

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
October 2, 2008  
12:00-2:00 pm  
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd.  
Conf Rm F119-120  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Commissioners present:**

Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, Christopher Massa, Veatrice Jews, Jane Godager, David Ford, Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Michael Hill and Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales.

**Excused absence:**

Carol Grisotti, Tom Rivera and Tanya Perry

**Absent**

Jane Mercer

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Renee Compton, Linda Ballard, Pathways to Recovery; John Lane, Lupe Aguilar; Alex Gonzales, Sarah Calhoun, Dan Wood, Victor Valley Day Club; Linda Joanne Sapeinza, SOAR; René Keres, South Coast Children's Society; Julie Williams, Rolling Start, Inc.; Beverly Scott, Morongo Basin ARCH; Rodolfo Pinon, Casa de San Bernardino; Hope Anderson, Mental Health Services; John Pi, Vista Guidance Center; Teri Posey, Superior Court; Brenda Everly, Virginia Yee, Summer Lindgren, Lee Gellada, Vincent Veloso, Brett Longacre, Richard Staggs; Jessica Seffer, Amanda Zantiny, Cal State University students; Linda Hart, AAC/Community; Isaac Jackson, Office of Homeless Services; Cynthia Curbow, Michael Oliver, Michael Sweitzer, Shyra Harris, Kerry Paysen, Doug Fazekas, Shyra Harris, Lorie Bernard Eklund, Linda Porter, Bob Sudol, Charlene Daniels, Sharon Alston, Bobie Luna, Michael Schertel, Michelle Dusick, Lynn Neuenswander, Lisa McGinnis

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Chairperson Ford called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of September 4<sup>th</sup> were adopted as written.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gonzales stated that the Victorville Clubhouse is restructured and reorganized.

Commissioner Massa invited everyone to participate in the NAMI Walk on October 25 at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet.

Commissioner Swift stated that First District Advisory Committee is recruiting law enforcement and various agencies to represent their community in the high desert.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel welcomed her nursing students from Cal State University who are very eager to intern through behavioral health programs.

Commissioner Jews applauded the tenacity of Michelle Dusick in the wake of San Bernardino County's MHSA PEI Plan approval by the State.

Commissioner Farr announced that in observance of Mental Health Awareness Week, October 6-11, there will be three presentations of the documentary The Shaken Tree throughout the County.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Rawland stated that it is a pleasure to see all of the Cal State nursing students here. Allan and Dr. Dalal recently met with Dr. Gordon and the new Psychiatric Residents at ARMC-BH who will rotate through our outpatient clinics, under the guidance of our psychiatrists, as part of their training.

### **County and State Budget**

ADS – We have been cut back \$3.8 million and it has been necessary to cease Perinatal programs in Chino and the high desert. We looked at cost effectiveness and the least amount of clients impacted to determine these closures.

Mental Health – We have a \$3.5 million reduction that we need to absorb. In order to balance the funding we will move towards an integrated system to maximize our Prop 63 funding into our programs. We will be proactive not reactive!

### **MHSA**

- Workforce Education and Training (WET): Plan has been submitted to the State; we are 2 weeks from being approved.
- Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI): SBC is the first large county to submit. Allan asked Michelle to stand as recognition was given to her on the development of this plan. He stated that perhaps Michelle would present to the Commission in November how the PEI implementation will take place. We also received an additional \$2 million augmentation for unmet needs.
- Innovation: the State will release guidelines this fall. We will have approval of \$7 million over 2 years.

### **2008 NAMI Walk**

The 2008 NAMI Walk will be Saturday, October 25 in Hemet. Funds are raised for the NAMI affiliates who in turn give back to our clubhouses. Allan noticed the funds raised chart located at the entrance to BHRC. The Adult System of Care will provide transportation to the event for some homeless individuals. Lynn distributed the flyers for this event.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Beverly Scott announced that Morongo Basin sponsors a monthly Resource Day where community agencies gather to provide information regarding their services to the public. Last month over 150 members of the public were in attendance. Beverly thanked Commissioner Godager and the Senior Legislature for coming out to Morongo and giving a presentation. The Commissioner replied that the Governor vetoed their bill.

Linda Hart stated that she was unable to access MHSA workshop information on our website. Director Rawland stated that we are in the process of reorganizing our website, which will also include a master calendar which can link to the Network of Care website. Allan will discuss these issues with Information Technology staff. Commissioner McGee-Stehsel that Paul Cummings at Network of Care is an excellent contact person and would be happy to assist.

Julie Williams asked for clarification of the pharmaceutical issue. Director Rawland stated we are no longer able to receive Medicaid reimbursement for psychotropic meds; the State has shifted the cost to the counties to absorb.

Virginia Yee announced that each of the nursing students here today need 12 hours of community service. If you can help them out please email her with your information at [yeev@csusb.edu](mailto:yeev@csusb.edu). She also asked for dates/times when the documentary Shaken Tree would be presented. Lynn Neuenswander distributed flyers.

Isaac Jackson, Homeless Coordinator, asked the Commission if they received their invitations for the Homeless Summit on November 17 from 8:00-4:00 pm at the BHRC Auditorium where the 10-Year Homeless Plan will be unveiled. He distributed invitations to those who had not received one in the mail. Isaac asked for volunteers for this year's Point in Time Survey which will count the homeless.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MHSA MASTER HOUSING AGREEMENT**

Doug Fazekas, Housing Manager, stated the client eligibility criteria for the Housing Program include:

- must have an income
- must be a resident of San Bernardino County
- pass a criminal background check beyond 3 years - appeal process will be looked at case by case
- participate in enrichment activities

This item will go before the Board of Supervisors for approval of 150 new housing units over the next 5 years on 11/18/08. DBH collaborates with OHS, HUD, HPAC and other agencies.

Beverly Scott feels that HPAC has the least amount of client/family involvement and would like to see them have more of a voice in the process.

Vivien Limon would like to have access to the applications to take to the clubhouses. We still have issues to address; such as a strategy to get info to consumers for full service partnerships.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairperson Ford opened the floor for nominations to establish the Special Recognition Award Nomination Committee for the 2008 Holiday Tea. Commissioner Godager nominated herself, Chris Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel and Veatrice Jews. All members present approved.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

René Keres, South Coast Children's Society, announced the opening of their facility in the west end of San Bernardino County. Please see René after the meeting for further information.

John Pi acknowledged Director Rawland and staff for the teamwork with ACBO contract providers as they addressed the budget cuts. Vista Guidance Center has changed their hours of operation to Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS**

### **District 1:**

No report at this time

### **District 2:**

Commissioner Farr stated that the Second District Advisory Committee has had 3 meetings and put together a "to do" list. Their strategy includes meeting with different organizations individually to provide the intent of the DACs and solicit them for participation in a large community district meeting.

### **District 3:**

Commissioner Massa stated that their first DAC meeting will be 10/14/08.

### **District 4:**

No report at this time

### **District 5:** Will have their first meeting on 10/15/08

Director Rawland stated that the DACs are designed to meet with the community and bring feedback to this group to localize community need; bridging the process for good communication and linkage.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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*David Ford*  
Chairman

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission