



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

March 4, 2014

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; James Fuller; Jan Morita; Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann; Vince Ramos; David Baker, Audrey Spangler; Chuck McClure
Absent:	Kim Carter; Supervisor Walsh
Others Present:	Scott De Moss; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Sharon Robinson; Kurt Craig; Dr. Livermore, AOD Board; Robert Porta; 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

Iris Mojica de Tatum read the Mission Statement.

Cora shared the following statement – “Challenge is a dragon with a gift in its mouth. Tame the dragon and the gift is yours”.

Cora passed around a condolence card for Board members to sign for Hub Walsh who recently lost his father.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2014 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Fuller / Ellis) to approve the minutes from February 4, 2014.

IV. Approval of Agenda for March 4, 2014 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Baker) to approve the March 4, 2014 agenda.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince stated that a consumer spoke with him regarding the volunteer work he does at the Wellness Center. This client was under the impression that because he ‘works’ there he is going to get hired. When this individual found out differently, he became very upset and had to see the nurse.

Audrey reported she is having transportation problems. She has already filed a grievance and request asking for transportation. She went to Quality Assurance and they told her they texted the transportation people and they would be getting back with Audrey. They have not yet done this. Other people are taken grocery shopping and other things; she feels she should have equal rights for transportation to her mental health appointments. Scott said this would be looked into and he would get back with Audrey.

Sally commented on the recent Sun Star article regarding stating that the homeless population has doubled. She wondered who has taken Audrey Slocum’s position. She was told that Cornelia Leyva replaced Audrey.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VI. Pre-Claim Audit – Robert Porta

Discussion/Conclusion: Robert reported that in the past the numbers were rather high in terms of disallowances – around 40%. There has been some improvement – about 30% - but he is not satisfied with that either. He would like to see this come down more and this is a clear goal of his. In terms of the Medi-Cal audit, they are looking at those numbers as well. This is a significant goal that Robert sees in terms of making the organization better but also in the quality of care we give the clients.

➤ Sally commented that it was said at the audit that the Department was understaffed – Robert commented that this is true for the QI

VI. Pre-Claim Audit – Robert Porta – con’t.

Department. She questioned if QI would be getting more staff. Robert stated that the Quality Assurance Specialist position just opened this week. They are also recruiting for the QI Coordinator. Sally questioned if there will be more training for staff in making sure the paperwork is done correctly. Robert replied that they are looking at different training materials used in the past. Luckily a lot of the mandates have not been changed by the State; it’s just that we need to reinitiate those trainings again. Some of the trainings are rather long and they are wondering if they want to make them a little more concise and to the point. Sharon J. stated that she is working on a staff development contract through CiMH that will address a lot of the issues also – like training for staff.

➤ Mary E. questioned if the training would consist of a manual so that each staff member is accountable for their part of the job/their responsibility. Robert stated that he is looking at training what the State mandates are. Such as, if you have an assessment, you have to have a full criteria to justify a diagnosis; if you have a treatment plan, is it measureable. This is what he is looking towards in terms of how to define a good utilization review.

➤ Vince questioned if the new staff to be hired in QI will have some kind of experience. Robert stated that the current staff are good team members. They will hire people who have the right requirements in order to fill the duties that are needed. Vince asked how they will be handling the indigents – are they tracked? Are they billable? Will they be enrolled in Medi-Cal or Obamacare? Curt stated that this part of the whole system – trying to reduce the number of indigents because of the ACA. Curt stated that we will continue to work with people whether they are indigent or not – that is our population. Hopefully, we can help them get insurance – not only for our benefit, but also for their own benefit.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Wellness Center Participation – Curt Willems

Discussion/Conclusion: The question was who is eligible to attend and utilize the facilities. Curt stated that several years ago the Wellness Center was set up as a MHSA program to provide services to the community. One thing that happened is that people were coming in that may not have fit the criteria for what we were trying to achieve through the Wellness Center. It was also seen that there were safety issues/risk management issues to ensure that people were not being taken advantage of within the Wellness Center. The decision was made to meet the needs of our population – those already in our system of care – and create an avenue for those that we can identify in some way because we are familiar with them. If someone wants to use the Wellness Center, they have to check in at the front desk to make sure they are in our system. This set boundaries. With the homeless shelter so close, some of our population get preyed upon by people outside the system and are taken advantage of. Curt further stated that at one time the Department was providing medical care at the Wellness Center and this no longer happens because it is not Medi-Cal certified; the service was moved off-site. Participation at the Wellness Center is not based on Medi-Cal. Technically the Wellness Center is meant to be for consumers to run most of the programs – basically, client driven.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

- VIII. Chair’s Report**
- a. Strategic Planning Session
 - b. By-Laws Review
 - c. 60 Minute Program
 - d. Webinar Reminder

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The Executive Committee discussed a strategic planning session on March 19th for anyone wanting to attend. They want to get an idea on how to move/modify the agenda to meet all the needs of the Board members. Cora questioned Carol where this would take place and she responded that this was the first she had heard about this and she would have to wait until tomorrow in order to check calendars. b. The Exec Committee also discussed the by-laws and this is on hold for now due to the blending of the two Boards. They are not moving forward with any major changes at this time – but it is in discussion. c. Cora thanked Carol for sending out the link to the 60-Minute article. Cora hoped that all Board members had a chance to view it. d. The next webinar is March 22nd at the B Street large conference room. This webinar will be on Advanced Mental Health Board training and Cora encouraged everyone to attend. Cora also reminded everyone regarding a CALMHB/C training on March 22nd also.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. Supervisor’s Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh was not present today.

Recommendation/Action: None

X. Director’s Report
a. By-Laws – Term Limits
b. EQRO Report
c. Recruitment Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a. At last month’s meeting there was a question regarding the By-laws and term limits. Scott reported that in the By-laws, under Section 4 – Term of Office – the guidelines state, “No member shall hold more than one office at one time and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office”. In terms of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary – you cannot be both at the same time and you cannot serve more than twice in a row. As far as term limits for the members of the Board – there are no term limits. b. The Department has not received anything in writing yet. With that in mind, Scott just reported that they were here last month and it went relatively well. As with the Medi-Cal system, there are certain systems that need improvement and he believes that will be in the report back to us. The meeting and exit interview went positively. When the Department does receive official notice, it will be brought to this Board. Iris questioned if the EQRO considers Golden Valley in the penetration rate and the population they serve. Scott responded that they looked at this Department only. The penetration rate for the Hispanic population – we had a higher population than the average county in the State, but our penetration rate was lower than the average. But if you looked at the percentage served compared to other populations, we were higher because we had a larger group of people to serve. c. The recruitment closed on February 10th. There were a handful of candidates that made it through the screening process. The CEO was going through them in order to set up another panel for interviewing. Scott did not know any dates for this. Scott noted that in the second round, it seemed like it was a more external group of candidates that applied.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XI. 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. CA Association of Local Mental Health Board/Chair (CALMHB/C) Update (David / Keng)
g. National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) (Jan)
h. Children’s System of Care (CSOC) (Cora)
i. MHSA Ongoing Planning Council (Sharon J. / Iris)
j. Cultural Competency Committee (Mary H. / David)
k. Community Partner’s Meeting (Vince / Mary E.)
l. Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) (Richard)
m. Nominating Committee

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally reported there was not meeting last month. b. Next month Cora will be naming a Nominating Committee. The Exec Committee has been having some good discussions at their monthly meetings. Cora thanked Iris and Richard for their input. c. Kim was not present. d. Chris reported that last week she attended the PRAT (Patients’ Rights Advocate Training) in Sacramento for three days. There has been new 5150 legislation which could impact how business is done. She has been forwarding information to Scott, Curt, Dr. Manuel and Perry regarding the new forms. There was also discussion on people who are incompetent to stand trial in the jails and the lengthy waits for mentally ill people to go to Napa and the deteriorating mental status of people in not only Merced County but statewide. e. Chuck reported that last month was very busy. Black History month was celebrated each Friday. On February 14th they combined the Valentine’s Day event with Black History month and it went well. Fund raising through CAC – they were going to have a fund raiser on March 14th but decided to postpone it until the 21st; they will be having hot dogs and hot links. The next Mental Health Month picnic will be May 9th. Because of the success of their art group over the years, they would like to make a video showing the history of the art group and how it has grown, matured and helped different consumers. f. Keng had nothing new to report. David stated there is a training on March 22nd and there may be a regional meeting at the webinar in San Joaquin County. He and Keng will probably attend. The CALMHB/C is updating their website. The CALMHB/C would like to get the minutes from all the

X. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

different county meetings and post them on their website. g. Jan passed out invitations to the NAMI event (Community Dialogue) on Saturday in Livingston. At their NAMI Board meeting this month, Livingston Police Chief Ruben Chavez will do a presentation on a program that is being introduced at Livingston Middle School called MAPS. A police officer will be stationed at the school and will be able to interact with the students so that fear of law enforcement will be reduced. Lastly, on May 28th at their Board meeting, they will have a special program, if they are chosen. They have the possibility of hosting a showing of Call Me Crazy. This is a film created by Jennifer Aniston and features celebrities who either have a mental illness or have a loved-on with mental illness. It is a 90-minute film and only 100 opportunities are being offered across the country. It is not going out to the public. Merced has not been selected yet, Jan just wants everyone to save the date in case this county is selected. h. There was not a meeting last month. i. Sharon J. reported they are in the middle of community planning process for the 3-year program for FY 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17. At the last meeting she showed a powerpoint on the guidelines for this and gave to the stakeholders. She will be doing a presentation on prevention and early intervention (PEI) and possibly have a discussion on the central valley suicide prevention line. They are doing focus groups throughout the county and key informant interviews. On Monday and Tuesday they are having a pre-outcomes event where everyone is invited to look at what MHSA providers are doing. j. Sharon J. reported that they will be looking at updating the Cultural Competence Plan; looking at cultural and linguistic appropriate services. Aspiranet is expanding; they are getting more and more staff. k. Mary E. reported on the recent Community Partner's meeting. This is AOD's 21st year, there is a lot of fiscal work going on in preparation for next year's budget, Anasazi is appreciated for their support fiscally, Los Banos is hiring two staff this month, AOD has an ongoing structural shift, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Anasazi has a lot of time consuming changes taking place. Vince continued that Merced Lao Family is having their Mental Health Awareness Day in Applegate Park. l. Richard reported that they are still working/waiting for a new Director. On March 22nd at Buhach High School there will be the annual Youth 2 Youth conference and everyone is invited to attend. m. Cora will bring a nominating committee announcement in April. There will be a ballot in May for voting in the new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for the next fiscal year.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XI. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Cora thanked Mary for all the emails she sends out keeping the Board updated with news. Vince questioned if the County was going to provide transportation to the training in Fresno on Saturday. Scott responded that the County is not providing a vehicle, but the Department will reimburse Board members mileage that do attend. Regarding the 60 Minutes show, Vince gave some figures on the cost of treating a mentally ill person – it costs \$113,000,000 per year to treat the mentally ill, the average stay in a hospital is 7.2 days/year and there are 38,364 suicides a year.

Recommendation/Action: None

XII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is April 1, 2014.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____