



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting
September 2, 2014
3:30 – 5:00 pm
1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Supervisor Walsh, Mary Ellis; Mary Hofmann; Chuck McClure; Kim Carter; David Baker; James Fuller; Keng Cha
Absent:	Cora Gonzales
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Kurt Craig; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Richard Hawthorne, 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.

III. Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2014 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (McClure / Ragonut) to approve the minutes from August 5, 2014.

Recommendation/Action: None

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary H. – she passed out flyers and reported that NAMI's next Family-to-Family starts this Thursday night and the Peer-to-Peer class starts two weeks after that. They are also offering a new class entitled NAMI Basics Education Program and it is for parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illness.

David – at the last CALMHB/C meeting Manuel Jimenez was there and he said "hello" to everyone in Merced County. He is now the Director of Alameda County.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

V. Chair's Report – Richard Hawthorne

- a. Laura's Law Committee Update
- b. Retreat
- c. By-Laws Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Mary E. thanked Kurt, Iris, Sally, Vince, Kim, Mary H. and Chris for faithfully attending these meetings. They would like to recommend that the Mental Health Board support pursuing Laura's Law in Merced County. Iris added that the committee came up with the following statement, "The assisted outpatient treatment does parallel the conservative procedure – meaning that it's not an unknown process – the committee understands it is in the best interest in terms of safety to clients, families and the community at large, and it will provide an additional tool for the County to address unmet mental health needs". Sally commented that per the minutes from last month, Curt was going to report back on some data regarding the particular population that might be involved with Laura's Law. Curt stated that he wasn't able to get this data, but he knows that we don't have any at this point that would meet the criteria. He will follow-up with this. Chris stated she is on this committee but she did not vote for this because she is not on the Mental Health Board. But she wanted to make a statement for the record as the Patients' Rights Advocate. On behalf of the those consumers and residents of Merced County who feel that Laura's Law is a violation of their civil liberties, "Treatment is really most effective when it is voluntary and not coerced. The dollars most advocates would state should be better spent on improving the

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already comprehensive services that are potentially available in this County rather than spending extra money on Laura’s Law”. Chris continued that there really is no proof that it will reduce violence at this point in time. Sharon J. commented that all voluntary services have to be exhausted before moving forward with Laura’s Law. After continued discussion it was decided that this will be tabled until we know more about the clients (how many) we would be serving in our community. Our numbers may be very small and would then not be feasible to consider. The committee will continue to pursue, investigate, narrow down the costs and clients, and how to implement Laura’s Law here in Merced County. Staff involvement is needed in order to get needed data; the Director will get her team to put together what is considered the population that would fit the criteria; based on the preliminary numbers and the cost associated with that, this can be brought back to this Board. The Director did not know when this information would be available, but she will have Carol send an email when the information is available. **b.** The Executive Committee would like to have the Annual Retreat on Saturday, September 20th from 9:00-1:00. They will cover the budget, goals/vision/mission, By-Laws, and the process to address the goals set for the Board for FY 2014/15. Supervisor Walsh and Mary H. cannot make this date. Only refreshments will be provided. **c.** Several have made recommendations. One was on the make-up of the Board and how the AOD Board will play into this. There was general discussion on the make-up of the Board – consumers, family members, etc. Yvonnia noticed a section where the wording should be changed to Behavioral Health; Richard will change that. There was a question regarding the language around who can and cannot actually be on the Board and how does AOD play into this; Richard stated that if we move to a Behavioral Health Board, this language would also apply to AOD. There was also reference to the State Dept. of Mental Health which no longer exists and this language should be changed to Dept. of Health Care Services. There was a question about the statement that no member of the Board or his/her spouse shall be a full- or part-time employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Dept. of Mental Health or an employee of or a paid member of the governing body of, a mental health contract agency. Supervisor Walsh felt this means if you cannot meet membership numbers through consumers, Board appointments, etc., you could waive the requirement that no member of a Board or spouse can be on the Board and appoint folks who do meet those numbers. Richard reminded everyone that before this is finalized, County Counsel will look at this. The last issue was the recommendation of adding two standing committees – the Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Prevention Committee and the Oversight and Accountability Committee. Supervisor Walsh questioned what the term limit would be. Richard stated he assumed they would want the term limit to be the same as the Nominating Committee – one year; he advocated using the same language used in the Nominating Committee. The Board agreed with this.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Hawthorne / Mojica de Tatum) that the Committee to continue researching Laura’s Law and when ready to then educate the BOS on what Laura’s Law is. Other actions as noted above.

VI. Supervisor’s Report – Hub Walsh

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh reported that last Tuesday the BOS adopted a balanced county budget; it was balanced because there was some end-of-year rollover dollars that assisted in balancing the budget. The picture is better (meaning the shortfall was less than prior shortfalls) however, the drought and other things makes everyone nervous about what next year’s budget might look like. There was discussion that the Board might have to have another discussion about the redirection of realignment dollars to assist other agencies that are exhausting their realignment dollars. This is authorized by law, annually, to do; up to 10% of the dollars could be transferred. Other discussion – they have been focusing on State legislature and their end-of-term. Supervisor Walsh has been asked to serve as ex-officio officer with the Continuum of Care on the Homeless Group for MCAG. Lastly, there has been a lot of discussion lately on issues unrelated to the Mental Health Advisory Board but groundwater and local and State approaches. There is more to come in this area.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Director’s Report – Yvonnia Brown

- a. Clinician II’s (how many are licensed & how many on waivers)**
- b. Update on Hospital Re-use**

Discussion/Conclusion: **a.** Yvonnia reported that at last month’s meeting the Board wanted to know how many licensed clinicians the Department has. A document with this information was passed out. There are 38 clinicians of which 11 are licensed and 27 have a waiver and are under supervision of a clinical, licensed individual. It was clarified that the expiration date means that each year, if you are waived, there is a certain deadline to pay your money in order to remain active. The question was asked if anyone on this list had been grandfathered in; and there are seven on the list who are grandfathered in. Curt emphasized that those who were

VII. Director's Report – Yvonnia Brown – con't.

grandfathered in have the opportunity to continue to get licensed; one issue is that as long as they continue to renew their license registration, they can take the test for licensure at least once annually – whether they pass or not – they continue to be up-to-date with their registration. If they do not take the test, the 3,000 hours that they had accumulated in order to get to the test, starts all over again. b. Yvonnia reported that they are still in conversation with Public Works. The Dept. did receive a preliminary proposal for the 3-story building with a cost of about \$13 million. There is a meeting this week to discuss the financial resources for the first phase which is a 2-story annex building. Public Works is working on three different proposals for the Dept. She should know more by the next meeting.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VIII. Reports / Updates
a. Executive Committee - Richard
b. July QI Committee Report - Sally
c. NAMI – Mary H.

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard asked that anyone who has not yet turned in their Annual Report in order to be updated, to please get the report to Carol as soon as possible. Once the update is completed, Richard will make an appointment with each of the Supervisors, meet with each and give them a copy of the Annual Report. Richard continued that everyone who attended the recent ethics training, please be sure to fill out the attendance form and return to Carol. Richard asked everyone be sure to turn in their Board binder book in order to be updated also. b. Sally went over the July QI Committee Report; this was attached to everyone's monthly packet. c. Mary H. reported that on September 19th they are having a presentation to ministers about mental illness and how to help their parishioners. NAMI also does a program called *In Our Own Voice* which is two consumers who present their experiences in getting to recovery. She thought that this might be something the Department would like to see. Yvonnia suggested that she and Mary talk about further.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

IX. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Sharon J. announced that the MHSA 3-Year Plan will be posted in the morning and the Board will be notified. Carol reminded everyone that the October Board meeting will be a Public Hearing for the MHSA 3-Year Plan.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is October 7, 2014.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____