

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

Thursday, June 28, 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, Hayward McNeill, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
May 2012 minutes were approved.
MSC – DeBose/Huffman

II. Chairman’s Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Report** – Commissioner Huffman summarized topics discussed at the Executive Committee meeting held June 14, 2012. Mainly Debbie Innes Gomberg continued responding to Commissioners questions to further clarify information contained in the MHSA annual plan. Dr. DeBose suggested working with MHSA Administration to develop a process to allow an interim period to review public comments gathered at the public hearing.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The meeting was held on June 12, 2012. The group discussed full SAAC representation is needed on the SLT committee. Two people currently represent the eight SAACs at the SLT meetings. One member from each SAAC should attend the meeting so the eight communities receive complete information from the department.
- **Annual Retreat** – Delores Huffman facilitated the Commission Annual Retreat on June 9, 2012 at Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge. The following goals were developed at the retreat:
 1. Establish a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) annual review timeline that allows the commission time to review public comments and ensure public comments are incorporated in the final plan **at least 2 weeks prior to the public hearing.**
 2. Develop, establish and implement a process for the Commission to review and provide feedback to the department of all new and renewed contracts prior to their submission to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
 3. Expand collaboration at both the local and state level such as joining state groups for example the California Mental Health

Planning Council and Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission.

4. Finalize the commission budget, including the transfer of MHSA positions to the Commission to support the Commission's expanded role as mandated under SB 1136.
5. Expansion of MET and PMRT, with an additional 7 teams to include one team in Service Area 1.
6. Concerted effort to meet with and keep informed the health deputies and the board of supervisors.
7. Work closely with DMH Director to increase contracts for older adults and caregivers by a minimum of two contracts by the next fiscal year.

Larry Gasco announced notices regarding participating in Commission activities will be better communicated to the public.

Larry Gasco announced Dr. Marvin Southard recommended the Commission take the leadership role to revise the LPS Act as an additional goal for fiscal year 2012-2013. The revision involves hospital emergency room admissions; extending 5150 stays. The Commission made the following motion:

MOTION - Have Mental Health Commission take a leadership role in the structure of LPS Act task force. (Passed)

MSC Lubin/Perrou - **1** abstention

ACTION – Discuss Dr. Southard's recommendation to lead the LPS Act revision as goal #8 at the next Executive Committee meeting.

- **FY 2012/13 Nominations** – George Caballero, Chair of the Nominating Committee called for a motion to approve the nominated officers for FY 2012-2013:

CHAIR – Larry Gasco

VICE CHAIR – Jerry Lubin

SECRETARY – Delores Huffman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE, Victoria Sofro, Barry Perrou, and Herman DeBose

CALMHB/C COORDINATOR - Frank Baron

MSC – Askins/Perrou

- **CALMHB/C (California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions) Report – Frank Baron**

Mr. Baron reported on the quarterly CALMHB/C meeting in San Jose, California, he attended with Commissioners Huffman, Gasco, DeBose, and Terry Lewis. There was a presentation on the difference between women and men prisoners. Women in prison have increased 700% in 15 years. Also discussed were the new roles for boards and commissions to oversee and approve MHSA plans.

Mr. Baron introduced his distinguished guest and mentors Stella March and Annette Tarky who were present at today's meeting.

ACTION - Jerry Lubin will serve as the Commission's CALMHB/C alternate when other appointees are absent.

III. **DMH Report –**

Legislative Update – Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal discussed health care reform, state budget issues and changes in state structure. Advocacy efforts have been good impacting the following mental health budgets:

- Managed care – EPSDT, \$40 million restored
- Moving Healthy Families into Medi-Cal – funding continued
- Community treatment – no elimination, \$750,000 for two in Los Angeles County remain and was subsidized
- New flow of MHSA and budget funding will help counties budget better.

Due to time constraints for the public hearing, agenda items 4 – 6 were tabled to allow time for public comments.

IV. **Public Comments –**

William Legre – Discussed the Supreme Court's decision on Obama's health care package.

Nicole Kee – To make it known that there are homeless mentally ill people still sleeping on the streets in tents and on concrete with a blanket. Suggest an outreach program to educate them of the help that is available to them through the Department of Mental Health - Thanks

Mark Karmatz – Disability Rights California, will in all likely need to get involved on the reform of the LPS Act. It is their role to be a part of protecting the rights or the commission.

Alternatives Conference, an all day event at Share in Culver City. SAAC 4 handed out information about the structure of the way SAACs will be oriented.

Phyllis Coto – Would like to suggest that there be a yearly retreat for consumers input with the Mental Health Commission to identify and plan strategies for a better quality of life, and address important issues.

Catherine Lipscomb – I have been a consumer over 30 years since 1996. I have volunteered, advocated, trained, and worked on the pilot program “Peer Advocate” with professionals about 4-5 years ago. I tried to re-enter as a volunteer for DMH. I was told I was an ex felon but my record was cleared in 1994; still not a volunteer or hired at DMH. Even that I had worked for Kedren Mental Health for over a year as an employee. In 2000 I received a letter from Dr. Southard, stated what an asset I would be to DMH or a contract agent. With my past history and the letter from Dr. Southard put me in band one; still not hired nor have I been able to volunteer.

Joseph DeGuerre – My question is, we need to have something in place to help clients with family law issues, which affect clients mental health

Dr. Dennis W. O’Brien – Would like to address the issue of the retreat and why I decided to attend that day. I also would like to address on MHSA “a meaningful purpose of life” I will address this at the public forum

Sharon Lyle – Spoke on the following topics:

- CRDP Population Action Planning
- Special Action on VOC/DOR - Department of Rehabilitation
- Special Need for those with visual and hearing needs
- Lack of Consumer being used to assist the community

Eddie Lamon – The benefit of using outside consultants offers a non bias approach to issues and solutions.

V. **Meeting adjournment/Next Meeting**

Thursday, July 26, 2012

11 am – 1:30

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

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd