chair*  
Behavioral Health Commission

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission