



Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

May 3, 2016

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

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| Present: | Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Paula Mason; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann |
| Absent: | Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Supervisor Hub Walsh |
| Others Present: | Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Tabatha Haywood; Trechann Barber-Jacinto; Maria Olvera; Jennifer Jones, Aegis; Roger Moua; Liz Freitas; Rebecca Mitchell, Aegis; Jillian Giles; Bob Plass; Angelo Perez; Latoya Ford, Emilia Garibay; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder |

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2016 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Hofmann) to approve the minutes.

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

Discussion/Conclusion:

- Tabatha Haywood – in regards to previous presentations on the 1115 Waiver, what it will mean for our community and the expanded services; she handed out a document pertaining to this. She asked that they be handed out to consumers. They would like as many as possible to participate in their World Café Event. The first Town Hall meeting is tomorrow in Los Banos; the second Town Hall meeting is Friday in Livingston. On May 25th they will be doing the World Café experience in Merced. They will be looking at all the different aspects of how they will change the service delivery system for AOD. Surveys were sent out; the top ideas from the survey will be taken to the World Café Event.

-Curt Willems, Assistant Director, announced that he will be leaving the Department at the end of the month. He thanked all the Board members that he has worked with over the last four years. He appreciates the support of this Board in the actions he has taken in working towards program development.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

V. Announcement of Candidates for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary Ellis announced that the nominating committee – herself, Sally Ragonut and Kim – offer the following candidate names for the next fiscal year. For Chair – Sally Ragonut; Vice-Chair – Richard Hawthorne; Secretary – Paula Mason.

Recommendation/Action: This will be voted on at the June Board meeting.

VI. Patient Rights' Advocate's Responsibility – Chris Kraushar

Discussion/Conclusion: Chris reported that the general guideline for Patient Rights' Advocates (PRA) in the state of California is approximately one full-time PRA per every 500,000 people in the county. Merced's population is about 270,000 and she is contracted to work about 22 hours per week. She started as the PRA in August 2012 and is a much bigger job than she anticipated it would be. PRA's seek to protect and enforce the legal and human rights of mental health clients. Patient's rights are divided into two categories – rights that cannot be denied for any reason and then some rights that can be denied. Some rights that cannot be denied for any reason are broad in nature – the right to consideration of a problem; right to access service and grievance procedures; right to

VI. Patient Rights' Advocate's Responsibility – con't.

participate in decisions regarding healthcare and treatment planning; confidential care and record keeping; receive services that are sensitive to your culture; humane care; free from abuse and neglect; respectful treatment; and the right to dignity and privacy. Almost anything that comes to her desk can be viewed as a patient rights' issue. There are eight deniable rights and mainly pertain to individuals in the acute psychiatric facility (Marie Green) and the two locked facilities in the county (Calif. Psychiatric Transition and Merced Behavioral Health Center). Chris had a flow chart showing how the PRA process works and she explained how this works. Chris receives about 90 phone calls per month. She is required to monitor the facilities in the county – California Psychiatric Transitions, a locked rehab facility in Delhi; Merced Behavioral Health in Merced; and five Board & Cares in the county. Lastly, she gets calls from people in the community. They call about a wide variety of topics. She gets many calls on housing, and calls regarding service animals. She reviews with them what their options are and she acts in the way that they expressly want her to act. She always tells them what the risks and benefits are of pursuing a course of action.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Aegis Presentation – Local Facility – Dr. Jennifer Jones

Discussion/Conclusion: Dr. Jones is the Clinic Manager for Aegis Treatment Center on Main Street. Their treatment facility is a methadone maintenance program for those addicted to opioids such as heroin or prescription pain pills. Dr. Jones introduced Rebecca (Becca) Mitchell and she is the Regional Clinic Manager and she oversees several facilities. Becca explained that she has been with Aegis for seven years overseeing the Modesto Clinic in Stanislaus County. She is in a new position and they are figuring out her duties as they go along. She looks forward to getting to know Merced County now. Dr. Jones continued that Aegis is an outpatient facility and utilizes a medical model to treat patients. Recently they have started having the counselors align with some of the County processes; they have started attending County trainings and will continue to do so. They are looking to add an Assistant Clinic Manager; Dr. Jones and Becca are both working on this in order to be more present in the community. Becca is also helping to beautify their facility. They are always working at decreasing the stigma in the community. Dr. Jones had a handout giving information on how methadone helps. Aegis is looking for another doctor to increase their capacity; they are also looking for a Regional Clinical Director. They are currently at 294 patients; generally the number fluctuates between 295 to 300. Opioid addiction is a national epidemic now.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VIII. Stigma Reduction Campaign Update – Sharon Jones

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon Jones could not be present today. Yvonnia reported that the Stigma Reduction Campaign is kicking off on May 18th here at the B Street location. The theme will be "Mental Health is Part of All Our Lives". The event will be from 9:00-3:00. There will be resource tables in the parking lot; there will be a keynote speaker – Dr. Paul Golden, and he will be speaking about affective disorders (touching on other major mental health illnesses), fighting stigma, treatments with both medications and others, career, definitions and difficulty finding access to psychiatric care. In addition to the stigma reduction campaign, they will also have the Spiritual Wellness and Recovery Conference; this is the second annual conference scheduled for July 16th. It will be held in Atwater at the Community Center from 8:00-4:00. The theme is "Building a Treasure Chest Within – a Time for Growth". Throughout the year there will be twelve different sites and each community will have an opportunity to do a kickoff within their particular community. More information to follow. If anyone would like to be part of the kickoff campaign, please contact Sharon Jones.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. CARS Update – Trechann Barber-Jacinto

Discussion/Conclusion: Trechann commented that this is a follow-up from approximately six months ago. CARS – Community Access to Recovery Services – was a joint effort expanding services. Under the CARS title are five different programs – 1. Access, is a 24-hour/7 days/week service manned by two individuals, one extra-help and the Crisis Stabilization Unit. They take all incoming calls for people inquiring about mental health services, grievances, change of provider, etc. 2. Central Intake began July 1st and the purpose is to have one entrance point into the Mental Health or substance use disorder services for Merced County recipients of Medi-Cal. Central Intake is located in Los Banos, Livingston and Merced. They screen and assess for severe mental health concerns. From July 1st to present they have completed 1,612 assessments; if someone does not meet medical necessity to treat the SMI, the individual is

IX. CARS Update – Trechann Barber-Jacinto

referred back to Beacon. Beacon is a managed care agency with the Central California Alliance that will link that referral to a FOHC or a primary care setting. 3. Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) screens for imminent danger of risk of an individual trying to harm themselves, someone else or they are gravely disabled and require a higher level of care. The CSU operates 24/7 and is fully staffed. 4. Mobile Crisis Response Team started in January and is funded under MHSA. This is to link up with the police and sheriff's where Mental Health actually goes into the community as referrals are received from law enforcement stating they are on-scene with someone presenting a mental health concern. 5. Triage allows us to provide full-time staff members at the local emergency rooms – Mercy and Memorial. Tre would be happy to bring these results back at a later date. CARS is also participating in the Whole Health partnership with Public Health, FOHCs, Dignity Health and NAMI trying to devise a mechanism of how mild to moderate individuals, if they require a higher-level of care, can be brought into the system at County Mental Health.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Chair's Report

a. Annual Board Retreat Date

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard stated that the date of the annual retreat will be decided when the new Chair takes over.

-Richard stated that there are some new membership applications and the Membership Committee, according to the By-Laws, needs to meet with these applicants and set up an interview process. He will help facilitate this.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XI. Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh was not present today.

Recommendation/Action:

XII. Director's Report

a. Department Name Change (BOARD ACTION)

b. B Street Location Update (Community Ongoing Planning Council Process)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The Mental Health Department is in the process of doing a behavioral health integration. There are three phases to this: the first being the blending of the two Boards – Mental Health and AOD. This occurred in July 2015 and the new name is Behavioral Health Board. The second phase is looking at the name change of the Department. Two months ago three names were presented to this Board. The Department did a survey, met with stakeholders, clients and staff and the recommendation proposed to this Board is the name "Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)". b. There was an Ongoing Planning Council/focus group meeting on the 27th with the purpose of deciding what to do with the B Street location once the old hospital is remodeled. As a result of the meeting on the 27th the common theme was to sell with restrictions that it will be more social services activities, lease it to someone with social service interests, keep it because property is hard to come by or have a transfer option. There was a recommendation to begin doing an appraisal process to find out the market value and bring that information back to the Ongoing Planning Council. This will be a standing agenda item until there is a resolution with this item.

Recommendation/Action: a. M/S/C (Hofmann / Ragonut) to adopt this name.

XIII. 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 April 26, 2016 was handed out and Sally went over the report. Sally mentioned that Jeanette Merchant was leaving and Robert Porta will be covering for her.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XIV. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: There were no announcements.

XV. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m. The next meeting is June 7, 2016.

Submitted by: _____

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____

Vince Ramos, Secretary
Merced County Mental Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____