

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

Thursday, January 24, 2008

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that these minutes a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Howard Askins, Victoria Sofro
- Absent: Phillip Chen

III. Approval of the Minutes – Jerry Lubin

December 13, 2007 meeting minutes approved.

IV. Chair and Vice Chair's Report – Jerry Lubin

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Reported on the following:

Commissioner Recognition – Mr. Lubin on behalf of the Commission presented Jessica Gama a gift in recognition of 14 years of service as a Mental Health Commissioner. Ms. Gama's two young boys, AJ and Joseph and her Mother, Vera Collins were also present for the recognition. Ms. Gama stated she will be spending more time on new job responsibilities and with her family.

Commission Representation – DMH has extended an invitation to the Commission Chair attend the weekly SLT (System Leadership Team) meetings. The DMH Leadership meets to discuss budget, operational, and contract issues pertaining to overall management of the Department.

2008 Awards Program Update– Senator Darrel Steinberg has accepted the invitation as guest honoree for the 2008 Annual Awards program. Please note, award date changed from Thursday, May 22 to Friday, May 23, 2008.

Contract Agency Discussion – Due to the urgency of pending budget cuts that will negatively impact contract agencies, Mr. Lubin invited contract agency representatives to briefly discuss what programs will suffer from the cuts.

- **Bruce Saltzer**, ACMHSA (Association of Community Mental Health Services Agencies) discussed his position as a contract administrator involved in the budget cuts. Request that the Commission speak with each County Supervisor to do whatever funding adjustments possible to avoid the potential cuts. Community agencies would suffer \$100,000 each for the main 25 contract agencies. The cuts will impact the following (estimates):
 - 15,000 clients discharged
 - 500 staff layoff
 - 10 clinic closures
 - Minimum 18% cut to agency budgets

- **Ruth Hollman**, SHARE (Self-Help And Recovery Exchange)

Submitted the following written report to the Commission – The County's budget cut of \$24 million is ill-advised because of the impact the cuts will have on consumers, family members and the community at large.

- The cuts, as they are currently structured, will put many agencies at risk of closing. These are precisely the agencies that treat the vast majority of mental health consumers in Los Angeles.
- The cuts, as they stand, will force consumers into hospitals, IMDs, ERs, and the jail for care or into the streets where they will roam untreated, joining the 29,000 homeless, mentally ill people already on the streets of Los Angeles.
- The cuts are penny-wise, but pound-foolish. In particular, cutting the self-help programs that have been shown to reduce hospitalization by 50%, reduce the amount of medication needed to control mental illness, reduce criminal activities and reduce the suffering of mental health consumers, families and the community.
- The \$250,000 proposed cut to self-help programs is miniscule compared to the Department of Mental Health's budget, yet will severely impact thousands of people. The \$250,000 proposed cut to the self-help programs will gut their services and place some of the programs at risk of closing.

I am attaching a detailed explanation of how SHARE! will be able to fulfill its contract obligations to DMH if the cut goes through. SHARE!, alone, had more than 20,000 visits by mental health consumers last year.

We implore you to advocate for increased funding to DMH to cover this temporary downturn in the economy. At the very least the self-help programs should be preserved. But we also ask that bridge funding be allocated to keep agencies from closing and services from being reduced. Where will all the people go?

V. **Commissioner/Subcommittee Report**

- **Commissioner Baron** – Attended the CALMHB/C meeting in January 2008 and reported both the California Planning Committee and CALMHB/C group met one day together so that each could hear Dr. Mayberg's report.
- **SAAC Chairs/MHC Meeting** – At the last meeting the group agreed to meet monthly so that they maintain fully informed of all budget issues unfolding.

VI. **Director's Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, DMH Director**

Budget: Dr. Southard thanked the Commission for supporting the Department's proposal for the budget curtailment issues. As soon as the board accepts the proposed plan to bridge staffing an update will be given to the Commission.

DMH Management: The department is in the process of working on the following:

- **Integrated Plan** – All counties develop a system how programs are integrated together based on the theme hope, wellness, and recovery by 2009-2010.
- **New Strategic Plan** – A comprehensive plan for the new public health system that includes revised vision, mission, and values statement adopted by the Department. The new credo reflects a commitment from DMH to partner with clients and families and communities, and to create hope, wellness and recovery. In addition, DMH will uphold the following core values: integrity, respect, accountability, collaboration, dedication, transparency, quality and excellence.
- The Commission requested DMH prepare a fact sheet detailing the budget cuts so Commissioners are effective when supporting and speaking on the budget issues to the public.

ACTION – Dr. Southard provide fact sheet on budget curtailment topics for Commissioners.

- **Legislative Report** – Susan Rajlal - SB 2 Follow up – Landmark legislation for housing – Each city must have the following
 - Homeless shelter
 - Transitional housing
 - Residential housing

The Policy Committee will secure from district chiefs housing needs in each community and hopefully develop a comprehensive report that addresses all housing issues.

VII. Presentations -

PEI Update – Lisa Wicker, PhD

Ms. Wicker discussed information on the following items:

- Conducted 70 presentations so far
- Developed a set of guidelines to structure PEI. Looking for ad hoc committee volunteers for all age groups.
- Contract awarded for planning services to develop methodology for key informant. Plans to interview approximately 120 from each of the 8 community areas to get guidelines for services needed in all aspects. From there, 50 to 60 focus groups will be formulated to gather comprehensive data on what services are needed applicable to each service area.

Using The Village as a Model for DMH – Debbie Innes-Gomberg, PhD

Dr. Innes-Gomberg discussed The Village program concepts that DMH use and the collaborations with the Mental Health Association.

The Village concepts

- The Service Area Navigation concept
- TAY Academy
- Long Beach Wellness Center

DMH Mental Health Association Collaborations

- Consultant Services
- Training on recovery, homeless outreach strategies, use of harm reduction,
- Immersion Training
- Functional outcomes collection and reporting – AB 2034 and PARTNERS

The Adult System of Care Transformation:

- Adult Services currently has 20 programs that have FPS.
- Create the capacity for directly operated FSP programs
- Create a culture change within clinics

Domains of change

- Change management strategy to enhance staff participation in the transformation
- Change from the bottom of the organization to the top.
- An engagement strategy – include staff involvement

Domain 1 Staff transformation – develops and enhances staff beliefs in recovery, energizes staff, and instills hope

Domain 2 Staff – consumer Interactions – develops welcoming environments that support recovery; develops successful recovery-oriented treatment strategies.

Domain 3 Organizational structures and processes - develops structures that promote consumer flow through the system; managing to recovery-oriented outcomes

Domain 4 Available services and supports/capacity – develops quality of life support services; community reintegration

Welcoming and Triage (engagement and assessment) – a 60 day process to understand and get to know clients.

VIII. SAAC and Community Reports

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim, sent the following report because she was unable to attend the commission meeting:

On January 10, 2008, SAAC 2 meeting came to order. The meeting was well attended by service providers, family of consumers, and consumers. The focus of the meeting:

- FSP (Full Service Partnership) is doing well and is providing services to many, many clients.
- Field capable clinical services for older adults continue to identify people in need of services.
- Client Run Center – Victory Clubhouse, San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, Inc., is an excellent model of how consumers are able to participate in their own recovery.
- Increased numbers of consumers are attending the SAAC meetings.
- Contracted agencies have concerns about budgetary curtailments.
- Next SAAC 2 meeting is February 14, 2008

SAAC 6 – Belanie Brown forwarded the following report because she was unable to attend the meeting.

African American Mental Health Conference will be held on February 28, 2008 at Universal City Hilton. Applications are available and if anyone interested, please contact Renee Woodruff's office at West Central Mental Health. SAAC 6 providers, family and community will diligently outreach for housing developers to apply for Housing Fund-115 million dollars-not one developer has come forth in SAAC 6.

SAAC 6 celebrated Projects Return/MHA new Wellness Recovery Center in Watts. Belanie Brown is the new Director and she celebrated her new staff and Jumpstart interns. Project Return/MHA Wellness Recovery Center staff held a community focused group on January 11, 2008 at Kedren Community Mental Health- that consisted of consumers, family members, Project Return/Associate Director-Catherine Bond, DMH, MHA, provider's and faith-based leaders-Crenshaw Christian Center. Their innovative approach is mind, body and spirit and their motto is "Come out Be Healed...Recovery is Real."

Childrens' Institute has moved into the Watts' area and has partnered with Starview. Ninety percent of their collaborated services are community-based in the field. Targeted population will be youth 11-17 years of age.

SAAC 6 is concerned about 24 million dollar curtailment and the huge impact it will have on our medically diligent programs... DCFS, Augustus Hawkins, and Compton Mental Health has partnered for foster care services and the operating site will be located at 10421 S. Figueroa and will only specialize in foster care.

SAAC 6 celebrates all new programs and we are diligently moving forward to serve and reach out to consumers and families through outreach and innovative community collaboration/integration.

IX. Public Comments –

- **John Paul Dadufaua** – I, John Paul Dadufaua was asked by a staff person from Dr. Southard's office to attend this commission hearing to share my story of how DMH and DMH contracted agencies have failed me and largely contributed to my soon to be homeless status.
- **William Legere** – Discussed the budget crisis of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

X. Next Meeting Information

The next meeting of the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission will be:

Thursday, February 28, 2008
12 – 2:30 pm
Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ch/ch