



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

November 5, 2013

3:30 – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:

Cora Gonzales, Chair; Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Secretary; Mary Ellis; Sally Ragonut; Vince Ramos; James Fuller; David Baker; Jan Morita; Chuck McClure; Audrey Spangler; Kim Carter; Supervisor Hub Walsh

Absent:

Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann

Others Present:

Scott De Moss; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Mike Zdanowski; William Hamilton, AOD Board; 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. Roll call was taken. The flag salute was done. Cora asked for introductions from two individuals. Mike Zdanowski is the Mental Health HR/Operations Manager. William Hamilton is from the AOD Board.

II. Mission Statement

Cora emphasized that everyone is here for the good of all and not for their own agenda. She then read the mission statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Sally commented on two mistakes she found in October's minutes. One was that the wrong address was noted for the meeting location; the October meeting was held in Los Banos, not Merced. Second, the Activity Log for November had the wrong location and date. Carol will correct the wrong address. M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Hawthorne) to approve the minutes from October 1, 2013 with the correction of the date on the minutes.

IV. Approval of Agenda for November 5, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Fuller / Baker) to approve the November 5, 2013 agenda.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Curt stated that the new Acting Director for Mental Health, Scott De Moss, was present and this is the first Mental Health Board meeting that he has attended. Cora asked that everyone present introduce themselves and state what district they represent.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Integration of MH and AOD Boards

Discussion/Conclusion: Cora wanted to make sure that all comments on this integration have been made in order to move forward with this process. Richard continued, as a refresher, that over the past year members of these two Boards have been attending both the Mental Health and AOD Board meetings with the goal being the blending of these two boards. Merced County Mental Health continues to move forward as a Behavioral Health model and that is the guideline both Boards have been using. During this process they have drafted a policy manual on the blending of the two Boards. There were a couple of issues on the AOD Board that had to be researched and worked out. Some AOD members are also contracted service providers and pursuant to State law that cannot happen on the Mental Health Board. When the BOS does approve this blending, these Board members/service providers know that they will not be able to be on the blended Board. They have met with the Board Chairman of San Joaquin County and he highly recommended the blending of these two Boards and it was very beneficial in their county. A plus for the blending of these Boards is the new medical care act taking place soon, and this blending will allow some funding to return to our organization allowing services to be expanded.

Hub stated that there had been discussion about the AOD Board members, who are also providers, still playing a role but maybe as an

VI. Integration of MH and AOD Boards – con't.

advisory to the Board and was this still going to happen. Richard stated that Cora had previously indicated that there will be subcommittees and those members/providers can be a part of those; but they will not have voting power.

Richard continued that when this talk of blending first began, a major concern for individuals who advocate for alcohol and drug recovery is that their voice is not heard. There is usually a battle with funding to be dedicated to alcohol and drug recovery because our community still feels that it was the choice of those individuals and why should they advocate spending tax dollars to help those individuals recover. They are educating the public on the reasons why – healthcare costs being a major reason.

Cora will now plan on meeting with each Board of Supervisor to educate them prior to actually going to a Board meeting for approval. Scott stated that the Mental Health Board reports directly to the BOS and he does not believe it is the Mental Health Director's role to say whether there should be an integrated Board. He believes it is his role to support that transformation. The Board is established in County code and we will have to put something in front of the BOS if they decide they want to amend County code to create the new Board. As the Acting Mental Health Director, Scott supports bringing these two Boards together to create a Behavioral Health model. The next step should be this Board advocating for this change. There will be some staff work on the County Administration Office's side to help with the language that has to be changed in County code.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Chair's Report

a. Change in Minute Structure - Tabled

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Cora stated that the Executive Committee has talked about changing the structure of the minutes. With so many things going on right now, Cora wants this subject tabled until further notice.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VIII. Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh reported that the BOS just recently approved the continuation of some office space rental. They appointed Scott as the Acting Director and the CEO has initiated a recruitment for a new Mental Health Director. They are also trying to monitor the implications of the ACA to Mental Health services and other services; this is still cloudy.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. Director's Report (Scott)

a. Financial Report (Sharon R.)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Scott stated that Sharon Robinson is in training this week. Scott questioned what type of financial report the Board is looking for – he understands that historically there was a quarterly financial update and in the County's financial system there are some things that are easier to obtain on a quarterly basis than on a monthly basis. Cora asked the Board members what their wishes were on this. Jan stated that Manuel had provided, on a regular basis, a simplified form that was easy to comprehend; Scott asked that Jan bring the form in to use as a template. Cora will bring this to the Executive Committee next week to make a decision on this.

Scott discussed the recruitment for the Mental Health Director. The recruitment closed in mid-October and there was a good sampling of candidates. The County is reviewing the applications, looking for the required minimal qualifications. There will be a panel interview and after that the top candidates will interview with the CEO and BOS Chair. The CEO and Board Chair will then make a recommendation to the BOS. The process will take about two months and hopefully a new Director will begin sometime in January. Vince had some questions regarding the qualifications for the Director and the Medical Director; Scott explained to him the difference between the two positions and the qualifications needed for these positions.

Sally questioned some issues that Manuel brought up at the last meeting. One was the Medi-Cal audit in December and Sally questioned how this is coming along. Scott responded that the Department is putting together the protocol that the State provides. Staff have been brought in to help with the process and other staff, with certain skill sets, have been repositioned to help also. The audit will go as scheduled. The QI function has been understaffed this year due to retirements and some illnesses and the Department is playing catch-up trying to be prepared. Sally also had a question regarding money (this was under the Director's Report) and Manuel, Curt and Sharon R. had been meeting with community partners discussing this pot of money and applying for it. Are Curt and Sharon moving forward with this? Scott responded the Mental Health is partnering with Public Health (which will take the lead) and

IX. Director's Report (Scott) – con't.

HSA to access a grant made available by the State for outreach to certain populations who will now have better access to Medi-Cal. This grant should be going to the BOS at the end of November or beginning of December. Some of this grant is for outreach to individuals with substance abuse and mental illness. Assembly Bill (AB) 82 is the outreach for Medi-Cal expansion and Senate Bill (SB) 82 deals with the triage and crisis residential treatment grant. Curt is taking the lead in this Department and is working with a consolidation of counties in our area to put together a residential treatment proposal. Internally Curt is working on figuring out how to work with the triage proposal because there are multiple parts to this.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Committee Reports / Updates

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Cora stated that two-minute time limits have been added to these reports. She also reminded everyone that certain committees have a Chair and this person is responsible for reporting and distributing any material that is so needed. If a Board member has information they would like distributed, please go through the Chair of that particular committee. a. Sally stated that there has not been a QI meeting to report on. b. Cora reported that she met with Curt to set this agenda; Richard and Iris were not available. At the next meeting there will be discussion on finances and then bring that information to the next monthly Board meeting. c. Kim had nothing new to report. d. Chris met with Scott for the first time last Friday and did a brief overview of how the PRA program is structured in Merced County. She submitted the monthly report. She is attending the Quarterly Regional Patients' Rights Advocate meeting in Fresno tomorrow. e. Chuck reported that there was not much attendance at the last BBQ because they were up against some competition. There was outstanding attendance at the Halloween Event at Lake Yosemite; everything went well and everyone had a good time. Four new groups have started and are successful so far – 1. Anger Management, 2. STDs, 3. Dance for Relaxation, and 4. Dance for Fitness. The butterflies are still up in Sacramento. Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer will take place this month. f. David attended the October 16-18 training. The training was given by the CA Mental Health Planning Council. The CALMHB/C piggy-backed off their training and they had their own day of training on the last day. The CALMHB/C's objectives is to collaborate with the CA State Dept. of Mental Health, CA State Mental Health Planning Council, CA Mental Health Director's Association and all other concerned agencies and organizations regarding mental health issues. The WET program will have a 5-year plan and will be overseen by the Health, Planning and Development Council; they will be having webinars, on-line surveys, scholarship programs, stipends, and forgiveness plans. David found out that he is not actually on the CALMHB/C, but Keng is. David will have to attend a regional meeting in order to get on the CALHB/C. The Oversight and Accountability Commission looks at all kinds of MHSA funding and seem to be concerned about wasteful spending. The Planning Council came to the CALMHB/C meeting and wants to train them in order for CALMHB/C to train their Boards. David's job in the future will be training new Board members on their responsibilities. Laura's Law was mentioned and is effective in only one county in CA, but they do want Boards to discuss Laura's Law. The Planning Council did take some funds and will give to the CALMHB/C for a website to help with staffing. g. Jan reported that they had the first of three Community Dialogue meetings last week and 186 attended with a positive response. The second meeting will be in Livingston at the end of January and the third will be at the beginning of April. There is a NAMI meeting on November 20th and Alan Vaughn and Anna Yates will be attending to discuss conservatorship. NAMI has the opportunity to be involved in a project put together by CalMHSA and it will let them interact with the Mental Health Dept. with community members and reaching out to children. Jan hopes to have more details at the next meeting on this. h. Cora attended a CSOC meeting on October 15th. One thing discussed was the Juvenile Justice Coordinator Council and in January 2014 they will report on the outcomes of this for 2012/13. They also discussed the ACA and how slow it is going. The Drug Store Project was held on October 25th in Atwater and there was a nice article in the

X. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

paper. i. Iris reported that on October 28th Workgroup #1 met and they reviewed and discussed the guidelines and regulations of MHSA. In the afternoon Workgroup #2 met and they reviewed the approved plans and identified any discrepancies between the plans, the services and the regulations. On November 4th Workgroups #1 & #2 met again to discuss rules and regulations and the approved plans. On November 8th Workgroups #3 and #4 will meet. On November 22nd Workgroups #5 and #6 will meet. On November 14th a report will be presented to the Ongoing Planning Council on the results so far. Once all the Workgroups are completed the Ongoing Planning Council will forward the findings and recommendations to this Board and the Director. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Iris or Sharon J. Sharon J. stated that these Workgroups will lead right into the FY 14/15/16/17 Annual Update. i.1. Vince felt his attachment in today's packet was self-explanatory. The Ongoing Planning Council wants to see a paper trail – money is being spent but where is the paper trail. They have asked Manuel every year where the budget is and there has never been anything on it. Cora asked that Vince discuss the attachment items. Vince stated that this meeting should be a forum where there is no time limit and things can be discussed. Item #1 – Vince spoke with a client and this is what he was told. Item #2 – Vince went to the meeting to get an update but it hadn't been posted yet. The secretary said it would be posted on Friday which was only four days before the BOS met and thus the revision/update was not posted for 30 days. Item #4 – Capital Facilities – when they had an outcome and evaluation meeting, she stated they didn't need the money but they allocated money for her which they needed for something. Item #5 - Sally brought up these contracts and positions should have been brought up before the Board before it went to the BOS. But it was sent to the BOS without recommendations from the Board. The Rehab Counselor was not brought up on how it would work and be implemented; then he went to the BOS and allocated money for that position plus money allocated in the MHSA Update for that position again – it was two times he asked money for that. Cora stated that Vince's time was up and Vince commented that you cannot really say something because of the time. Cora stated that in order to meet everyone's needs, they have done this minute structure and try to get through the agenda and not get stuck on one issue. Cora will discuss this item at the Executive Committee meeting coming up. At next month's meeting Cora will report on how this attachment will be handled. Iris asked if Vince would like a meeting to further discuss these items; Iris offered to meet with Vince to discuss these issues and Vince stated that the whole Board should be discussing these items. j. Sharon reported that the Cultural Competence meeting occurs the 3rd Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. and anyone can attend. They are updating the Cultural Competence Plan, administering a self-assessment for staff throughout the Department and developing smaller trainings of CBMCS for different teams in the Department as well as for the Mental Health Board and other individuals to receive cultural responsive trainings. The Cultural Competence Summit was held October 2-3, 2013 in Modesto. k. Mary E. reported the Community Partner meeting was held on October 31st and was very interesting. Mary went over the different subjects covered – Affordable Care Act and how it affects them, grant programs available, and community partner updates. l. Richard stated he had nothing new other than introducing the newest AOD Board member, William Hamilton, who attended today's meeting also.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XI. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Cora stated that the Board would like to have a presentation on Laura's Law and what Merced County is doing. Richard stated that as far as he knows this is something that is still up in the air and that Southern California was chosen to pilot the program to see if it would work. Iris stated that there is information on this on the web. Scott stated a presentation next month would be fine.

Vince had a document requesting how many voting members there are on the Board, who they are, what constitutes funding groups funded by Mental Health, etc. Cora asked that Vince forward the document to her.

Iris discussed the Brown Act and emails and apparently there is a violation of the Brown Act if an email is sent to everyone. Hub disagreed because the sharing of information does not violate the act; it is more if it is said, "I would like you to vote in support of this information. . . .". Hub thought they should check with County Counsel. Scott agreed that as long as you are not encouraging a vote by proxy, the sharing of information is fine. Scott will check with County Counsel and have something next time.

XII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. The next meeting is December 3, 2013.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____