

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, March 24, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.

Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Carlos Sosa, Ilean Rabens, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
ACTION TAKEN – February 2011 minutes were unanimously approved. Motions: Perrou/Lubin

II. Chairman’s Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Meeting Highlights** – Delores Huffman gave the report on the meeting held March 10, 2011:
Commission Budget - Mr. Gasco opened a discussion on preparing an annual budget for the Commission. The Committee will invite Margo Morales, DMH Administrative Deputy to join the budget process.
Volunteer Awards Program – The date is May 26, from 5 -9 pm at Catalina Grill, 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles 90028. Nomination forms are available on the Commission webpage. Any questions see committee members, Delores Huffman, Victoria Sofro, and Barry Perrou and Commission staff.
Retreat – The date is June 11. Delores Huffman will chair retreat activities.
- **Departmental Report was given by Dennis Murata.** The board letter for MHSA PEI spending plans was approved allowing DMH to expand services at directly operated clinics and train contract agencies on the implementation plan process.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting** – Terry Lewis, Executive Director reported on the MHC/SAAC Chairs meeting held March 8. The SAAC group gave updates from their perspective service areas. Each SAAC will work on a universal mission statement for all SAACs as well as each individual group.
- **FY 2011/12 Election** - Mr. Gasco nominated Dr. Helen Wolff to chair the nomination process to elect officers for fiscal year 2011/12.

- **Full Meeting Schedule –**
The group discussed activities and presentations for the remaining months in 2011. Funding issues continue to be a challenge for needed resources to plan activities because the Commission has no budget.

III. **DMH Report – Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director**

Budget – Dr. Kay discussed the SB 100 legislation that allows use of MHSA funding approved by the state in the amount of \$861 million for all counties in California. A plan is being discussed to develop a funding methodology to distribute the funds to each county for fiscal year 2012-13. Dr. Kay stated realignment funding has been fluctuating since 2007. DMH has successfully avoided cutting programs and staff during the fluctuation only making minor adjustments.

Health Care Reform – Dr. Kay provided an update on the 1115 Waiver. She discussed the enrollment criteria for LIP program. The LIP provides health and mental health services to indigent or unfunded documented single adults. DMH is looking at several models to expand services to include programs for seniors with disabilities or aging. The expansion will automatically enroll seniors into the primary health care plan that offers mental health services.

IV. **Commissioners' Reports**

Jerry Lubin – Mr. Lubin discussed details of his last testimony at the East Los Angeles Planning Commission on the zoning ordinance between board and care and shared housing issue. The Planning Commission is not in favor of changing the ordinance to include the shared housing clause in agreements. Its decision is based primarily on the neighborhoods opposing the change based on high density and environmentally inadequate areas.

George Caballero – Mr. Caballero reported attending a two-day conference on school-based violence chaired by Tony Beliz, DMH Deputy Director of Emergency Outreach Bureau.

Barry Perrou – Dr. Perrou announced Commissioners that are attending the Stepping In conference need to be registered. The Suicide Prevention Conference date is being planned for sometime in September 2011.

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron attended the retirement reception for John Griffin. Mr. Griffin played a principal role in the department's partnership with NAMI. His retirement is a great loss to the department.

The CALMHBC's quarterly meeting will be held April 27-29 in Anaheim, California. Because the meeting dates conflict with the monthly commission

meeting Commissioners attending CALMHBC will come to the commission meeting and return to Anaheim.

Delores Huffman – Approximately \$4 million dollars were returned to the Housing Fund from agencies who submitted letters of interest due to lack of construction projects and other residential situations. Funding is available for agencies to resubmit letters of interest to the housing program.

Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report for the month of March 2011:

MHSA Housing Program

Thirty projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program in various stages of development. The status of each project as of March 18, 2011 is shown below:

Developing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period

- Avalon II Family Apartments
- Alternative Living for the Aging

Finalizing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period

- Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD)

Preparing Technical Submission

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

Invitation to Submit Full Application

- Parker Hotel
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- New Genesis Apartments

Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Cedar Springs Apartments

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Osborne Place Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences

- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- KIWA Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Parkview on the Park Apartments *
- New Genesis Apartments *
- Epworth Apartments
- 28th Street YMCA
- Horizon Apartments
- NoHo Senior Villas

Open for Occupancy

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments
- The Courtyards in Long Beach

* Projects under construction awaiting final approval

Housing Trust Fund Program

Twelve of the fifteen executed Service Agreements are in operation one of which is a shared housing and scattered site projects. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 400 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The services being provided assists formerly homeless individuals and their families maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Glenoaks Gardens, the Los Angeles Family Housing project located in Service Area 2 is still under construction. Project Home, the Downtown Women Center Project located in the downtown area of Service 4 is open for residency. Cedar Springs and Nehemiah Courts projects remain in the predevelopment phase as they are finalizing their capital funding. The Navy Village apartments and Swarthy housing projects remain under negotiation.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Housing Assistance Program

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposits and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. As of March 18, 2011, the Department assisted the following number of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 187 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 267 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 7 clients and/or their families with paying for utilities;
- 22 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 67 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

V. Community and SAAC Reports -

SAAC 6 - Dorothy Banks reported the following:

- Maurine Edwards gave a presentation at the last SAAC meeting. Her presentation was on the WET program that informed the group on various programs available in education and recruitment.
- Plans are moving forward for mental health training for faith-based leaders
- Ms. Banks provided information on a new TB and hepatitis clinic in the service area.
- TAY Conference – May 17, 2011 at the Endowment Center

VI. Public Comments –

- **Zed Null** – Mr. Null was granted extra time at the beginning of the meeting from the Chair to fully discuss his issue because of its sensitivity. Dr. Robin Kay offered to speak with Mr. Null and possibly investigate the situation. The situation was an inappropriate referral for bereavement and counseling.
- **Zed Null** – Health Care Reform, the transitioning of consumers to managed care programs is a consumer's concern.
- **William Legere** – Spoke against Health Reform particularly the proposals in congress and cuts in child services
- **Sandra Clayton** – Discussed the following:
 1. Emergency Preparedness
 2. Support Groups

3. How to go about serving SSI Increase in 2012 without being overlooked and told no consumer index increase. I feel we need to start now.
- **Sawako Nitao** – Made announcement for the Japan earthquake people in Japan need any support and donation.
 - **Pan Inaba** – Announcement: Next Los Angeles County Client Coalition meeting is April 15, 2011 at Long Beach Mental Health Center from 10:30 am – 2 pm. Lunch provided.

VII. **Meeting adjourned**

NEXT MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGE

Thursday, April 28, 2011

12 – 2:30 pm

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd