

MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING

March 6, 2008

Behavioral Health Resource Center

Conference Room F119-120

850 E. Foothill Blvd.

Rialto, CA 92376

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, Tanya Perry, and Allan Rawland. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco.

Guests: Renee Compton, Pathways to Recovery; Sharon Hosea, Beverly Scott, Leslie Miller; Public; Marco Garcia, Nick and Irene Delgado, The Way World Outreach; (Victor); John Pi, Vista Guidance Center; Wayne Henkelman, SB Superior Courts; Marsha Mathews, MHS, Inc.; Faith Ikeda, René Compton, Pathways to Recovery; Beverly Scott, Leslie Miller, NAMI; Doug Fazekas, Hope Marriott, Andy Gruchy, Michael Schertell, David Denkers, Doris Turner, Bob Sudol, Angela Ross, Jerry Dowdall, Laretta Ross, Rosa Gomez, Richard Hennman, André Bossieux, Tracy Bomberger, Dot Walsh, Michelle Dusick, Liz Gallegos, Evelyn Solorio, Lynn Neuenswander, Lisa McGinnis, Fallon Greene, Maria Coronado, Robbin Huff-Musgrove, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Farr called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes of January 3, 2008 were approved and will stand as written.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Farr attended the Volunteer Expo yesterday. She stated that it was a very exciting event with over 100 attendees.

The application submission process for the second round of Peer and Family Advocate positions has closed.

Chairperson Farr attended January Planning Council Meeting. Topics of discussions included:

- AB-900: Rehabilitative service program for the serious mentally ill coming out of prison.
- Mental Health Programs for veterans and their families
- Discussion of the State Budget

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Allan announced that the Holt Clinic (San Bernardino County's prototype for integrated healthcare services) will be honored with a Champions of Change award at the California Mental Health Director Association Policy Forum this evening. Allan, along with Jim Lindley, Director of Public Health, Patrick Petre, Director of ARMC, and staff of Holt Clinic will be on hand to accept the award.

FY 08-09 State Budget – The State is in the midst of a \$17.5 billion fiscal crisis. The Legislature has until February 24 to decide whether to support the Governor’s proposed budget or come up with options for the cash flow problem. If not, the Governor will make proposed cuts across the board by March 1, 2008.

FY 08-09 County Budget – The largest cuts for DBH will occur in Alcohol and Drug Programs and EPSDT. We cannot cut hospital inpatient care. We cannot use MHSA to backfill as those funds, as well as Realignment, are protected. In addition, it was necessary to increase the rate of psychiatrists by 21% to be able to compete with the State and Riverside County’s rate of pay. Counties will probably feel the effects of this crisis for the next 2-3 years. To promote revenue within the department, an eligibility worker or financial interviewer has been placed in each clinic to increase capacity of eligible clients on Medi-Cal. We expect staff and clinicians to assist clients in completing the extensive paperwork.

MHSA – We have received a \$29 million allocation for the Technology and Capital phase of MHSA. The last phase of MHSA is Innovation; the guidelines from the State should be out this spring. The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Proposal will be posted for review in March, as well as the Workforce Education and Training (WET).

Members of the Mental Health Commission have volunteered to review/evaluate nine Request for Proposals (RFPs) in March or April. The final RFPs will need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors by May or mid June 2008. Allan thanked the Commission for volunteering their time and assisting with the process.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Beverly Scott asked if the department uses the “Two-Tiered System” of care. Allan stated that the California Mental Health Director’s Association is adopting the “Level of Care and Services Policy” as one that applies to all adult clients who have been deemed eligible for services by public mental health. In addition, MHSA dollars will be used to develop full service partnerships and to reduce caseloads in the outpatient clinics.

Reneé Compton would like to become involved in changing California law pertaining to aftercare plan from the hospital. She also thanked MHSA for the assistance provided for Pathways to Recovery holiday meals and the recognition of them as an organization within the department. Mike Moreno of Pathways to Recovery was recognized at the Volunteer Expo.

The Santa Fe Social Club has done miraculous things for the people in the high desert.

It was announced that Bob Sudol has done an excellent job with the clubhouses.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director, stated that our department recognizes housing as a core issue to the recovery process. He invited everyone to attend the “Introduction to Supportive Housing” Training on February 25 at BHRC Auditorium. Dr. Ortiz introduced Doug Fazekas, Housing Manager, who presented an overview of the Housing Program. Doug thanked Angela Ross and Jerry Dowdall for their assistance with the presentation. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The goal of the Housing program is to provide affordable and safe housing for eligible clients
- San Bernardino County received the largest amount of funding from the State

- We have never lost a family after funding transitions to Section 8
Isaac Jackson, Homeless Services Coordinator, and key staff within the County are developing a 10 year plan to end homelessness in San Bernardino County.

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

- March 6, 2008 – MHSA Planning Update by Allan Rawland
- April 3, 2008 – Medical Services by Jatin Dalal

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2008 Election of Officers:

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

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| 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 until March 6, 2008 due to the term expiration of some members of the Commission. Allan suggested moving forward with the election as the Mental Health Commission By-Laws state that “a Commissioner whose appointment has expired may continue to serve in that capacity until a new appointment is made, or the Board of Supervisors declares that position vacant. Such Commissioner is eligible for reappointment subject to County policy”. Motion to postpone failed. Motion carries to proceed with election.

Carol Grisotti was nominated for Secretary. Ms. Grisotti accepted. Nominations were closed for Secretary. David Ford withdrew his nomination for Chair. Mr. Ford was nominated for Vice Chair. Mr. Ford accepted. Nominations were closed for Vice Chair. Dr. Andonov withdrew his nomination for Vice Chair. David Ford nominated Dr. Andonov for Chair. Dr. Andonov accepted. Nominations were closed for Chair. The 2008 Election of Officers proceeded by secret ballot. Chris Massa and Debi Pasco counted the votes and the results were announced by Mr. Massa.

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| Treasurer: | Jane Mercer |
| Secretary: | Carol Grisotti |
| Vice Chair: | David Ford |
| Chair: | Dr. Nick Andonov |

Dr. Andonov announced that he looks forward to serving as Chair of the Mental Health Commission. May Farr expressed her gratitude for the honor of serving as Chair for 2007.

2. The Mental Health Commission reviewed the State Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Bed Agreement #07-77269-000.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1: No report at this time.

District 2: No report at this time.

District 3: Tanya Perry stated that the Big Bear Mental Health Alliance has submitted their plan/proposal to the Department of Behavioral Health Executive Group for review.

District 4: No report at this time.

District 5: Jane Godager would like the taskforce of the Mental Health Commission Special Recognition Award to provide feedback at the next Executive Session in March.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

May Farr
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission