

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

Thursday, January 23, 2014

~ **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

1. **Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd
- Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Jerry Lubin and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Commissioner DeBose motioned for approval of December 2013 minutes of the Commission.

Commissioner Cooperberg noted a correction and requested an amendment to the minutes. Commissioner Sofro seconded the motion to approve the amended minutes.

Chairman Gasco stated, the motion unanimously passes to approve the amended minutes with all members present and voting.

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

- Memorial – Chairman Gasco asked for a moment of silence in the memory of Paul McIver and Dr. Richard King. Chairman Gasco spoke briefly about Mr. McIver's tireless contribution advocating for children services after hours. Commissioner Huffman spoke about Dr. Richard King's commitment to Service Area 6 and the value of his work in psychiatry in the community.
- **Executive Committee Report** – Vice Chair DeBose reported on the Executive Committee meeting held January 9. He discussed the following:
 - Antelope Valley December offsite
 - Chairman Gasco spoke at the New Employee Orientation, over 75 new employees present. Chairman Gasco urged other Commissioners to come speak to the new employees.

Commissioner DeBose commented about meeting with potential Commissioners and submitting their names to their perspective Board of Supervisor. Commissioner DeBose further stated that he and Chairman Gasco plan to meet with Supervisor Molina regarding appointing commissioners before she terms out this year.

- **Annual Retreat** – Commissioner DeBose requested staff poll Commissioners for the best date to hold the annual retreat either on June 7 or June 14. Commissioner DeBose will facilitate the retreat. Upon reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the Mental Health Commission, Commissioner DeBose requested this topic be placed on the retreat agenda. The location of the retreat will be Descanso Gardens.

ACTION – Poll Commissioners for best date for annual retreat between June 7 and June 14.

- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The meeting was held January 14. The meeting consisted of discussions surrounding community affairs and CalMHSA updates.
- **DMH Expanded Management Team** – Chairman Gasco announced that Commissioners Askins and Sofro will join him to regularly attend the DMH Expanded Management Team meetings.
- **California Association of Local Board and Commissions (CALMHBC)** Chairman Gasco, Vice Chair DeBose, and Secretary Huffman attended the CALMHBC meeting this month. Chairman Gasco reported there are four vacancies on the board. Twenty-five directors represent counties in the southern part of California. The meeting focused on Affordable Care Act and State budget proposals for FY 2014-15.
- **December 2014 Offsite** – San Gabriel Valley or Long Beach was suggested for the 2014 December offsite meeting. Chairman Gasco asked Commissioners to look in the area for possible venues to conduct the meeting.
- **Commission Vacancies** – Sharon Lyle continues to follow up on finalizing her appointment as Commissioner representing the fourth district.

3. **Public Comments**

Patricia Russell – The last MHC meeting at Antelope Valley made it even more clear how critical it is for more staff for the Commission. So much needs to be done. With additional staff, more can be done.

William Legere – Funding for nonprofits so that there can be more paying jobs.

Sawako Nitao – Commented on the loss in the Asian Pacific community due to suicide. In terms of increased suicide among Asians, one Asian girl committed suicide, one or two persons passed away in SAAC 5 at Stepping Up on Second Street, and one young guy passed away today.

Tyrone Jordan – Bring the Valor Program to the Antelope Valley

Barbara Wilson – I wish to call attention to the plight of the owners of small Board and Care (B/C) homes that are licensed. The demands are huge, reimbursement rates are far below Level I Regional Center. We are not getting new B/C owners because they are losing money. Not everybody needs to be placed in large facilities.

John Czernek – I am a product of mental health empowerment I received with the County. I would like to have more Peer Advocates at DMH clinics. Some clinics have zero Peer Advocate items and other very few. Long Beach MH has one Peer Advocate and 28000 clients. We need Peer Advocates with COD focus. I believe Peer Advocates play an important role in clients that provides "hope" that recovery is possible. We also need support with WET to have DMH provide an education program so we are able to receive a degree.

Cindy Czernek – Recently, I’ve had the chance to participate in the e-CPR training and would like to suggest that clinics and all staff be recommended or required to do this training. It is an amazing way to connect with clients, consumers or patients and maybe avoid a mis-diagnosis.

Samuel Blake – Spoke about Board and Care pay scale and AB 109.

Dennis Miller – I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year and a more hopeful New Year in 2014. God bless you all. Mr. Miller also announced the new website for LACCC (Los Angeles County Client Coalition).

Reba Stevens – Peer Employment Volunteering pilot trainings. Ms. Stevens discussed why it’s important that Peer Advocates be employed.

Cary Grier – TAY, why aren’t there advocates for the TAY when there is moments of crisis. There is a need for TAY to receive proper support going through various services.

MC Harris – 1-Outreach and Engagement duties of County Peer staff for community fairs, parades, media outreach on buses and billboards, and site visits. 2-Conduct site visits for follow ups. 3-I’m experience confusion and restriction in my duties. I want to transfer or go on sick leave. “Nothing About Us Without Us.”

4. **DMH Report – Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director of Mental Health**

IBHIS (Integrated Behavioral Health Information System) - Dr. Southard announced that IBHIS was scheduled to “go live” January 27.

SB 82 – LA County passed the MHSOAC score process to receive funding; 22 out of 58 counties were funded. The department is currently working on the board letter, duty statements, and RFP. LA County will receive \$9 million per year for three years to implement crisis residential beds and urgent care treatment centers.

Health Care Reform – Dr. Robin Kay, Dr. Rod Shaner, and Carlotta Childs-Segal are doing well with the implementation of healthy neighborhoods. Goals for health neighborhoods will be included in future strategic plans. The department is near completion to receive RAND and UCLA Community grant funding for 13 community sites for healthy neighborhood places.

Justice Issues – Communication continues to implement a diversion plan for the jails. Training of law enforcement to address mental illness and mental health treatment for low level crimes will assist jails in reducing overcrowding. Adjudicated inmates may have a better chance of remaining outside of jail if they opt to receive mental health treatment. The LA County DA is on board with the idea for those inmates who are not a threat to the public.

Courts and Public Guardian – Judges may receive the authority to place people with dementia or who commit dangerous crimes in local county conservatorship. The department is appealing the decision to the California Supreme Court.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst

Ms. Rajlal discussed the State budget proposal released January 9. She stated that the growth plan for mental health increased because there are mental health service obligations from general and federal funds. Ms. Rajlal further stated the State plans to pay off the “wall of debt” owed counties; LA County has claims owed as far back as 1994. A number of bills are being introduced, reintroduced, and renumbered because of larger issues like Affordable Care Act.

5. **Presentation** – Mental Health Court Program
Alisa Dunn, Program Head; and staff Pamela Van Summer, Adrienne Gee, Emily Chan, and Jason Huang

Commissioner Barry Perrou introduced Alisa Dunn, Program Head of the Mental Health Court Linkage Program. Ms. Dunn thanked the Commission for the recognition of 2013 Outstanding Directly Operated Program in October 2013.

Ms. Dunn reported in 1987 the Mental Health Court Program began as an off shoot of the LA County Jail serving 5 courts. Later, the program changed its name to Mental Health Court Linkage Program, expanded countywide and now serving the adult justice program under the direction of Dr. Stephen Shea who heads the Jail Mental Health Program.

Court Liaison Program is led by Pamela Van Summer. The program appoints persons for linkage and alternative sentences. It is staffed by a team of 14 mental health clinicians who are co-located at 22 court sites countywide. The objective is to increase coordination and collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health systems, improve access to mental health services and supports, and enhance continuity of care. Additionally, the Court Liaison Program further aims to provide ongoing support to families and to educate the court and the community at large regarding the specific needs of these individuals. Referrals usually come from defense attorneys. Participation is voluntary and available to those 18 and above.

Co-Occurring Disorders Court Program is led by Adrienne Gee. The program began as a pilot project under the criminal courts. It is specifically designed to rehabilitate criminal defendants experiencing both mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Many defendants experience chronic homelessness. The program is offered to non-violent criminal defendants who voluntarily agree to participate in the program for 12-18 months. The participants are supervised by a court-appointed COD treatment program. Ms. Van Summer reported the following data:
62 FSP slots which are full
250 enrolled

44% are bipolar or other depression
71% male, 29% female
50% SSI
25% GR
25% Indigent
69% Homeless
Remaining defendants are with family and/or friends

6. **Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Delores Huffman attended the 22nd Empowerment Summit and it was well attended. TAY population attended as well and there were many workshops.

Commissioner Judy Cooperberg announced that 235 officers have been train by CTI. Commissioner Cooperberg further stated the CTI training project received buy in from top Captain of Law Enforcement, State Parole Department, Fire Department Captain, and Custody in Twin Towers.

Commissioner Barry Perrou announced the Stepping In Conference will be April 16, 2014.

Commissioner Victoria Sofro announced the Connections for Life Conference will be held April 2, 2014 at the Endowment from 9 am to 2:30 pm

7. **SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC**

SAAC 1 – Jean Harris thanked the Commission for coming back to the Antelope Valley in December and reported the following:

- Preparing input for the MHSA 3-year Plan
- Expanding membership and building an executive committee

SAAC 2 – Barbara Wilson announced the following:

- Dr. Innes-Gomberg will come in February for MHSA 3-year plan orientation
- Over 50-60 people attended the last meeting
- Eva Carrera, District Chief, formed a subcommittee for criminal justice.

SAAC 5 – Celinda Jungheim reported on the following

- Update on Westside Mental Health Directory
- Homeless Youth
- MHSA 3-year plan orientation took place in November
- Two workgroups meet to identify service gaps which will continue throughout the year.

SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks reported on the following:

- SAAC is addressing service gaps and needs to SLT regarding MHSA
- Subcommittees continue to meet
- MHSA 3-year plan orientation took place in December.

SAAC 8 – John Czernek announced the SAAC was dark in January. A family engagement training will take place at the next meeting, and comments and voting on the MHSA 3-year plan.

Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC) – Pamela Inaba reported:

- Innovations Conference date is June 23, 2014
- LACCC meetings on the 3rd Friday at 11 am in DMH Headquarters on the 2nd floor.

8. **Meeting adjourned**

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, February 27, 2014
11 am – 1:30 pm
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 739
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd