

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

Thursday, February 23, 2012

~ 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 by Canetana Hurd, Commission Staff
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, Carlos Sosa, Delores Huffman, and Phillip Chen
- Chair asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Tony Lopez, father of LA Times Journalist Steve Lopez
- Chair recognized John Viernes, Commissioner, Substance Prevention and Control for Public Health Commission
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
January 2012 minutes were unanimously approved
MSC - Cooperberg/Perrou

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Report** – Terry Lewis gave the Executive Committee report from the February 9, 2012 meeting. Topics discussed were: 1) Commission will set aside time to review the annual plan at the annual retreat, 2) update from Dr. Shaner on the state and county budget and the status of Challenge grant proposal, 3) proposal to increase the Commission's budget, and 4) finalizing the jail tour logistics.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The SAAC group discussed the pilot project implementation with SAACs 3, 6 and 8 because they are ready to participate. Yvette Townsend introduced Steve Goodwin, Consultant who will be working with SAAC 3 & 8; Yvette Townsend will work with SAAC 6. The first 6 months of the pilot involves developing necessary materials, tools, and a test document. The test document is intended to gather information from the SAACs to identify resources unique to the individual SAAC. This process will take 6 months.
- **New Commissioner** – Dr. Herman L. DeBose was introduced to his fellow Commissioners by Larry Gasco. Each Commissioner briefly shared their purpose for becoming a Commissioner, interest and advocacy. Dr. DeBose spoke about his work history with LA County Mental Health, significant work with HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and at risk youth. Dr. DeBose and Larry Gasco were long time co-workers and come highly recommended to the Commission. Dr. DeBose is currently the Chair of the Department of Sociology at California State University at Northridge; his area of advocacy is multiracial issues.

Dr. DeBose was appointed by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District.

Larry Gasco invited Commissioners to attend the Executive Committee meetings from March through June. Increased participation is needed for the upcoming 2012 election, public hearing, awards program, and other activities occurring during these months.

III. Presentation – Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

Richard Van Horn, Commissioner

Mr. Van Horn clarified the commission's name is Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), not Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission. MHSA established the MHSOAC to provide oversight and accountability for MHSA and the larger public community mental health systems. MHSA authorizes the MHSOAC to advise the Governor or the Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illnesses.

The MHSOAC focus is implementing administrative system changes to identify oversight and accountability strategies and policy recommendations. A key strategy is investing in evaluations that show outcomes from MHSA. Evaluations did not match with realignment. Counties did not have a mechanism of knowing who is in the community and what was happening to them on a statewide level.

Continuing legislature responsibilities include:

1. Advising the Governor and Legislature regarding actions the state may take to improve care and services for people with mental illness.
2. Ensuring MHSA funds are expended in the most cost-effective manner and services provided in accordance with recommended best practices subject to local and state oversight to ensure accountability to taxpayers.
3. Oversight, review, and evaluation of local and statewide projects and programs supported by MHSA funds.
4. Ensuring adequate research and evaluation regarding the effectiveness of services being provided and achievement of outcome measures.
5. Partnering with the state, to establish a more effective means of ensuring that county performance complies with the MHSA.
6. Providing technical assistance to counties.
7. Participating in the joint state-county decision making process for training, technical assistance, and regulatory resources to meet the mission and goals of the state's mental health system.

8. Ensuring that the perspective and participation of persons suffering from severe mental illness and their family members are significant factors in all of its decisions and recommendations.
9. Developing strategies to overcome stigma and discrimination.

Specific Changes

- MHSA funds go directly to counties without state approval
- The scheduled elimination of the State Department of Mental Health in fiscal year 2012-13
- Naming the MHSOAC, in consultation with the state, to establish “a more effective means of ensuring that county performance complies with MHSA.”

The MHSOAC is involved in multiple activities to increase, sustain and learn from the expertise of persons with lived mental health experience including family members. CALMHSA (California Mental Health Services Authority), is a administrative and fiscal government group approved by MHSOAC to oversee implementation of the PEI project.

Specific tasks for 2012 include working with DMH, the Department of Health Care Services, the California Mental Health Director Association, and stakeholders to review current MHSA regulations to determine which should continue, be revised and/or be repealed.

Mr. Van Horn discussed what has occurred in the 6 years prior to implementation of MHSOAC in terms of county performance, consumer perspective and participation. Mr. Van Horn encouraged the Commission to participate in the planning phase of county mental health plans if they have need to address issues or concerns because the final copy goes directly to the board of supervisors.

IV. **DMH Report - Dr. Marvin J. Southard**

Dr. Southard presented the DMH budget proposal for FY 2012-13 to the CEO; he reported it went well based on the following:

- \$1.9 billion for FY 2012-13
- \$335 million in MHSA funds
- \$99 million of one-time MHSA funding - The transition plan developed by Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director helped stabilize MHSA funding so the revenue would return to its historic level.
- Managed care – increase
- Medi-Cal revenue – increased
- VLF revenue – flat
- Sales tax – slightly up
- Prudent reserves – good

AB 109 projections to treat the prisoners returning to the local counties will cost more than estimated. Ideally the population can be transferred to Healthy Way LA. Primary care partnerships--57 staff placed at 6 DHS comprehensive health centers. Los Angeles County is a national leader in partnering with health services.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal emphasized the need for integration. The governor is proposing a much wider involvement to include more states. Ms. Rajlal will continue to update the Commission on the need for integration and how the governor's budget plans impact mental health.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Barry Perrou – Dr. Perrou made an announcement to remind everyone of the upcoming Stepping in Conference on April 25. Registration forms will be available shortly.

Judy Cooperberg – Ms. Cooperberg commented on an upswing of suicide and suicide attempts occurring in the Antelope Valley. Antelope Valley needs help badly. There are 9 psychiatric hospital beds, no beds for children and no urgent care.

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron will speak at USC on the topic of psychotropic drugs with Professor Elyn Saks, USC Gould School of Law.

George Caballero – Mr. Caballero announced the LAC-Medical Center agreed to take 5 interns and is considering developing their own training program.

Jerry Lubin – Mr. Lubin reported on the discussions about AB 3632 program elimination at the SLT meeting. Concerns were what will happen to mental health services in smaller school districts because more dollars are going to the larger districts.

Victoria Sofro – Ms. Sofro announced registration forms for the Connections for Life conference are available. The conference is April 18 from 9am -3pm will be held at the Endowment.

VI. Community and SAAC Reports

LACCC (Los Angeles County Client Coalition) – Pam Inaba

Pam Inada reported the Innovations Conference held February 4, 2012 at the Endowment was a success. There were 133 present that attended eight workshops. Michael Walker was the keynote speaker who emphasized consumers should use other methods along with medication to achieve recovery.

VII. **Public Comments –**

William Legere – Educational and employment opportunities for consumers.

Obdulia Larios – Made comments about SAAC 4

Catherine Lipscomb – Why is it that since 1996 I've heard, change is coming, its in such a small amount you can't truly see this. Why is it that I had worked for Kedren Mental Health, 2 years later I first applied to be a volunteer was told after about 6-9 months I had a felony conviction which was back in 1989.

Robert Coto – ADA – What is the implementation process with mental health and ADA.

Sharon Lyle – Peer-to-Peer comment

Mark Karmatz – Is there a Peer Resources Center in Department of Mental Health. The City of Santa Cruz has two. San Diego and Ventura counties both have one.

VIII. **Meeting adjournment/Next Meeting information**

Thursday, March 22, 2012

10:30 am– 1 pm

Twin Towers

455 Bauchet Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd