



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

September 4, 2012

3:30 – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA 95341

Present:	Mary Ellis, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Mary Hofmann; Cora Gonzales; Chuck McClure; Jan Morita; Maureen Freitas; Linda O'Donnell; Audrey Spangler; James Fuller
Absent:	Hub Walsh, Supervisor; David Baker; Kim Carter; Keng Cha
Others Present:	Manuel Jimenez; Curt Willems; Sharon Jones; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Perry Watkins; Fred Risard; Steve Pierce, AOD Board; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Mary Ellis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Fuller) to approve the minutes from August 7, 2012.

III. Approval of Agenda for September 4, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Cora requested adding two items: 1. AOD and MH Board Update, and 2. Development of Board binder. M/S/C (Fuller / Gonzales) to approve the agenda for September 4, 2012 with the addition of two items "L" and "M" under Committee Reports.

IV. Opportunity for Public Input to Speak on Any Matter of Public Interest Within the Board's Jurisdiction Including Items on the Board's Agenda (Time Limit of 3-5 Minutes)

a. Open Discussion for Board

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally questioned who receives the monthly Activity Log; Mary E. has a folder she brings each month for the Activity Logs. Sally wondered how many were able to attend the ethics training on August 24th. James commented that he attended but did not receive his certificate. Carol stated she would check on it.

Vince commented that at the August Board meeting congratulations should also go to the consumers and the peer support people that attended. It is the consumers and the peer support people on the floor that are helping other consumers.

Mary E. thanked all the Board members for their continued attendance. What each Board member shares is important. Mary's goal is to work on "time" and keeping the meeting moving smoothly.

Sally reported to the Board that Chris Kraushar is no longer on the Board because she has become the Patient's Rights Advocate. Another member who was not consistent with attendance at these meetings has been removed from the Board. According to the By-Laws anyone missing three meetings in a row (or more), the Executive Team can take action.

Maureen wondered if there is ever discussion on beautifying/decorating the offices of the doctors and nurses. Manuel replied that the doctors and nurses can decorate their office anyway they choose.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

V. Guest Speaker from Marie Green/CSU (Perry Watkins)

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel introduced Perry Watkins as the new Psychiatric Facility Manager for Marie Green and CSU. Perry talked a little about himself and how long he has been working in mental health. He has been working in this field for about thirty years and it is his life work. He has worked at a wide variety of mental health places and institutions. He is one of the people that opened up Marie Green when it started. He has lived in this community for most of his life. This is the third hospital that he has managed. Working on an inpatient unit gives him the opportunity to see a dramatic change – seeing people brought up to a level where they can

V. Guest Speaker from Marie Green/CSU (Perry Watkins) – con't.

function in the community, be independent and return to their families. The inpatient unit and CSU are areas where there is a lot of frustration if people do not understand what the Mental Health Dept. is there for. There are many reasons why Mental Health is not there – they are not a drug treatment facility, nor an alcohol detox facility, they do not take care of people with organic brain damage, Alzheimer's, dementia, or brain injuries. This creates a lot of frustration because many in the community want the Marie Green/CSU to be everything to all people. But, they cannot. The law says it has to be a direct result of a mental illness.

-The question was asked about the difference between the inpatient unit and the CSU. Those on the inpatient unit can be there voluntarily or at times involuntary and the average stay is 6-7 days – this is a hospital (inpatient). The Crisis Stabilization Unit is an outpatient clinic. People come there for a short time, getting treatment and hooked up to resources within the community, getting directed to medical care, to legal care, etc. The CSU is temporary – up to 23 hours. If it is decided that they need more help, they can be moved into the inpatient unit.

-The question was asked about those with a mental illness who often use drugs to self-medicate. Many say they were turned down at Marie Green because of the drug use; but they are taking drugs because they are sick. Perry stated that is dealt with on a case-by-case individual basis. All people that use drugs and alcohol are definitely not excluded from CSU or Marie Green; but their primary reason for being there must be a mental illness.

-The process of admission was asked. Perry stated that now days almost everybody goes through the CSU. A direct admission is possible but most likely they will be assessed and triaged in the CSU.

-The rights of the person being admitted for treatment is protected, but at what point does a family member or police officer have the right to say this person needs treatment right away. At what point can you intervene? Perry replied that the police have no right to determine who will be admitted to the hospital. The police do have the right to write a 5150 and request an evaluation. How long that person is kept is up to the staff. Family members – they have no right to admit someone. It is the State law that decides who can stay and who can leave. Family members can provide information to help staff make decisions and meet the legal codes to hold someone.

-Can the facility accommodate someone in a wheelchair? Perry stated that they often do. In the CSU they often have wheelchair bound individuals. In the hospital there is a law requiring that patients be ambulatory. If they are in a wheelchair, they have to be able to get up and get out of the hospital in case there is a fire. If they cannot get up and out of a wheelchair, then a facility has to be found that is licensed to take of them.

-Do they provide medical care at Marie Green? Or is it considered something different? Perry stated that they do provide a lot of medical care. There are patients there on antibiotics and treatment for various other illnesses and they do have to be ambulatory. They cannot accept anyone on IVs or machines in general. They do care for a wide variety of medical problems as well. There is always a nurse on duty.

-Being gravely disabled or being a threat to themselves or others – are these the same thing? If you are a danger to yourself or others it is fairly clear – threatening others, doing something that puts you in imminent/immediate danger. Being gravely disabled – this must be proven and is more challenging. The person may have a home and food – but not taking advantage of it. The person may wish to be homeless. This is harder to prove.

-A family member brings in someone who was making imminent threats, but the person denies doing it. How do you deal with this? Perry stated that just because someone says someone is making threats, there is no way to prove it. Usually staff will talk with the person long enough for these kinds of things to come out.

-Is it true that you have to have Medi-Cal in order to get services? What is the financial criteria for Marie Green and CSU? Perry stated that if people need help, they will be treated.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Vision & Values Statements

Discussion/Conclusion: Jan has been working on a vision and value statements and would like to include these in the Annual Report. She passed out a document with a Mission Statement, Core Values and a Vision Statement. She asked that everyone look this over and be prepared to discuss further at the November Board meeting.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VII. Upcoming Board Retreat

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary E. reported that a retreat is being planned for 2013 – most likely in April. Mary asked that Board if they would like a weekday retreat or weekend retreat. The retreat will most likely be an all-day event – 9:00-4:00. Manuel thought it would be a mixed agenda – good learning experience, interactive work, and planning for the future.

Recommendation/Action: General consensus was to have it on the weekend.

VIII. Supervisor’s Report (Hub)

Discussion/Conclusion: Hub could not make the meeting today.

Recommendation/Action:

IX. Director’s Report (Manuel)

- a. Budget Updates
- b. Program Updates

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Manuel meant to bring a copy of the budget that the BOS approved last month. He will bring to the next meeting. The BOS did approve the County’s budget on August 21st. The cuts were not as deep as first thought and only six county employees were laid off. The BOS did approve the hiring on several new positions for the Department. Approved new positions – Office Assistant III for Livingston Clinic, Medical Records Supervisor, Program Manager for Los Banos/Hilmar Clinic, an Analyst for MHSA, Medical Records Technician for AOD, Mental Health Clinician for adult outpatient in Merced, Mental Health Worker for outpatient Merced, a Dual Diagnosis Specialist, a Mental Health Clinician for Adult Mental Health Court, and a clinician for Juvenile Mental Health Court. b. Mental Health Court has been up and running; he will have Rich Benitez (clinician working in MH Court) attend a meeting. Rich will eventually be housed along with the Dual Diagnosis Specialist and a Probation Officer at the old Environmental Health Building close to the Courthouse. They will be located there with Probation and the Sheriff’s Dept. Eventually they will start a Re-entry Court for those in the AB 109 programs. The Juvenile Mental Health Court started on August 20th and Judge Moranda operates that courtroom. The Open House for Pacheco Places in Los Banos will be October 2nd at 2:00 p.m., the same day as the Mental Health Board meeting in Los Banos which will begin at 3:30. The Department will provide transportation for the Board, leaving at the 1137 B Street site.

Sally asked for an update on Anasazi from Sharon Robinson. Sharon reported that currently they are working on the Assessment and Treatment Plans (ATP). They are developing the forms that people will input the information on. The Assessment part of the training will be in November and the Treatment plans will be in October. They are going to look at being able to have contractors enter daily logs which will save Department staff time. They are also looking at an e-signature which will be coming up in February. There are still many little pieces to take care of and implement into this electronic health record system.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Committee Reports / Updates

- a. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) (Sally / Mary E.)
- b. Executive / Bylaws / Planning Committee (Sally / Vince / Mary E.)
- c. Membership Committee (Kim)
- d. Patients’ Rights Advocate (Chris)
- e. Wellness Center Update (Chuck)
- f. CALMHB/C Update (James / Keng)
- g. NAMI (Mary H.)
- h. Children’s System of Care (CSOC) (Cora)
- i. MHSA Ongoing Planning Council (Sharon J. / Chuck / Mary E.)
- j. Cultural Competency Committee (Mary H. / David)
- k. Community Partner’s Meeting (Vince / Mary E.)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally shared that this committee will now be meeting every other month. There were no grievances last month. The Consumer Subcommittee will have a hot dog fund raiser on October 5th. The last fund raiser helped to pay for the lunches for the upcoming Monterey trip. Recycling containers have been placed on M Street. The Credentialing Subcommittee did not have any current information. The next Cultural Competency training will be in October. Psych Autopsies – no report. Director Jimenez

X. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

approved the Managed Care contract. There is now an intern for the deaf and hard of hearing that is working through Mental Health. They are still looking to add more positions in QI for oversight. The priorities are: 1. quality of care, outcomes and services, 2. Integration, healthcare reform, and 3. data/outcome measures. Curt spoke on Performance Improvement Projects (PIP) and the need to improve recidivism. They are also forming a new committee. **b.** This is being accomplished each month with the vision and value statements. **c.** Kim was not present today. **d.** Chris reported she has been going out into the community and re-introducing herself. **e.** Chuck reported that this Friday 40 consumers (from Merced and Los Banos) and 7 staff members are going to Monterey. The Consumer Advisory Committee will be taking care of the lunches for those from Merced and Los Banos has been informed as well. Their Multicultural Day is now scheduled for September 20th from 11:00-12:30. They will be having a potluck and encouraging people to bring different dishes. They are also asking people to provide some cultural lessons. Recycling – there are some changes taking place and he will find out more details. Manuel reported that the consumers came to him and wanted to know about putting more recycling bins out in County offices. There is now a recycling bin in the Admin building on M Street. Sheriff Pazin will also put a recycling bin in the Sheriff's Office. Some other Department heads have also agreed to have a recycling bin at their location. **f.** James was not available to attend the CALMHB/C meeting and Keng was not present today. **g.** Mary H. passed out flyers on the Family-to-Family class which started last Thursday. Anyone can still join up to the third week of class. Manuel asked that Carol email out all the different NAMI flyers to community partners. Out of Family-to-Family the Peer-to-Peer class has grown and Mary passed out a flyer. She also passed out copies of the latest NAMI newsletter. In health classes they are presenting "Ending the Silence" for freshman in high school. **h.** Cora reported there was no meeting in August; the next meeting is October 9th. **i.** Sharon is working on getting everyone through the multicultural training – there is a training in October and another in January 2013. She is also training in Mental Health 1st Aid. She is also working on the Innovative Project in terms of expanding Mental Health's presence in the community and setting up support groups in El Nido, Planada, Le Grand, Dos Palos and South Dos Palos. The Planning Council – they are looking at having everyone with a MESA contract come in and give a presentation on the goals they have in their programs. **j.** Mary H. reported that four goals were talked about at the meeting. Sharon J. reported that at the next meeting they will be going over some of the goals of the EQRO as it relates to cultural competence. **k.** Vince reported that outcomes with community partners were discussed and Manuel wants data on how well the programs are doing. Curt likes the way the community partners are working together. Turning Point is having their annual picnic for clients in October. There was talk about integration into primary care. The Director's three priorities were discussed. **l.** AOD & MH Board Update – Cora and Richard Hawthorne recently talked about combining the two boards. The next step is to have the working committee meet with the Director. There is a lot of work to be done and would like to have it completed within six months. Cora asked that the meeting with the Director for September 7th be rescheduled because certain Board members will not be able to attend. Carol will reschedule the meeting date. **m.** Cora has been working on the binder for Board members. She passed out a revised Table of Contents and went over the items.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is October 2, 2012.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____