

MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

January 3, 2008

TEAM House
201 W. Mill Street
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Members present: May Farr, Christopher Massa, David Ford, Carol Grisotti, Veatrice Jews, Jane Mercer, Nick Andonov, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Bill Swift, Gabriel Gonzales, Jane Ann Godager, Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales and Dr. Ralph Ortiz on behalf of Allan Rawland

Excused: Tanya Perry

Guests: Lisa Stetler, Amazing Place; Linda Ballard, Becky Bock, Carolyn Bennett, Michael Moreno, Faith Ikeda, René Compton, Pathways to Recovery; Marsha Mathews, MHS Inc.; René Keres, South Coast Childrens's Society; Hope Marriott, Cindy Messer, Mike Schertell, Andy Gruchy, Arelis John Martinez, Lorie Bernard, Linda Charkins, Laretta Ross, Rosa Gomez

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Farr called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes from November 4, 2007 will stand as written after corrections.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Farr thanked TEAM House for hosting the Mental Health Commission meeting and providing us the opportunity to have lunch with consumers. She acknowledged the addition of the festive 12' Christmas tree which was donated by Dr. Ortiz. Chairperson Farr thanked Lisha Smith, Field Representative for Supervisor Gonzales, for attending on behalf of the Supervisor and for their support for Mental Health.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director standing in for Allan Rawland, stated we are taking the show on the road and what a great turnout we have. Ralph stated that ACT (Assertive Community Treatment for high users of hospital care) and FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment for transitioning from jail) went to the Board in December. All programs are up and running.

State Budget – The State has issued the Budget Deficit Reduction Act which calls for budget cuts across the board. The most dramatic cuts will be in Alcohol and Drugs Programs and EPSDT funds. MHSA, funded by the millionaire tax, is not affected. We will keep tight on our budget and not use our trust fund to balance our budget.

Housing - Contract for Supportive Housing will provide trainings in February and May 2008 to assist us to develop our Housing Plan. We have an MOU with the Housing Authority and have received a HUD Grant for \$3 million.

Allan has reorganized the regional operations of the Deputy Directors and is working closely with them to integrate services across the board as is the intent of MHSA. André announced that the TAY Center has almost doubled in attendance within the last three months. The High Desert Crisis Walk in Center (CWIC) Open House in November was a great success. Morongo Basin will be recertified for crisis stabilization. Ralph stated that in all his years with the department, the addition of PFAs to our staff has been the most powerful movement he has seen.

We are continuing to work with Probation on the AB 900 Prison Reform Act, which transitions the reentry of parolees into the community.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Lauretta Ross acknowledged the talented artists of the 2nd Annual Consumer Artwork Calendar:

Marisa Franklin – Pathways to Recovery
Robert Frost – Pathways to Recovery
Timothy Thielo – Amazing Place
Steven Thomson – TEAM House
Melita Jo – Our Place
Christian Alvarez – Amazing Place
Gabriel Gonzales – Mental Health Commission
Jason Steen – STAR Program
April Rodgers – Our Place
Cindy Messer – Amazing Place
Lisa Stetler – Amazing Place

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Robbin Huff-Musgrove, Cultural Competency Officer, for the Department of Behavioral Health presented an overview of the integration of Cultural Competence throughout the department. We have included the increase of Cultural Competency Training in the DBH Business Plan for FY 08-09 that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the end of January.

Upcoming DBH Program special presentations to the Mental Health Commission are as follows:

- February 7, 2008 - Housing by Dr. Ralph Ortiz and Doug Fazekas
- March 6, 2008 – Medical Services by Dr. Jatin Dalal

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of New Officers:

Commissioner Farr turned the meeting over to Chris Massa, Chair of the Nomination Committee for the election of officers for calendar year 2008. Chris presented the slate as follows:

Chair: David Ford and May Farr
Vice Chair: Dr. Andonov
Secretary: Veatrice Jews
Treasurer: Jane Mercer

Dr. Andonov moved to postpone the election of officers to March 6, 2008 due to the term expiration of the following Commissioners:

- Nick Andonov Term expires 1/31/08
- May Farr Term expires 1/31/08
- Tanya Perry Term expires 1/31/08
- Carol Grisotti Term expires 1/31/08
- Veatrice Jews Term expires 1/31/08
- Bill Swift Term expired 1/31/05

The move was seconded. Each Commissioner will ensure their Statement of Interest for Reappointment is submitted to the Board of Supervisors office. Debi will follow-up with the Board of Supervisor's office.

Commissioner Farr stated we have three vacant positions on the Commission. We are seeking Hispanic representation to mirror the population of our County. An important criteria for consideration of a seat on the Commission is that the applicant/spouse of applicant cannot work for the County or contract agency. If you know of anyone who would be interested in applying please refer to Debi Pasco at 909-382-3034.

2. Review of MHSA Agreement Number: 07-77336-000

Dr. Ortiz summarized the components of the MHSA sub-agreement:

- Increase the amount to \$51 million
- Allows for unilateral modification
- Delegate the approving authority to the Mental Health Director
- 75% of plan funds will be distributed at the start of the fiscal year; remaining 25% to be distributed after submission of required reports

Susan McGee-Stehsel moved to accept as written. The motion was seconded.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1: Bill Swift has noticed increased involvement of TAY participation in his area.

District 2: May Farr attended the Victorville CWIC Grand Opening and the TAY Open House that were attended by Supervisors and judges. It was heartwarming to see the participation involved with the programs that have been so badly needed in our community.

District 3: Chris Massa stated that he is looking forward to the New Year and participation in upcoming conferences. TEAM House served 100 lunches at the Christmas luncheon.

District 4: Carol Grisotti stated the Mental Health Commission acknowledges those within our community who consistently go above and beyond to provide service to others. The nomination committee found it a difficult task to narrow the selection. She is proud and grateful to serve on this Commission.

District 5: Jane Godager wished everyone Happy New Year and Happy Birthday. She thoroughly enjoyed speaking with consumers at lunch and met up with someone she has known for 36 years. She hopes future Mental Health Commission meetings will take place at other sites throughout the County.

Veatrice Jews was speaking to a transitional aged youth at the Open House who stated she didn't know where she'd be today if not for the TAY. Veatrice commended everyone for doing such a great job. She has been participating in the PEI meetings. She states that cultural coalition is a very important aspect of our treatment.

Susan McGee-Stehsel looks forward to hearing the result of Peer and Family Advocates impact on client care. She was very pleased with the presentation given by Dr. Huff-Musgrove and hopes to see the message duplicated in the future. Susan has been referring many TAYs to the center.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

René Compton, Pathways to Recovery, thanked the Commission for listening to consumers and appreciates them coming to TEAM House.

Commissioner Farr asked Dr. Robbin Huff-Musgrove what type of outreach does DBH provide for the deaf community? Robbin stated that this group has not been targeted yet but assures that they will be included.

Dr. Ortiz announced the passing of Ed Garner who started the Homeless Program and was known for his wit, intelligence and dedication.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

May Farr
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission