



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting
October 1, 2013
3:30 – 5:00 pm
40 West G Street, Suite C, Los Banos, CA

Present:	Cora Gonzales, Chair; Mary Ellis; Sally Ragonut; Vince Ramos; James Fuller; David Baker; Mary Hofmann; Jan Morita; Keng Cha; Chuck McClure; Audrey Spangler; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Richard Hawthorne
Absent:	Supervisor Walsh; Kim Carter
Others Present:	Manuel Jimenez; Curt Willems; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Monica Adrian, Caring Kids; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Cora Gonzales, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Mission Statement

Cora read the mission statement. In the future Cora will have other Board members read the mission statement at the monthly meetings. It is important for Board members to remember why they are here.

III. Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (McClure / Ellis) to approve the minutes from August 13, 2013.

IV. Approval of Agenda for October 1, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Cora wanted to add another item (e) under her report – Representing the Board. M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / McClure) to approve the October 1, 2013 agenda with the added item.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Heather was present today. She is from Los Banos. Heather stated that she suffers from mental illness and wants to get involved and help as many people as she can. She is still struggling with some issues but wants people to know that it is okay and things will be alright. Helping makes her feel good.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Nomination for Vice-Chair (BOARD ACTION)

Discussion/Conclusion: Cora nominated Richard Hawthorne for Vice-Chair.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to accept Richard Hawthorne for Vice-Chair.

VII. Chair's Report

- a. Mental Health Board Annual Report
- b. Board Member Resignation
- c. Revision of Checklist
- d. Structure of Minutes
- e. Representing the Board

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Cora reported that the Annual Report goes to the BOS on October 8th and, unfortunately, she cannot make that meeting. Mary Ellis and Sally Ragonut stated that they would be able to attend the BOS meeting. b. Cora reported that Maureen Freitas submitted her resignation in August to the Board and it was accepted. c. In today's packet was a revision to the checklist from the previous year; this will be an easier way to check items off and in preparing for next year's Annual Report. d. This is pending and it was discussed at the Exec Committee meeting. Cora will elaborate more under Committee Reports. e. Cora reminded

VII. Chair's Report – con't.

everyone that we all wear many hats in the community. If someone is at a meeting and referring to business of this Board and have permission from the CEO, Director and the Board, then you can make appropriate comments or report to the committee. However, if you have not received permission then you are not entitled to make comments representing the Board.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VIII. Katie A. – Betty Hoskins

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel commented that Betty could not make today's meeting. Jon Masuda will speak for her. First Manuel gave a brief history of what Katie A. is about. Katie A. was a lawsuit from L.A. County that said foster kids were not getting the services they needed on the social services side. The lawsuit was to meet those needs and part of those needs were mental health services and making sure kids get services so they don't fall out of placement who are in the foster care system. In the foster care system they can be in a foster home or group home. All the counties have implemented a plan to serve the foster care population.

Jon reported that the Department is screening all foster youth as a collaboration with Human Services Agency (HSA) and Mental Health. There are two classifications – 1. Foster youth themselves, and 2. Sub-class. The sub-class are foster youth that have had to receive three different placements in the last 24 months; there has been some psychiatric hospitalization or difficulty in maintaining placement. The difference between the two is that the sub-class, Mental Health will be responsible to do an assessment every three months and also review the treatment plan and do a new treatment plan every three months. They want to make sure these "high-risk" youth do not fall between the cracks. The other classification for all the other foster youth is that there will be an expectation for an annual assessment. The ideal treatment for this population is that they would like for the clinician to provide the services on-site at the house. This means the clinician will have to bring their laptop to the house, doing the assessment on the laptop, meeting with parents and youth in providing clinical intervention and collaborative services, if needed. Currently, HSA has identified Los Banos to be the pilot for doing the screenings on foster youth. Jon feels this was a great idea because they have been able to identify problems that needed solving in the screening process.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. Caring Kids – Monica Adrian

Discussion/Conclusion: Monica is with MCOE and they have the Caring Kids program. She passed around several handouts regarding their program which briefly goes over some of the services they provide. Caring Kids has been in existence since 2003 and their initial funding came from First 5. In 2009 when Prevention and Early Prevention (PEI) came about under MHSA, they started to receive funding from the Mental Health Dept. as well. Monica thanked Manuel for focusing on the zero to five population in the past couple of years because prior to that it was not happening. They do screen for social and emotional delays and if they find concerns they provide behavioral intervention to the child and their family. They also receive referrals from a variety of sources in the community. They provide a variety of levels of intervention – direct services, family services, and advocate for policy changes. They continue to be funded by First 5 of Merced County and that funding is braided with the mental health funding so it is a collaborative partnership with County Mental Health and First 5. Since they started, they have done a lot of projects and leveraged their funding to create new programs; Monica discussed several of these programs. They have played a big role in the Regional Infant Family Mental Health movement and the MHSA has provided some funding for this and one of the handouts showed what that means. It is a big effort to reduce duplication of services and at the same time share information with cross agencies so that everyone can learn from one another and help bridge the silos. Throughout the next year there will be a variety of high-level courses provided. If anyone would like to attend one, please contact Monica.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh was not present today.

Recommendation/Action: None

XI. Director's Report (Manuel)

- a. Budget
- b. New Positions
- c. Mental Health Wellness Act

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel reported that as of today, October 1st, over 39 million Americans will have access to sign up for health insurance. This is a huge step and a good start. For Merced County that means about 25,000 will be eligible for Medi-Cal expansion. **a. & b.** The BOS did approve the County's budget on August 27th and in that budget there were 8 or 9 positions for Mental Health. **c.** Manuel, Curt and Sharon Robinson have been meeting with community partners in preparing for this. There is an organization called California Health Facilities Finances Authority (CHFFA) which is in the State Treasurers Dept. and money was put under this organization because they felt they could get the money out to counties more rapidly than if they gave it to the Dept. of Health Care Services. We have to apply for these funds and it will be competitive. There will be money geared towards county's population size and also for the Central Valley Region. There will be several pots of money to get money from. Mental Health will partner with some neighboring counties to do a Crisis Residential here in Merced; all these counties have a contract with Marie Green. This will be about the continuum of care. The Dept. will also look at applying for some money to create some Mobile Response Teams and triage staff for two hospitals – Memorial and Mercy. Applications should be out this month and they want to get the money out to the counties by January and have the programs up and running by January.

Manuel continued that he, Curt and Sharon R. met with Jim Brown and Scott De Moss yesterday. Manuel is retiring and Jim intends to go to the BOS next week and ask them to appoint Scott De Moss as Interim Director until they find a replacement. Scott has a long history with Mental Health and was the compliance officer as well.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XII. 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. / Mary E.)
- j. Cultural Competency Committee (Mary H. / David)
- k. Community Partner's Meeting (Vince / Mary E.)
- l. AOD (Richard Hawthorne)

Discussion/Conclusion: **a.** Mary reported on the August 15th QIC meeting. Confidentiality statements were passed out for those needing to sign one. They interviewed for one nurse and two clinicians. There was a change in prioritizing and Mary passed around a handout on this. There was one change of provider in Spanish. Tabatha reported they are revising the UR forms. The Consumer Subcommittee reported on their events. The Multicultural Event was September 19th. Credentialing continues. Mary had several handouts which she passed around. Manuel commented that QI has been short-staffed and Alan now has a Staff Services Analyst who started this week. Two positions approved by the BOS were for RNs and will also be assigned to QI once they are hired. A QI Manager position has also been added. Manuel was asked about the Medi-Cal audit in December. He responded that they will be reviewing charts and making sure that we are sticking to our agreement with the State and notifying people when they don't qualify for services. They look at grievances and making sure we responded to them. They really make sure that we are complying with the law. They will have a list of all the bills we submitted for a certain time period and ask to review those charts and make sure that the progress notes are in those charts, the hours are accurate and match, make sure signatures are there, etc. This is also a time when the State can recoup money from the Dept. **b.** Cora reported the Exec Committee met and discussed the structure of the minutes; this is pending. **c.** Kim was not present today. **d.** Chris has been busy. She submits a report to Manuel monthly regarding data on how many contacts she had, how many hearings, etc., that she does. Manuel suggested developing a spreadsheet to track this information. Chris met with someone from Kingsview and they did start the spreadsheet. This spreadsheet reflects that business is steadily increasing. Chris is going to start attending team meetings about twice a year to make sure they know her, have her contact information and know what kinds of things she does for clients. **e.** Chuck reported that they had their Multicultural Day which went well.

XII. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

They had to postpone this Friday's fundraiser until the 11th. There have been many donations to the Wellness Center as far as breakfast and other food items. A new person, Irvin, is taking the notes at their Consumer Advisory Committee; he replaces Hermishia. They are still worried about recycling because their shed has been broken into and their cans and bottles have been stolen; they are looking at getting their own storage compartment and recycle when it is filled. They are preparing for the Halloween Conference on October 25th at Lake Yosemite from 10:00-2:00; everyone is welcome and they will be serving chili this year. **f.** David reported that he has not been to any meetings yet, but he and Keng are going to a training on October 17-19. He has been in touch with the Treasurer and our dues are paid up. He will come back with a report from the October training. **g.** Jan reported that NAMI has several activities going on. They have a CalMHSA grant for Community Dialogues and last night was the kick-off reception. Mental Health hosted the event in their Administration building. There was a good turnout and the main purpose was to promote the Community Dialogue that is coming up on October 29th; Jan passed out a flyer on this. The point of Community Dialogues is to start conversation within the community – they will be showing a documentary, have a free lunch and then a panel discussion. Jan asked that everyone spread the word on this event. On October 23rd they have their monthly presentation and Turning Point will be the guest speaker. **h.** Cora reported that the next meeting is October 15th; she will have a report next month. **i.** Iris reported that they will be reviewing the current plan this Friday. This meeting will most likely be to set the structure in terms of what their next steps are. Sharon J. continued that they will be looking at the original, approved plan and where they are today. **j.** Sharon J. reported that the Cultural Competence Summit is this week – October 2 & 3. She will be presenting a workshop on the Strengthening Families program (Innovative Project). They have 27 slots that were paid for by the Central Region Workforce & Education and Training. They are also working on a training calendar for 2014 in order for clinicians to know what trainings are coming up. Sharon tries to have a cultural competence meeting monthly – the third Monday of the month at 3:00. Regarding CBMCS trainings - Sharon is having Christina develop a report on how the Department looks in terms of the different categories on multicultural knowledge, sensitivity and responsiveness to consumers; this report will come out shortly. Sharon would also like to implement an organizational self-assessment. Manuel thanked Sharon and Angelo who served on the Planning Committee. **k.** Vince reported that Kit from Aspiranet has equipped their staff with laptops and WiFi's to better coordinate client services. Perry at Marie Green is very busy and still looking for a psychiatrist. Jon from Mental Health is working with Probation and the Juvenile Hall because they are releasing some of the low-key inmates. Jon clarified that there is a AOD Counselor in Juvenile Hall that is doing assessments and treatments and makes recommendations for services when juveniles are released. Sometimes the juveniles do not follow up, and Jon is trying to link up with the Juvenile Officer and Program Manager, Lori Minor, in identifying these clients and engage them so they do not violate their probation and go back in. Vince continued that DDP is going to start training peers to help increase recoveries. **l.** Richard had nothing new to report on the blending of the two boards. The next step is that Cora, Richard and Manuel (now Curt) educate the BOS in regards to this. Manuel commented that this was brought up with Jim and Scott yesterday and Curt can work with Carol and start setting up these appointments.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XIII. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Chuck thanked Manuel for his years of service. He and the Board appreciate all his help in the past 4 years. Cora also thanked Manuel for his guidance and the many programs that have been implemented throughout the County, particularly in the schools. The Board will miss him and there is a reception on the 3rd on B Street from 3:00-5:00. Vince had a document that he would like added to next month's packet. This is in regards to people thinking the Wellness Center is closing

XIII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The next meeting is November 5, 2013.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____
Iris Mojica de Tatum, Secretary
Merced County Mental Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____