

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

**Excused Absence:**

Christopher Massa and Jane Mercer

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Wayne Henkleman, Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; Hope Anderson, Success First; Linda Joanne Sapienza, SOAR; Brenda Everly, Theresa Martell, Kim Rendler, Susan Gearhart, Jessica Wardell, Krystal Ferguson, Lourdes P. Zarate, Nadia Rojas, Jessica Downing, Marian C. Solis, Maria Ramos, Karen Yglesias, CSUSB Nursing; John Pi, Vista Guidance Centers; Paula Quijano, Victor Community Support Services; Marsha Mathews, MHS, Inc.; Rebecca Gehlke-Baez, Charlene Daniels, Roberta Luna, Sharon Alston, Michael Oliver, Susanne Kulesa, Mariann Ruffolo, Linda Porter, Laretta Ross, Jennifer Gonzales, Cheryl Long, Paula Rutten, Doug Fazekas, Andy Gruchy, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Maria Coronado, Bob Sudol, Doris Turner, David Denkers, Lisa McGinnis, CaSonya Thomas, Richard Hernandez, André Bossieux, Tim Hougen, Keith Harris, Ralph Ortiz, Lynn Neuenswander, Jatin Dalal, Gary Atkins.

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

Acting Chairperson Tanya Perry called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. She welcomed everyone and stated that she was filling in for Vice Chairperson, Susan McGee-Stehsel, who was filling in for Chairperson David Ford. Self introductions followed.

Acting Chairperson Perry asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Jeanne Stafford, a county employee for over 30 years. Ms. Stafford most recently worked at the Department of Aging and Adult Services and was very involved in the MHSA planning with our department. Ms. Stafford was a constant advocate for older adults, ensuring that they had a voice.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of February 5<sup>th</sup> were adopted as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

This is Acting Chairperson Perry first meeting as Acting Chairperson and requested that the audience bear with her as she gets through today's agenda.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Tom Rivera, Third District, thanked André Bossieux for inviting him to the San Bernardino TAY Center. Tom remarked that the Center is so successful due to the care and assistance that André and his staff provide for the youth. He also thanked Maribel Gutierrez, Cultural Competence, Social Worker II, for providing him resources.

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales, First District, announced that the Victor Valley Clubhouse is undergoing a complete remodel, which has been a group effort with everyone pitching in. Also, three Cal State nursing students from Commissioner McGee-Stehsel's class recently visited the Clubhouse.

Commissioner Michael Hill, Second District, visited the Rancho Cucamonga TAY Center at the invitation of André, as well. The center has recently opened and already has approximately 20 participants.

Commissioner Veatrice Jews, Fifth District, continues to attend meetings of the Cultural Competency Committee, the African American Coalition and the MHSA Innovation Plan. She will also read Request for Proposals on March 10. She received an email from a constituent in our area who asked if there is anything being done to address the needs of those members of our community who are having a difficult time handling the financial downturn of the economy. Commissioner Jews is gathering requested information for the constituent that can be shared with the general public.

Commissioner May Farr, Second District, has attended each of the Health Disparities Reduction Campaign series presented at the Government Center. She has also joined the West End Drug and Gang Taskforce. She took a tour of the new Training Institute with Mariann Ruffolo and also attended the Housing Summit on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Jamie Garland, of Supervisor Derry's office, stated she met John Pi and considers him to be a wonderful resource.

Commissioner Tanya Perry, Third District, stated that the Mental Health Alliance in Big Bear is up and running including services provided by the county's Transitional Assistance Department and resources for family access to services. She also met with Jamie Garland of Supervisor Derry's office to discuss community needs in Big Bear.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Allan complimented Doug Fazekas, Housing Manager, for doing such a great job organizing the Housing Summit on March 2nd. Permanent housing projects are ready to begin and we are open for business. We are collaborating with cities who have unfinished projects. Supervisor Paul Biane, Second District, and Mayor Kurth of Rancho Cucamonga are very supportive.

The Mental Health Commission District Advisory Committees are beginning to click and increasing membership.

We now have a Crisis Walk in Center (CWIC) here at BHRC. Due to the CWIC in Victorville, the Sheriff's Department reported only 3 out of 400 calls were diverted to ARMC.

A selection has been made for the new Cultural Competence Officer and will be announced at our meeting of April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Interviews for the Assistant Director position have been completed.

### **County and State Budget**

The state budget is comprised of a \$42 billion shortfall. On a positive note, the budget for Alcohol and Drug programs remains stable.

Prop 1E, which requires voter approval, proposes a shift in Prop 63 funds to balance the State budget. In our case, as much as \$10 million may be shifted to the State General Fund for EPSDT. There is much concern among the mental health field. Daryl Steinberg, author of MHSA, wrote a letter in favor of Prop 1E.

Riverside County recently distributed a letter stating that they will only accept patients with Medi-Cal. We may need to head in that direction as resources are not available.

Future budget impacts include:

- Fiscal Year 2009-10: Medicaid Federal Stimulus package has the potential in reimbursement up to 62% to help meet budget reductions to retain services.
- Fiscal Year 2010-2011 looks bleak with an MHSA reduction of 30%
- Fiscal Year 2011-12 may be a disaster

The State has been very poor in paying their bills. Allan sends weekly email greetings to the State letting them know that we are drowning.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** **Full Service Partnership Transformation**

Charlene Daniels, Program Manager II, stated that Full Service Partnerships were implemented December 8, 2008. Considered a "mission impossible" at the time, the Program Managers and Deputy Directors worked diligently to transform services in accordance with the Mental Health Services Act. System Transformation for Engaging Partners in Uplifting People (STEP-UP) mingles all services including:

- Team Based Approach
- Supportive Services
- Partnership
- Available 24/7 for crisis services

Upcoming Special Presentation to the Mental Health Commission:

- April 2, 2009 – Integrated Health Care by Ron Smith, Program Manager II and Dianne Sceranka, Clinic Manager, Integrated Health Care

### **NEW BUSINESS:** **Review FY 09-10 MHSA Annual Update:**

Lisa McGinnis, Program Manager II, introduced Bobbie Luna, Staff Analyst, who presented a PowerPoint presentation. No program changes with this update. The total

budget of \$65 million is geared towards services that provide alternatives to hospitalization. The Mental Health Commission has reviewed the FY 09-10 MHSA Annual Update.

## **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

John Pi, Vista Guidance Centers, recognizes fellow members of the Association of Community Based Organizations (ACBO) at this meeting. He also announced that the District Advisory Committees are providing a stable body for the community during this time of economic crisis.

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

### **District 1:**

Commissioner Bill Swift invited the CWIC Supervisor in Victorville and representatives from the School District to the last DAC meeting.

### **District 2 & 4:**

Commissioner May Farr stated that the District 2 and 4 have been meeting together.

### **District 3:**

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that they had a very lively DAC discussion at Vista Guidance Center in Redlands. Clients in attendance had not heard about the MHSA changes that have taken effect from 2005-2009, and were amazed that mental health services had increased so dramatically.

### **District 5:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews stated they are working on improving participation. Next meeting will be at TEAM House.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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*Tanya Perry*  
Acting Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission