



# Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

April 4, 2017

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

**Present:**

Iris Mojica de Tatum, Chair; Paula Mason, Secretary; Mary Ellis; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann; Sally Ragonut; Micki Archuleta; Supervisor Lee Lor; Vince Ramos; Angelo Perez

**Absent:**

Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; Keng Cha

**Others Present:**

Yvonna Brown; Alice Liang; Sharon Mendonca; Jennifer Jones; Chris Kraushar; Sharon Jones; Cary Martin; Sandra Diaz; Rhonda Pratter; Brittaney Ayala; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

## MINUTES

**1. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call**

Chair Iris Mojica de Tatum called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

**2. Mission Statement**

Mary Ellis read the Mission Statement.

**3. Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2017 (BOARD ACTION)**

*Action/Recommendation:* M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to approve the minutes from March 7, 2017.

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

*Discussion/Conclusion:* Sharon J. announced that on March 31<sup>st</sup> there was a posting for Capital Facilities Update. This will require a Public Hearing at the next Behavioral Health Board meeting on May 2, 2017. The Public Hearing will start at 5:30 pm. This will be an update to the Capital Facilities Plan and the 1137 B Street location.

Sharon J. announced that there is a letter going out to all MHSA contract providers/stakeholders regarding available MHSA funding coming from the Community Services and Support (CSS) funds in the amount of \$500,000. There is also \$100,000 available under Prevention and Early Intervention. Both topics will be on the agenda at the next Ongoing Planning Council meeting. Sharon will send the necessary documents for the Board to read to Carol and she can then send out to the Board.

Vince commented that at the Retreat maybe there could be cultural/holistic information from other cultures such as the Hmongs.

Sharon J. continued that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. On May 16<sup>th</sup> they will be holding the Annual Outcomes Event. This year it will be held at the Boys & Girls Club from 9:30 to 1:00. A "Save the Date" flyer did go out; if anyone did not receive it, please let Sharon know. Also, on June 3<sup>rd</sup> they are planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Wellness & Recovery Conference. If anyone knows of any great speakers, poets, dancers, etc., please send Sharon an email.

Carey Martin was present today. He is the Chair of the Calif. Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions – the Board for the 58 counties.

*Recommendation/Action:* Information only

**5. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Discussion**

*Discussion/Conclusion:* Rhonda Pratter was present and was representing the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). Yvonna clarified that Rhonda was attending today because of the proposal presented last month to this Board regarding participation of Board members. There were some concerns regarding having a Board member being present at the weekly CAC meetings at the Wellness Center. Rhonda stated that the CAC would like to keep their meetings private. The CAC feels they are a family and having outsiders present would make them feel uncomfortable and intimidated.

Iris continued that the Board will respect the CAC's wishes and there will not be a Board representative attending the CAC meetings.

**5. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Discussion – con't.**

Yvonnia stated that the information from the Wellness Center is critical to the Department and this Board. She would like it if the CAC would give presentations to this Board around the activities happening at the Wellness Center.

There was further discussion and it was decided that a meeting will be scheduled with the Director and the Executive Committee to continue this discussion. Carol will arrange the meeting.

*Recommendation/Action:* As noted above

**6. MHSA Innovation Plan Update – Sharon Jones & Yvonnia Brown**

*Discussion/Conclusion:* Sharon stated that the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) plan was approved at the State on February 23, 2017. The approved plan is for \$6.8M. She will have Carol send out the powerpoint she presented at the Oversight & Accountability Commission (OAC) that day. The Strategist Network will complement the already existing services delivery system. There will be a lead strategist, a Behavioral Health strategist, a youth-specific strategist, and a family-resource strategist. There will also be a Consumer Assistant Worker which will be the consumer/recovery strategist. There will be a program support strategist which will be responsible for evaluation. The highpoints that the OAC wanted to see were: family members getting paid decent wages; make sure there is an internal and external evaluation process; and they wanted to make sure it wasn't supplantation. With ABC Framework Model, the "A" stands for Appreciative Inquiry – to look at what is already giving strength and life in Merced County in terms of services; "B" is for Building Capacity – building capacity with community partners; "C" is for Care Coordination. This model will be developed specific to Merced County. The overall project name is: Innovative Strategist Network – ABC Framework Model. The Strategist Teams will be the one to help those clients who have multiple barriers and still not reaching a place in their recovery. The next steps are to establish internal meetings with the Assistant Director and the internal implementation team. From there, they will do presentations to the entire Leadership Team and then the entire staff. There will be an establishment of workgroup dates where anyone who is interested in this, or who needs to be at the workgroup, will be identified and start building this framework. There will be periodic updates on how they are moving forward.

*Recommendation/Action:* As noted above

**7. Chair's Report – Iris Mojica de Tatum**

**a. By-Laws Update**

**b. Monthly Board Attendance – Remember to Call Administration**

*Discussion/Conclusion:* a. 1. In going over the By-Laws, Iris noticed that it is time to select a Nominating Committee for the next Fiscal Year's Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary positions. Iris asked for volunteers; Mary Ellis and Kim Carter both volunteered. They will bring names to the next meeting. This will be an agenda item for May. 2. According to the CALBHBC 2016 Fall Newsletter, the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) has changed pertaining to who can be on Mental/Behavioral Health Boards. Consumers can now be on Mental/Behavioral Health Boards even if they work for County Mental/Behavioral Health (or a contractor). Yvonnia will follow-up with County Counsel for their advice. b. Iris encouraged everyone to call Administration when they are not able to attend this meeting. It makes a difference having an excuse versus an unexcused absence. If someone has more than three unexcused absences, the Board has to look at filling the position with someone else.

Lastly, Iris stated that there will be a new standing agenda item effective May 2017. It will be titled, "Substance Use Disorders". This is because of the Behavioral Health Board combining with the AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) Board. The Board needs to be cognizant of this and remember to bring in guest speakers from this side. A staff member will start joining this meeting to give briefings and updates.

*Recommendation/Action:* As noted above

**8. Board's Roles & Responsibilities – Sally Ragonut, Kim Carter, Mary Ellis**

*Discussion/Conclusion:* Iris stated that this topic will now be a standing agenda item.

Sally reported that the Training Committee recently met with new Board members and in going over the Roles and Responsibilities they realized that there are some things the Board is not doing under Roles and Responsibilities and some they are not sure how to do. One example was reviewing any County agreements and another was reviewing the BH Department budget. Iris stated that according to the By-Laws this would fall under the Oversight & Accountability Committee (Iris, Kim and Richard) and the Roles and Responsibilities will need to be changed to reflect this. Sally recommended that the entire Board should go over the Roles and Responsibilities on a regular basis. Sally recommended having the whole Board going over the binder at a retreat.

**8. Board’s Roles & Responsibilities – Sally Ragonut, Kim Carter, Mary Ellis – cont’.**

Sally continued discussing the different Roles and Responsibilities of the Board. She discussed that the Board has been doing in terms of having reports from all the different areas within the Department and other community partners; it is good to have different presentations. The Board learns by having these presentations. Another responsibility is Reviewing Facilities and Services. The Board did try to get this going in the past but have not reviewed many facilities lately; this is area that needs to be followed up on. The Board has established Committees and follows through with this. Ad-hoc committees do not happen often. There was discussion on the grievance process; Yvonna will have Robert Porta present the grievance process at the May meeting.

Cary Martin with the CALBHBC was present today. He discussed the project he is working on – WIC 5604. He is trying to get Boards and Commissions to have the resources to actually carry out the mandate in 5604. He asked everyone to look over 5604. If anyone has questions or comments, please contact him.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**9. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Lor**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Lor thanked Cary Martin for being present today. She also thanked Sally, Kim and Mary for the training she received. She also had several questions going through the binder. She felt that this Board was letting the BOS off easy. At the BOS meetings she does not see a lot of participation; that is why she invited Yvonna and Sharon J. to present the ISN Plan to the BOS. Sharing information beyond this Board meeting is great – others need to know what is happening in the Department. She thinks it would be great if there was someone at the BOS meetings representing this Board. She is looking forward to the Retreat as well as the self-evaluation.

At the Federal level things are up in the air. There are no updates for us as a County. County Behavioral Health Directors will probably have more details and information before the BOS does; she will defer to this Board a lot when it comes to specific changes regarding Behavioral Health. She discussed the District 2 discretionary dollars that are available. She is opening this up to the public; non-profit organizations can apply. The process is being set up for organizations to apply. The application is available but she would like to create a timeline in which the application is opened specific to District 2 dollars. The projects will be presented to the public and the public will vote on the projects to fund. That way the community has input into their needs. Organizations that are funded will be funded for two years; they only have to go through the cycle one time to be funded two years. Supervisor Lor is hoping to open the opportunity for as many residents as possible to vote on the projects and this has not been solidified yet. The discretionary funds are \$40,000 every year.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**10. Director’s Report**  
**a. B Street Update / Next Steps**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Yvonna reminded everyone that this item is a standing agenda item. Sharon J. previously mentioned the 30-day posting for the Annual MHSA/Capital Facilities Update which includes the B Street location. The 30-day posting began on March 31<sup>st</sup> and ends April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing will be immediately after the BH Board meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 at this location. It was decided to start the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at 3:30 pm.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**11. Reports / Updates**  
**a. Executive Committee**  
**b. QIC**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. No report. The Executive Committee will be meeting soon; Carol will let everyone know when. b. Kim passed out copies of her QIC Report. She went over the report. Supervisor Lor felt this information should be shared with the BOS.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**12. Announcements**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Chris announced that the Community Action Agency is having a Community Forum on Homelessness is this Friday at 6:30 pm at the D Street Shelter for one hour. Sharon J. mentioned again that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The MHSA Outcomes Event is May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-1:00 at the Boys and Girls Club. The Spiritual Wellness and Recovery Conference is June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-3:00 at the Boys and Girls Club. Carol will send out a flyer on these events.

**13. Adjournment**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is May 2, 2017.

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

Carol Hulsizer  
Recording Secretary

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

Paula Mason, Secretary  
Merced County Mental Health Board

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

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