



# Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

April 5, 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; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann

**Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Yvonnia Brown; Curt Willems; Sharon Jones; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Tabatha Haywood; Trechann Barber-Jacinto; Roger Moua; Liz Freitas; Carole Roberds; 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:** M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Ragonut) to approve the minutes. Sally asked for clarification on a statement made last month regarding the remodel of Sandy Mush/Latorraca correctional facility to "harden the facility"; clarification was given by Richard and Supervisor Walsh.

### 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 he had recently been in the hospital and wanted to send a letter of appreciation on County letterhead to the nurses that helped him. Yvonnia recommended that the most appropriate action is to send the letter as a "personal" patient not involving the County. Richard suggested that Vince write a letter of recommendation for the staff that helped him.

Sally commented on the 51Fifty energy drink that has been in the news recently. It is an interesting way to bring mental health to the floor again. The most recent article was more of a positive note related to stigma.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### V. Chairperson to Appoint 3 Members to Serve as the Nominating Committee for FY 16/17 Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Richard appointed Mary Ellis, Sally Ragonut and Kim Carter to serve as the nominating committee.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### VI. Mandatory Ethics Training – September 27 or October 7

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Richard discussed the upcoming mandatory ethics training. All Board members must attend one of the dates and they need to contact Kay to reserve a particular date.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### VII. Chair's Report a. Review of Annual Report b. Annual Retreat

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Richard is still working on the Annual Report; it has moved from a one-year report to a two-year report. He may ask for some help to complete the report. One item area that needs to be covered in the Annual Report is goals for next year. Sally commented that stigma be a topic because this is something that Yvonnia is working on this year. Yvonnia stated that she can have an update on stigma at the next Board meeting. Richard commented that another area is looking for ways to make it easier for

the public and clients to connect with Mental Health and AOD services in the county. A comment was made that the Mental Health site be updated and to include some of the residential treatment sites on as well. NAMI Merced has produced a video on stigma reduction and is available. Trechann stated the Mental Health website has been updated to include a provider directory that shows primary care settings, FQHCs, a site for domestic violence survivors, clinic sites as well as residential facilities for AOD services. It does not include information about private providers that are not Medi-Cal; Yvonnia suggested a link to the Alliance site and 2-1-1. Richard suggested making "easier access to services" a goal for next year. b. Richard stated it would be good to set up a date now and was open to suggestions. He asked that everyone think of a date and he will make this an agenda item for the May meeting. At the May meeting they can then choose a date. Richard is open to suggestions for agenda items for the retreat.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VIII. Supervisor's Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Walsh reported that next week they should have mid-year budget update on the BOS agenda. Circumstances now are better because they are not reducing budgets, they are adding to budgets. They approved and gave direction to staff to start developing the architectural working plans for the hospital.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**IX. Director's Report**

- a. Update MHSA Planning Council on B Street Property
- b. Process for Applying for Trip – Wellness Center
- c. Update on Los Banos Computer Purchase
- d. Update of Focus Group Regarding MHSA Housing Funds - \$24,000 Capital Improvement

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Yvonnia thanked NAMI, the PRA, families, Behavioral Health Board and the community at large for coming out to the BOS meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and showing support for the building project. Everyone's commitment and support to the Department was a heartfelt endeavor. a. At the last meeting there was discussion on the B Street location/property. Yvonnia has met with the MHSA Ongoing Planning Council and hopefully in April there will be a Community Planning Process, the date is to be determined, to get ideas of what can be done with this facility. There will be a press release. b. Sharon M. discussed the process for applying for trips. At the beginning of the fiscal year there is an event worksheet that the Wellness Centers must fill out with their Manager. As the budget is being built for the next year, the requested trips go to the Managers and Coordinators for their approval. Some trips may not be approved for various reasons. All trips that are approved by the Managers/Coordinators goes to fiscal and Director for approval. It is then submitted to county counsel and they establish the insurance need. Once there is insurance coverage, the Wellness Centers are notified of the approved trips they can now take. There was discussion on the trips that are not approved and the clients not knowing why; Yvonnia stated that the process could be that once the process for the approved/disapproved trips is completed, comments will be added to the list of trips showing a reason for the denied trip(s). c. Yvonnia stated that the requisition for these computers has been done. Hopefully within 3 to 4 weeks we should have the computers out at the Wellness Center in Los Banos. d. Sharon J. stated this is in regards to the MHSUDS Information Notice No: 15-004 regarding unencumbered funds that came from the MHSA housing projects. Initially the amount we had was \$8,000 but through interest we are at about \$24,000. There was a focus group with stakeholders interested in housing and they gave ideas on how to properly use the accrued money in Merced County. Sharon shared their ideas/feedback; it should definitely be used for families that are homeless and there should be collaborations in places where individuals are already being served in terms of housing. Next step: develop an application, have a rating committee to rate the received applications and report back to the Ongoing Planning Council on how the money is going to be utilized. It was left up to County Mental Health to set up the process and infrastructure. The Info. Notice specifically states what the money can be used for.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**X. Reports / Updates**

- a. Executive Committee
- b. QIC Report

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Richard had nothing new to report. b. A copy of notes from the QIC meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> was handed out. Mary E. went over the report briefly. The next QIC meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**XI. Announcements**

***Discussion / Conclusion:***

- Mary H. mentioned that NAMI has been approached to provide Crisis Intervention Training that is being held at the CHP Office in Chowchilla; some who attended the training were from Merced. Sharon J. is available for this training.
- Sharon J. is having a Spiritual Wellness and Recovery Conference in July and she is looking for names of women speakers or ideas.
- Sally was wondering if there could be an update on CARS and how it is doing.
- Kim handed out copies of the new, revised member representation for this Board. She also handed out copies of a map of Supervisorial Districts 3 and 5. She also had flyers for recruiting new members.
- Keng brought a possible new member to the Board meeting today. His name is Roger Moua and he would like to be considered as a new member. He has already filled out an application.

**XII. Adjournment**

***Discussion / Conclusion:*** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is May 3, 2016.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Carol Hulsizer  
Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Vince Ramos, Secretary  
Merced County Mental Health Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_