

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

Thursday, September 23, 2010

~ 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: Barry Perrou, Ilean Rabens, Carlos Sosa, Greg Thompson, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco  
**ACTION TAKEN** – July 22, 2010 minutes was unanimously approved with modifications by Jerry Lubin. Motion-Lubin/Second-Wolff

**II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

**Executive Committee Meeting Report** – Delores Huffman reported on the following items discussed at the meeting held September 9, 2010:

- Ms. Huffman spoke at the New Employee Orientation. It was full to capacity and a great experience. Dr. Southard assured new employees not to worry about job security and that funding was available and secure.
- George Caballero, Larry Gasco, and Terry Lewis met with Amy Viste, First District Health Deputy. The meeting focused on commission's purpose, organizational issues, and increasing older adult services.
- The suspension of Client Coalition Activity Fund was due to the reorganization of Office of Empowerment.
- George Caballero completed the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the Special Report on Increasing Older Adult services in LA County. It is ready for final approval from Commissioners.
- MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting Report – The MHC/SAAC Chair met September 14. The dialogue continued on the San Bernardino County Behavioral Health workshop which DMH, Commission, and SAAC Chairs were panelists discussing community participation. The main concern for San Bernardino County is attracting more community members and consumers.

**Chairs' Report –**

- Mr. Gasco announced Dr. Gilberg's upcoming speaking engagement on juvenile research at the University of Illinois. Mr. Gasco thanked Commissioners who attended the LBHI conference and thanked staff for coordinating logistics involved in conducting the commission meeting at the conference.

- Mr. Gasco discussed his recent visit to SAAC 6 and SAAC 7 meetings. He is concerned that SAAC 1 meeting time conflicts with full commission meeting schedule and hopes to plan a commission meeting in the Antelope Valley.

### III. **DMH Report – Dr. Tony Beliz, Deputy Director, EOB**

**Budget** – Dr. Beliz thanked the Commission on behalf of DMH for supporting the MHSa grant process. The department is still on hold waiting for the state to approve the budget. Realignment has increased but sales tax declined creating no change in the budget gap. DMH is doing well; direct services are up and accountability is good for auditing purposes.

**Health Care Reform** – The department is collaborating with other departments impacted by the health care reform policy and the 1115 Medicaid Waiver. Working together with the impacted departments is the number one issue for DMH. Mr. Jonathan Freedman, Chief Deputy Director of LA County Public Health presented a policy overview on health care reform and the 1115 waiver at the DMH expanded management meeting.

**Update on Request** - Several months ago Dr. Kay reported the department plans to formulate a workgroup to navigate the changes for DMH to comply with the health care reform requirements. Mr. Gasco is requesting the Commission be included in the workgroup and or involve Susan Rajlal so she can update the Commission.

**DMH/DCFS Population Integration** – Dr. Beliz briefly discussed the challenges DMH face integrating services with Department of Children and Family Services population. Detaining and hospitalizing foster children issues are threatened because DMH has not met the criteria for immediate access or intervention; it still needs to be resolved.

Dr. Beliz shared information on school violence which is his area of responsibility at DMH:

- Receive an average of 150 referrals per month from students concerned about potential students participating in violence.
- Recent arrest of 18 year olds making bombs
- Father was concerned about his son who stopped taking meds and talked about marrying well known celebrities. In this case, PMRT intervened, hospitalized, and sent the son home.

**DMH Program Recognition** – Dr. Beliz announced two programs from DMH received the California State Association of Counties awards; Cost Avoidance Outcomes for FSP programs headed by Dr. Debbie Innes-Gomberg (Challenge Award recipient), and Northeast Wellness Center's "Wellness Is Everyone's Business" (Merit Award recipient). The association recognizes California county governments that develop innovative programs and creative methods to serve its citizens.

**Legislative Report** - Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst reported on the significance of the budget impasse and how it critically affects smaller counties and communities. Ms. Rajlal summarized past year results involving campaigning mental health issues to officials seeking election that needed votes. Next year the intent is to visit and meet with new local officials with the same proposal. Ms. Rajlal suggested community groups organize a legislative brunch for local legislative representatives to assure they are knowledgeable of the mental health language and funding criteria.

Three bills have passed and await the Governor's signature; AB 2645, SB 1392, and SB 1091.

#### IV. **Special Presentation – DMH Chief Information Office Bureau (CIOB) Update**

Sharon Carlson, DMH Assistant Chief Information Officer

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS) acquisition, countywide Enterprise Master Persons Index (EMPI), and Service Catalog Solution.

- IBHIS Project – Purchase an “off the shelf” software application to: 1) integrate clinical, financial and administrative functions, 2) enhance access to clinical information for clinics and field-based operations, and 3) enhance the ability to share information electronically and securely among partners. Current CIOB staff will be reclassified to IT items to fill the vacancies. A vendor has been selected and the negotiation process will began soon. The target date for completion is 2012.
- EMPI – This system is critical to successfully implementing health care reform. A project manager will be contracted by the Chief Executive Officer because the information will involve multiple departments. DMH will be the model system. The RFP for this technology is currently being developed and funding has been identified.
- Service Catalog Solution – This software will promise clean accurate forms and provides workflow automation for service requests. Public Guardian was selected as the pilot facility to create custom solutions.

#### V. **Commissioners' Reports**

**Jerry Lubin** – Mr. Lubin announced letters of appointment were sent to the individuals who were selected as SLT members. Mr. Lubin and Larry Gasco were appointed and will represent the Commission. Mr. Lubin explained the process of selecting 50 members to address 65 points of view that will impact the public mental health system. The SLT meetings are open to the public.

**George Caballero** – Mr. Caballero recapped details of the meeting with First District Health Deputy Amy Viste. Mr. Caballero is creating dialogue between

the County Fire Department and DMH Older Adults program. Mr. Caballero reported on meeting with the CEO of LAC/USC Medical Center. The medical center is interested in collaborating because of the opportunities for research and training in the field of aging contained in the MOU (memorandum of understanding) with DMH and DHS.

**Special Report** – Approval of the Special Report on Older Adults and the motion to move forward onto the Board of Supervisors were tabled until the meeting in October 2010.

**ACTION** – Finalize the motion on above topic, place topic on agenda and prepare to approve the motion and report at the Commission meeting on October 28, 2010.

**Frank Baron** – Mr. Baron announced the date of the annual October NAMI Walk in Santa Monica and encouraged Commissioners to attend the event. Mr. Baron also questioned legalizing marijuana and its impact on mental health issues. If Proposition 19 passes it may make an already negative condition worst for people with schizophrenia and other mentally ill diseases.

**Delores Huffman** – Submitted the following housing report for the month of August 2010:

#### **MHSA Housing Program**

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program at various stages of development. The status of each project as of August 17, 2010 is shown below:

#### **Developing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Avalon II Family Apartments

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Technical Submission under Review**

- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Cedar Springs Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments

#### **Invitation to Submit Full Application**

- Parker Hotel
- Bobbie Owens Family Living Community

#### **Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments

### **Approved for Funding by the State**

- Glenoaks Gardens
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Epworth Apartments
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- NoHo Senior Villas
- KIWA Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

### **Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction**

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower

### **Open for Occupancy**

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

### **Housing Trust Fund Program**

As of July 19 2010, the Department added four new housing projects bringing a total of 16 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees. A total of 10 projects are in operation 1 of which is shared housing. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 235 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The provision of services assists formerly homeless tenants maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Originally scheduled to open March 2010, the Bonnie Brae Apartments' opening has been delayed due to issues related to the project-based subsidies awarded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Construction has begun for Project Home, the Downtown Women's Center housing project. Project Home is scheduled to open in December 2010. The remaining projects, Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Mini Twelve Step are slated to open in winter 2011.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Housing Assistance Program**

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit 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. During the period July 1, 2010 through August 17, 2010, the Department assisted the following numbers of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 27 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 58 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 3 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 26 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

### **Emergency Food and Shelter Program**

Under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), the Department has begun to utilize \$62,000 approved for Phase 28 in the two designated categories: Food (\$22,500) and Motel/Hotel voucher (\$39,500) beginning April 2010 through October 2010. These resources will be available countywide through our directly-operated clinics within the 8 service areas.

### **VI. Community and SAAC Reports -**

**SAAC 2** – Roberta Burkenheim submitted the following report via fax:

Service Area 2 meeting was held on September 9, 2010. The meeting was well attended by adult and children service providers, schools, hospitals, correctional release providers, consumers, family of consumers, Eva Carrera-District Chief, Dorothy Ross-SAAC Chair, and Jim Randal-Outreach.

Discussion included:

- How Healthy Family will change and the positives and negatives of the changes
- Service Area 2 celebration on October 15, 2010 of 50 years of mental health.
- Presentation subject – "Suicide, Its Prevention and Treatment."

The next meeting will be October 14, 2010.

**SAAC 6** – Dorothy Banks reported SAAC 6 met on Thursday, September 16. The wellness center is open; population is mostly African American and Latino. The center started a 13-week program for pre & post vocational skills because clients need job skills. Nine have graduated. The center also offers a 6-week housing class, and a nutrition course that is taught by Ms. Banks.

Ms. Banks announced a group has been identified to organize the annual African American conference.

**VII. Public Comments –**

- **Mark Karmatz**– Announced CASRA conference is upcoming soon. Mr. Karmatz suggested to Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst meet with the consumers before they speak to the legislature about mental health needs.
- **Sawako Nitao** – Missed today's location and lunch on time. However, we hope to get next meeting in right place together.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

**IX. NEXT MEETING LOCATION**

**Thursday, October 28, 2010**

**Noon – 2:30 pm**

**500 W. Temple Street**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

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

Submitted by Canetana Hurd