



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

May 7, 2013

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Planada Community Center-Senior Annex

9167 Stanford Avenue, Planada, CA

Present:	Mary Ellis, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Cora Gonzales; Chuck McClure; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Kim Carter; David Baker; Mary Hofmann; Keng Cha
Absent:	James Fuller; Maureen Freitas; Linda O'Donnell; Jan Morita; Audrey Spangler; Supervisor Walsh
Others Present:	Manuel Jimenez; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Angelo Lamas; Jessica Perez; Alicia Rodriguez; Olivia Gomez; Rena Lopez; Raul Jaurez, Interpreter-Healthy House; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

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

II. Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hofmann / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the minutes from April 2, 2013.

III. Approval of Agenda for May 7, 2013 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Sally commented that Item #VI be discussed after Item #VII. M/S/C (McClure / Baker) to approve the agenda for May 7, 2013 with the change of moving Items #VI and #VII around.

IV. Self-introductions (brief)

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary E. thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting. Self-introductions were done.

V. Why the Mental Health Board is in Planada Today

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary E. explained that the Mental Health Board was in Planada today to let the community know that the Board is available to help them. The Board does have compassion and concerns for the community and they want everyone to know that services are available.

Sally continued that the Board is aware of the Innovation Program in Planada. The Board feels that Innovation is a very good program helping the Latino population in Planada. The Board is also very interested in helping everyone in Merced County and they want to know the community's concerns.

Vince commented that the Board wants to understand how to best help the community of Planada.

Jessica, who is a Community Development Partner through the Mental Health Dept., continued with the services that are provided through Innovation. She has a partner, Freddie Sandoval, and together they support the communities of Le Grand and Planada. Her role has been to reach out to the communities in general. Freddie goes to the Le Grand High School and she goes to Granada High Continuation School doing a lot of outreach. Her main goal is to get herself involved in the community so they know her and what she does. Jessica lives in this community and she feels her living here gives the people a sense of comfort knowing she is one of them. Her main goal is to reduce the negative stigma that many Hispanic communities have. She has done presentations at Head Start and the First 5 and her exposure there helps her as well with parents.

Questions - Jessica was asked what she sees is a major problem as to why people are not seeking mental health services beside the stigma itself. She felt a major problem is transportation and many people do not know a specific location of where to go. Jessica was asked if those who go to Golden Valley Health Clinic in Planada are able to get services at County Mental Health if they have more serious mental health issues; Manuel replied that they can. Is there transportation available? Manuel replied that at this time the answer is 'no'; but this issue could be solved because the Department has hired three Program Assistance who provide transportation to clients. The Department also gives out bus vouchers for clients. Manuel continued that there is a Mental Health Clinician that works at the schools in the community and that person can see not only the kids but can also work with the parents.

V. Why the Mental Health Board is in Planada Today – con't.

Sally asked those from the community who were present to introduce themselves.

- Alicia Rodriguez was present and she stated that she is very active in Planada and she has been very successful in getting things started in Planada. The building the meeting was being held in is called the Senior Annex and she worked with HSA and Parks & Recreation to make this available for the community to have meetings and functions in there. They have "Movies in the Park", the Public Tourist Camp has a new facility and she was part of making that happen, and she helped get a cafeteria at Cesar Chavez School and at Granada High School she helped them get a school-activity place. Alicia has been the President and Chairperson of most everything in Planada. Alicia has spoken with Jessica several times giving her ideas on how to help the community.
- Rena Lopez introduced herself (through the interpreter). She is a mother who came for information. She has a 7-year old child who started having seizures last year. The doctors have done many studies and tests but cannot figure out why he is having seizures. His pediatrician referred her to Mental Health and said the child may be provoking the seizures himself.
- Olivia Gomez introduced herself. She is from the Planada community. For the past few years she has been working with several different people to get services here in the community from the Dept. of Mental Health. Little by little they are getting the services they need out there. The Mental Health 1st Aid training for the parents made them aware of the different mental health illnesses. In the Hispanic culture you are either okay or you are crazy – there is no in between and then they don't get the help they need for the "in between". And, of course, once you start getting help, you want more. They want to help the parents get the services they need. One of the problems they see is the turnover of clinicians – parents like to see a little more stability. Manuel did explain how the clinician in Planada started working with Juvenile Mental Health Court and there was a change in clinicians. Hopefully there will be stability with the new clinician that has been assigned. Olivia continued that just getting the services to the schools, the parents now realize their kids are receiving services.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Discuss Mental Health Board Retreat on April 20, 2013

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel thanked Jan and Cora for them organizing this retreat. He feels it was well structured, had an even flow, it was not rushed, there was plenty of time for each topic to be discussed and there was a smooth transition from each subject matter. It was one of the better working retreats that he had attended.

Cora commented that a lot of time was spent on the planning process, but, they wanted it to be a fun, relaxing retreat. She felt the facilitator was awesome, he really made it happen. He was very knowledgeable and a better facilitator couldn't have been picked.

Mary E. thanked the committee. She thanked the Director for his support. The whole retreat made her feel special, everything was well done. She hopes that this retreat will take place again next year. She thanked everyone who had input into this retreat. It was fun and enjoyable.

David thought it was good to see a mix of different professionals at each table.

Sally also enjoyed the retreat. There were several breaks. It was also a time to plan for the coming year; as a whole Board, they planned some goals for next year and this has not happened before. Sally was glad that the Patient Rights' Advocate also attended.

Vince was happy that the AOD Board members were right in the mix of everything; they were enthusiastic and intrigued by what was happening. This is a good sign that they want to incorporate with Mental Health.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. 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. Vince asked those present how they were informed of the meeting today. Ms. Lopez responded that she received a letter. Alicia found out because she is always informed when the building is going to be used and she also received a flyer from Irene and Luis DeLaCruz. She felt that the clinicians at the local schools is a good thing but she also recommended that it would be beneficial if they could have a mini-clinic here at the Community Center once in a while; possibly after the Zumba classes because once one person knows, the news spreads quickly.

VII. Opportunity for Public Input to Speak – con't.

Jessica stated that their exposure has benefitted because of the connections she has made in the community. Her partner, Freddie, has seen the same. The community is getting to know them and feel more comfortable with them. What really helps is that she and Freddie both graduated from Le Grand High and know many of the people in the community already.

Sally asked Jessica if there is any training being done within Innovation to educate people on mental illness to learn the early signs and symptoms and where to go for help. Jessica stated that they have been doing the "Mental Health 1st Aid" training which teaches the basics. Manuel continued that the Dept. is doing a lot of trainings through the Mental Health 1st Aid training; he believes Healthy House is doing it in Spanish. Others in the community have also attended the Mental Health 1st Aid training. Some staff will be sent for training on Mental Health 1st Aid for youth in order to teach it out in the schools so that teachers and parents can identify mental illness in youth.

Manuel continued that some of the other challenges are not only identifying mental illness but also where to get mental health services and also the fear of seeking services for those who are undocumented. For the record, the Department does not ask for legal status when services are provided.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VIII. Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel apologized for Supervisor Walsh not being able to attend today's meeting. He had a prior commitment.

Recommendation/Action: None

IX. Director's Report (Manuel)
a. Vision for MHSA

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel stated that when he attended a Town Hall meeting several years ago, he found Planada to be an outspoken community. At that time he told the Planada community that there was MHSA money but they needed to be at the table if they wanted some resources for their community. They did make themselves available and participated in the Innovation Plan and made their voice heard. That is why there are Community Developmental Partners and clinicians in Planada now. a. The MHSA has several different components – 1) Community Support Services, which provides intensive services to programs like Aspiranet, Turning Point and the Wellness Centers; 2) Prevention and Early Intervention Program; 3) Housing Component; 4) Capital Facility/IT Component; 5) Workforce & Education Training Component; 6) Innovation Plan. The plan is seven years old already and many of the goals in these components have been accomplished. They have spent all of our housing money. There are eight apartments in Los Banos, and there are ten apartments in Merced that will be ready for occupancy by the end of summer. Many of the Workforce & Education Training components have been completed, but there are a lot that he feels need to be revamped. Some programs were successful and some were not. With Capital Facilities/IT they have spent all but about \$300,000; the B Street complex was purchased and implemented the electronic health records. The Innovation Plan is up and running and there is a lot of work to do with this; this will always be a work-in-progress. PE&I Program – they are coming to the end of a contract cycle and all those contracts will have to be reviewed. Manuel has asked the Planning Council to throw out the old plan and come up with a new plan. Because the plan is seven years old, the data is old; they need to gather more information, update the plan, and find out what the needs of the community are now. The Latino community is still an underserved community in this county. Merced County ranks 54 out of 58 counties in regards to the penetration rate. Mental Health is now in thirty-five schools (and hope to be in more) and 67% of the kids seen in the schools are Latino. This will dramatically increase the penetration rate. There is one more year with the PE&I contract and Manuel wants to start having discussion now – they need to get data, look at the current trends, they have to go out to the communities and listen to what their needs are. Manuel wants to reach out to the people who have not been reached out to yet. There is still a large unheard voice in Merced County. Manuel recently attended a Town Hall meeting in Santa Nella and there were many people present and many did not even know there was a Mental Health Clinic in Los Banos. Transportation is also a problem on the Westside. Cora asked about having a Town Hall meeting in Winton because this is also a pocket of the County that has a transportation problem and has a need for services as well. At the next On-going Planning Council, Manuel is going to ask them to expand some programs next year. He is also going to ask for a clinician for the Winton schools (to be shared with Ballico, Cressey). Cora also thought a PSA (public service announcement) in the Spanish Radio station regarding mental health services.

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. / Mary E.)
- j. **Cultural Competency Committee** (Mary H. / David)
- k. **Community Partner's Meeting** (Vince / Mary E.)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The next meeting is May 28th. b. Mary E. reported that the Nominating Committee will be ready to present their candidates for office in June. c. Kim reported that they are on-hold at the moment. d. Chris reported that the State Patients' Rights Advocate Specialist was here for a program review on April 15th & 18th. It went well. e. Chuck reminded everyone that May is Mental Health Month. This coming Friday, May 10th, they are having their Annual Picnic at Lake Yosemite. It will be held in the Cove area, not the fish and game area. This is a very nice area. Yesterday they had their Cinco de Mayo celebration and about 75 people turned out for it. There are still some ongoing issues with the television. In the past few months they have turned the TV off between 10:00 and 12:00 and 1:30-2:30 for group times in the hopes to expand group attendance. However, there has been an influx of consumers who really love The Price is Right and there is some backing for it that it is educational. It now looks like it will be on between 10:00-11:00. Everything else is going well. Manuel announced that the Wellness Center artwork entitled, "The Wings of Hope and Grace" was selected to hang up at the office of the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission, Sacramento office. f. Keng has not yet been able to register in order to attend this meeting. Sally asked if either Manuel or Carol could help Keng get registered in order to attend the CALMHB/C meetings; Manuel stated that he will take care of it. g. Mary H. commented that they will be participating in the CIT trainings next week. Several are going up to Modesto on Tuesday for a NAMI sponsored cross-cultural training. They are being trained in provider-training in June and hopefully that program will roll out in the Fall. h. Cora was unable to attend the last meeting. i. Iris reported that on May 22nd and 23rd is the MHSA Outcomes Event. The Director shared his vision and a subcommittee was developed to take on this task. Manuel hopes they will have their recommendations by Spring. After the MHSA Outcomes is over they will look at all the input and then penetration and retention by city. Then they can show where we are at and based on that data it should correspond with what the community is saying. j. This meeting was canceled. k. This meeting was canceled.

Vince reported that he attended that last AOD Advisory Board meeting. They are in the process of changing the licensing for clinicians in AOD. Manuel commented that there are several licensing agencies that certify drug and alcohol counselors. California has been trying to streamline the associations. For a while they have been trying to get the Board of Behavioral Sciences to be like the State agency that regulates and monitors them. However, since there have been so many different agencies who certify drug and alcohol counselors, they are trying to bring them to the table but there are also issues with that. There are many discussions about this. It is still up for negotiations at the State level and CADPAAC is looking into it.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XI. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is June 4, 2013.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____