

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
February 5, 2009
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, David Ford, May Farr, Tanya Perry, Tom Rivera, Jane Mercer, Veatrice Jews, Jane Godager, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Jamie Garland on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Absent:

Michael Hill

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; René Keres, South Coast Children's Society; Sarah Paquette, ARC Rehabilitation; John Pi, Vista Guidance Centers; Farah Atkinson, Kristine Lusung, Alex Kivila, CSUSB SN; Hope Andrews, Andrew Gonzales, MHS Inc; Linda Hart, CMHOTC; Rodolfo Pinon, Casa de San Bernardino, Inc; Alex Gonzales, Dan Wood, Sarah Calhoun, Donna Miller; Victor Valley Day Club; Edna Rivera; Jason Hill, Doug Fazekas, Cynthia Curbow, Lynn Neuenswander, Lynda Porter, André Bossieux, Manuel Aybar, Susanne Kulesa, Doris Turner, Denise Zaremba, Laretta Ross, CaSonya Thomas Gary Bastajian, Lisa McGinnis, Gary Atkins, Andy Gruchy, Michael Schertell, David Denkers, Dorean Glenn, Jatin Dalal MD, Tim Hougen, Charlene Daniels, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Ford called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. and self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of November 6th were adopted as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Ford stated that life is busy for most of us in these tough economic times.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales, First District, stated that the Victorville Clubhouse will participate in a Friendship Day celebration on February 13th.

Commissioner Christopher Massa, Third District, and Acting President of TEAM House, attends Cal State University as a Criminal Justice student. TEAM House is currently undergoing construction to remodel.

Commissioner Jane Mercer, Fourth District, continues to work with the mentally ill in Ontario. She has referred quite a few young adults between 16-25 years to the TAY Program, who are very excited about the Program.

Commissioner Jane Godager attended the California Senior Legislature Symposium yesterday. Items discussed at the symposium included:

- senior centers to be part of Wellness Centers
- 1700 meals a week served by Meals on Wheels
- some patrons of senior centers are suing various centers for having sponsored financial investment events where money was lost or misdirected
- March is Senior Center month

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that the Mental Health Alliance in Big Bear is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) for services on the mountain. Director Rawland commended Tanya for uniting all of the mental health programs in that area to go through the contract process and bring to fruition.

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel announced an upcoming Disability Fair which will focus on recovery and was surprised that there were no mental health representatives taking part. May Farr would like to open a NAMI booth at the fair and Susan will provide her with the information.

Commissioner Tom Rivera (the newest member of the Commission) has been learning all about mental health by:

- volunteering to read Requests for Proposals
- participating on the interview panel for the Cultural Competence and Ethnic Service Officer for the Department of Behavioral Health
- working with the Latino Health Collaborative

He asked the students from Cal State to stand up and be recognized. He stated that the last three months on the Commission have been a wonderful learning experience.

Commissioner May Farr attended the Mental Health Planning Council which included family member and consumer representatives. The CA Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) meets quarterly, following the Planning Council, and is represented by Commissioners from around the State. They have been assigned to work on the State Performance Contract.

On behalf of NAMI, Commissioner Farr presented Big Al's Team with a plaque and a certificate for raising \$2,340 at the NAMI Walk. Riverside County Director, Jerry Wengerd's team, raised \$2,032. Hunter's Team from TEAM House also received a certificate which was accepted by Christopher Massa. Commissioner Godager asked that the plaques be posted in F119-120; Debi will follow-up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The selection of a new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors requires reconsideration of responsibilities delegated to members of the Board. On January 27, 2009, the Board approved Supervisor Neil Derry to replace Supervisor Josie Gonzales as the delegate to the Mental Health Commission. Director Rawland introduced Jamie Garland, Special Projects Coordinator to Neil Derry, who will attend on behalf of Supervisor Derry as her schedule permits. Ms. Garland has worked for the County of San Bernardino for a little over 20 years. She comes from the District Attorney's Office, Victim's Assistance Program, with experience in domestic violence and homicide. As an advocate of mental health she tires to bust through the stigma of letting people know that there is nothing wrong with asking for help.

Commissioners Veatrice Jews and Tom Rivera, along with Director Rawland and Chief Deputy Director, CaSonya Thomas, participated on the interview panel for the final round of applicants for the Cultural Competence and Ethnic Service Officer. Allan will be able to announce the name of the selected candidate after preliminary background check has been completed. Application process closes for the Assistant Director position next week.

County and State Budget

The budget impacts all our cities, public services and social services. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is state and federally funded.

- Vehicle License Fees and Sales Tax (Realignment funds). We have transferred many Realignment staff positions to MHSA funded positions.
- Due to the \$5million ADS reduction we closed several Perinatal Programs
- The State has held back DBH state and federal funding and has delayed payments for FY 07-08 which left us to borrow from the County's General Fund. Allan has contacted the State but there has been no response.
- We did receive MHSA funds from the State that was put into a trust fund.

The State budget has not been settled. The Board of Supervisors has instructed DBH to keep the ship afloat. Riverside County is reported to lay off 210 employees. The city of San Bernardino is talking about laying off police, fire, library and school personnel. As DBH moves along in the budget process, Director Rawland will continue to meet with Contract Providers and members of the Mental Health Commission.

Alcohol and Drug Services are most vulnerable. It is a very possible that there will no funding for Drug Courts if the 5 cent a drink tax does not pass. Director Rawland stated that in his 42 years in the business, this is the worst economic condition he has experienced; with no options available.

MHSA

There has been discussion at the State to redirect \$226 million of MHSA (Prop 63) funds, which will require voter approval. DBH received \$25 million in MHSA funding on February 4, which is earmarked for the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) and Crisis Walk in Center (CWIC).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MHSA Planning, Implementation and Integration

Lisa McGinnis, MHSA Coordinator, stated that we have currently received \$140 million in MHSA funds. She presented a description of the successful MHSA programs that we have achieved by integrating MHSA into our department and those of our contract providers.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel asked for a copy of the Full Service Partnership Screening Tools used by our department; LOCUS and MORS.

Linda Hart requested data reflecting services received by ethnic and age groups (ex. Crisis intervention, out-patient, and inpatient). CaSonya Thomas will provide this information to Ms. Hart at the March 5th Mental Health Commission meeting.

CaSonya Thomas stated that an Ethnic Disparity Study will be conducted in the near future by groups consisting of the Latino Health Collaborative, African American Coalition, and Asian Pacific Islanders. The results of the study will be shared with the Commission after compilation.

Upcoming Special Program Presentation to the Mental Health Commission include:

- March 5, 2009 – Full Service Partnerships by Charlene Daniels, Program Manager II
- April 2, 2009 – Integrated Health Care by Paula Meares-Conrad, Assistant Director, Department of Public Health, and Dianne Sceranka, Clinic Manager, Integrated Health Care

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of 2009 Slate of Officers: The Nominating Committee consisting of Commissioners Rivera, Massa and Mercer presented the following slate:

- Chair, David Ford – no other nominations were offered from the floor; Commissioner Ford accepted the nomination as Chair; nomination closed.
- Vice-Chair, Susan McGee-Stehsel – no other nominations were offered from the floor; Commissioner McGee-Stehsel accepted the nomination as Vice-Chair; nomination closed.
- Secretary, Tanya Perry, Jane Mercer, Veatrice Jews - Gabriel Gonzales was nominated from the floor; Commissioner Mercer withdrew her nomination; Commissioner Perry, Jews and Gonzales accepted the nomination of Secretary; nomination closed.
- Treasurer, Bill Swift and May Farr – no other nominations were offered from the floor; nomination closed

Election of 2009 Officers: A closed ballot election followed. Commissioner Massa and Debi Pasco tallied the votes. Results are as follows:

- Chair, David Ford
- Vice-Chair, Susan McGee-Stehsel
- Secretary, Tanya Perry
- Treasurer, May Farr

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

John Pi, Vista Guidance Centers, gave a report that was not captured in these minutes as transcriber was tallying election votes.

CSUSB nursing student asked how DBH markets their clubhouses. Lynn Neuenswander stated that brochures and Directory of Services are posted in the clinics. Other marketing tools include annual calendar and word of mouth.

Commissioner Godager asked if our 2009 consumer calendar can be posted in F119-120. Debi Pasco will follow-up.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 1:

Commissioner Bill Swift stated that the DAC for Fifth District will meet on February 18th at 12:00 p.m. at Victor Valley Clinic.

District 3:

Commissioner Perry announced that the next DAC, Third District meeting will be held on Feb 11 at the Vista Guidance Clubhouse. Meetings are rotated among various locations throughout the District. Consumers have attended several meeting, increase attendance by getting more fliers out.

District 5:

Commissioner Jane Godager reported that the January 29th DAC meeting at Nueva Vida was very stimulating. The group hopes to improve attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2.00 p.m.

David Ford
Chairman

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission