



Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

March 1, 2016

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Paula Mason; Supervisor Hub Walsh
Absent:	Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Vong Chang, Turning Point; Cara Rupp, Wellness Center; Melissa Alamilla, Housing Specialist; Sharon Jones; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Tabatha Haywood; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2016 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Sally requested one change to the February minutes. On page 1, part 4, third paragraph states Mary Hofmann which should have read Mary Ellis. Carol will make the correction. M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to approve the minutes with the one correction.

IV. Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince commented that there is a county Wellness Training on March 30th and it is free. There will be another webinar on recovery and assessment; Vince will send out the email pertaining to it.

Yvonna commented that on March 22nd they will be going to the BOS for their approval on the building project and CRU. The CRU has been a hot topic in the community and there are some misconceptions about this being a regional homeless center for the County. She asked that if anyone from the Behavioral Health Board could attend this particular BOS meeting for moral support. If it is asked what this CRU would do to benefit our clients, it would be a tremendous help to show support and its intent for the community.

Iris went to the Homeless Summit on Friday and the information provided was really hopeful. A lot has been done in the County and it was good to hear the statistics and that the numbers have gone down. The numbers have gone down from 899 in 2015 to 519. The number of homeless vets went down from 88 to 25. The community is working hard in terms of getting these numbers down.

Vince questioned Yvonna about the \$25,000 or \$40,000 that was to be used for housing and how is the County going to utilize it. He thought it was to be used to help clients put a down payment on their rent – either first or last month's rent or help pay for utilities. Sharon J. clarified that it is the \$21,000 through MHSA housing. The money is available for rental subsidies and things of that nature. There was a recent focus group on getting suggestions on how to utilize that money. Sharon has the information on this.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

V. Wellness Centers' Mid-Year Budget Report (Sharon Mendonca)

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon M. went through the Wellness Centers' mid-year budget report and answered questions.

Recommendation/Action: Richard stated that in the future if there are questions about how money is being spent or why it is not being appropriated, the Board needs to let Richard know so that it can be itemized on a future agenda and then discuss those issues.

VI. Housing Specialist Report (Cara Rupp and Vong Chang)

Discussion/Conclusion: Cara and Vong went through their housing PowerPoint. There is a housing coordinator at the Wellness Center, Melissa Alamilla. The housing coordinator focuses just on housing, getting people a place to live, making sure the clients are stable, and connecting them to case management. The coordinator really looks at the concept of housing first – getting people a place to stay and live so they can begin to build on their recovery. The housing coordinator does work under Turning Point, but works out of the Wellness Center. The coordinator assists with rental applications and credit check references. It is very hard to get housing and the coordinator takes them through the entire process and looks at what will really work for them so that it is not setting them up for failure. The coordinator collaborates with local agencies and builds relationships out in the community which is very important. The coordinator also provides transportation assistance to look at properties when needed. There are many barriers and obstacles to housing and Cara went through them. There is limited housing available, especially ones located in safe areas. There is a Housing Committee that meets every Tuesday and everyone who needs housing has to come through this committee. Their needs are looked at and everyone brings their resources as to what is available.

Vong, with Turning Point, covered the various programs that are within their internal structure and control. They contract with a Full-Service Partnership. MHSa has caused the CARE Program to infuse; they share a lot of the same members and have a lot of the same common issues and interests. Vong explained the various housing programs and other assistance Turning Point has. Vong discussed some of the outcomes and they are just a portion of what Melissa has entered into their database.

Cara continued that we are moving towards looking at housing first and not having people be told to come back when they are clean, sober and not psychotic. They are looking at what they can do because the people coming to them are using, are psychotic, and are still experiencing symptoms. Housing is the first step to making changes.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. DMC Waiver (Part II) – Communication Plan / Next Steps (Tabatha and Kurt)

Discussion/Conclusion: Tabatha explained that the 1115 Waiver is the future of service delivery in Merced County. They will be more in-line with what Mental Health is providing. Additional services that can be provided had previously been discussed as well as what the plan is about. Today Tabatha wanted to talk more about the communication plan in moving forward. They will be having some Public Service Announcements (PSA), putting some flyers together, doing some newspaper and radio announcements, do some Town Hall meetings and Community Forums. They hope that through the World Café concept they will be able to get enough community forum and input to move forward. The communication plan will talk about what the 1115 Waiver is, when it will take effect, and who it will impact. It will increase individual counseling, case management, doing home visits, and possibly doing some drug and alcohol services within the school sites. There will be a lot of focus on recovery coaching and linking services after they are done with their primary treatment. This affects everyone – the ER, the CSU, Probation – because the way they will be dealing with drugs and alcohol will have children in the wrap-around approach. A survey monkey was completed last week and will be sent out shortly. Consumers (Mental Health and AOD) will be asked to fill out the survey. They hope to close the survey on the 11th, gather all the data by the end of the month and then focus on the top five or six ideas coming from the survey. In April they hope to have the World Café and invitations for this will be sent out at the end of March. There will be several tables depending on what themes come in through the survey. They want everyone's opinion to tie in and fine-tune what areas they want to focus on in writing the 1115 Waiver. Tabatha then discussed the next steps. They will finalize the GAP Analysis and as a team will be attending a Regional Waiver meeting on the 30th in San Joaquin County. Then they will begin writing the implementation plan. They are finalizing the contract for the ASAM Training which will be a universal assessment tool that everyone will have to use.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

**VIII. Chair's Report
a. Reminder – Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary for FY 16/17**

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard reminded everyone that June is approaching and new officers will need to be elected soon. He wanted everyone to begin thinking about this. A committee will be appointed at the next meeting to begin the nomination process.

Richard also met with Forrest (County Counsel) who gave him some advice in regards to managing these meetings. Richard is letting the discussions go too long. The discussion begins on the agenda item and then is morphed into other items; it is the Chair's responsibility to keep everyone focused on the agenda and the agenda item.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. Supervisor’s Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh reported that a new Chair has been elected for the BOS; he is Chair for this next year. They are in the process of looking for a mid-year budget update. They are still interested in seeing what happens in Sacramento with programs and services provided. There is funding to remodel Sandy Mush and the Latorraca correctional facility to provide additional services out there and to harden the facility. It was never designed to do what it is being asked to do. As a reminder, when the remodeling takes place, the residents will not be put somewhere else. They will be remodeling it while maintaining the current residents.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Director’s Report
a. Behavioral Health Integrated Plan Update (Phase II)
b. B Street Location

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonnia reported that Phase I was the blending of the two Boards. Phase II is basically the name change. There are three recommendations – 1. Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, 2. Merced County Department of Behavioral Health, and 3. Merced County Behavioral Health Services. The name most favorable is #1. They are also looking at position name changes for the leadership only. She is still researching the MHSA Coordinator name change. Next steps: first, select a proposed, new department name and begin the stakeholder engagement process. Then develop a communication plan/media release, and provide the CEO/BOS with an implementation plan. Yvonnia then discussed the potential cost of this. She went through the timeline and hopefully by July 1st there will be a new department name. At the April meeting she would like for this Board to make a decision on which name they would like. Yvonnia will email her PowerPoint to the Board so they can decide which name they like best. b. This was an informational item on December 1, 2015. Conversation will be needed by this Board on what to do with the B Street location. There are individuals who are interested in this location for a housing program. The next step will be going to the MHSA Planning Council. The new building should be completed by October 2017 and a decision will need to be made quickly. Options could be to sell the property – the whole parcel or part of the parcel. If it is sold, it has to have an independent appraisal and sold at fair market value. The funding has to go back to MHSA/CSS. She would like to begin talking about this at the April meeting.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XI. Reports / Updates
a. Executive Committee
b. QIC Report

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard had nothing to report. b. A copy of the report was given to everyone. Sally went over the report.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XII. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Vince reported that the Advanced Recovery webinar is from 12:00-1:30.

XIII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is April 5, 2016.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____
Vince Ramos, Secretary
Merced County Mental Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____