



# Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

December 1, 2015

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

<b>Present:</b>	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann
<b>Absent:</b>	Supervisor Hub Walsh; Paula Mason
<b>Others Present:</b>	Yvonna Brown; Forrest Hansen, County Counsel; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Tabatha Haywood; Jeanette Merchant; Liz Freitas; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

### II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

### III. Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2015 (BOARD ACTION)

**Action/Recommendation:** M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to approve the minutes from October 20, 2015.

### 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. announced that NAMI's Family-to-Family Classes start on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Peer-to-Peer Class this Spring will be in English and there will be a Connections class as well which is a support group for people who have a mental illness.

Vince announced that the PEI regulations came into effect in November 2015. They are having a "what you need to know" training on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00-11:30; it is a teleconference.

Vince also clarified why he brings consumer issues to this Board. Clients come to Vince and want some help. Vince then brings it to this Board in order to be aware of what is happening. The Behavioral Health Board has done a lot to improve mental health with the help of the staff and Administration.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### V. County Counsel Overview – Forrest Hansen

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Forrest stated he is a Deputy County Counsel. He was present to give an overview of the Brown Act. This is an Advisory Board – it does not run a Department, it does not direct staff. It advises the Director of Mental Health and the Board of Supervisors. It has a limited role; but a very important role in getting feedback back to the CEO, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Director. Any committee that is appointed by the BOS or is defined as a legislative committee under the Brown Act is subject to the Brown Act. Forrest then went over the basics. All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency. A meeting is not just this particular meeting; a meeting can be anytime you are getting together with other members of the Board – whether physically, on the phone, or by email. It is any gathering of a majority of the members to hear, discuss or deliberate on any item that is within the jurisdiction of the committee. If an email goes to more than half this Board, this is a Brown Act violation; if it has to do with an idea for Mental Health, it needs to be brought up in this forum where there is 72-hour notice, it is on the agenda, or a public comment before the meeting starts. It has to be brought up here so the public has an opportunity to participate in the deliberations of the committee. The purpose of the Brown Act is so that decisions are made in the open, in the public. There are remedies for Brown Act violations – someone could file for an injunction stopping the action of the committee; a declaratory relief could be filed where you go to court to state there was a Brown Act violation; if someone accuses the Board of a Brown Act violation, and they are correct, they could be entitled to collecting the attorney's fees for filing that action; it is a misdemeanor to violate the Brown Act. If the Board has any concerns, they should contact

Mental Health staff. There are provisions in the Brown Act for emergency meetings. An agenda item cannot be changed at the meeting.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VI. Chair's Reports**  
**a. Wellness Center Lawn (follow-up)**  
**b. Site Visits**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Yvonna reported that this was discussed at last month's meeting. She has been advised to identify a particular area in front of the Wellness Center that clients, who are receiving services and are engaged at the Wellness Center, will be able to use in order to have a cigarette or just have a breath of fresh air. There will be a poster in the Wellness Center showing the designated area. Yvonna went over the history of this issue. This is being done for the safety of the clients. The "designated area" will be for the Wellness Center's normal business hours (8:00-4:30) and anyone in this area at other times will be considered loitering on county property and will have to leave. Yvonna was asked if this had been addressed with the clients and she stated that she has not yet done so, but this is her next step. Once she has done this, it will be brought back to the Behavioral Health Board. b. Richard stated that a committee was established three months ago with the purpose of visiting different sites that relate to the Behavioral Health Board. After some discussion of where they would like to visit, they learned that some of the sites could not be visited because they are non-County sites. If they want to visit County-owned sites there still has to be a protocol and agenda. The goal of the committee visiting these sites was to just "see" what those sites offer. They are redirecting the visitation process. If they want to learn about some of the other sites – Aspiranet, Lao Family, etc. – they can invite those organizations to a Board meeting and have them give a presentation.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**VII. Supervisor's Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Walsh was not present.

**Recommendation/Action:**

**VIII. Director's Report**  
**a. Wellness Center Policy (follow-up)**  
**b. Building Project Update (Next Steps)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Yvonna stated they are in the process of drafting a new, revised policy. They have heard the concerns and comments from this Board, consumers and family members. They are looking at opening it up for the insured population, but they do have to be severely, mentally ill, their primary doctor has to make the referral, and they have to have an ongoing relationship with the doctor/therapist. There will only be so many slots available for this population; it will be first come, first served, and there will be a waiting list. Once there is a policy in place, Yvonna will give NAMI an update. She hopes the policy will be in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will bring it back to the Board when it will definitely be implemented. b. Yvonna reported that she has been meeting with the architects, everything is moving forward. They will be having bi-weekly WebEx/meetings beginning in December. The draft plans are being fine-tuned now. They are tentatively scheduled to go to the BOS in March or April to get their approval on the bid documents/project costs. She will bring more information hopefully next month on where they are with the behavioral integration plan. Phase 2 deals with the name change for the Department. She will be giving periodic updates on where they are with this. There are three recommendations for the name and she will discuss this more next month. There was discussion of what will happen with the B Street location once the new building is up and running. There will be further conversation on this subject.

Curt commented that in regards to the Crisis Residential Unit, he will be going this Thursday to Sacramento to the Calif. Health Facility Financing Authority (CHFFA) to present the plans and show them where we are at currently, and ask for an extension that is needed. In the grant it was set up for a certain amount of time that we would have before we got started. Now we need an extension; he does not see it as an issue. He will be taking the plans up to them to show what the CRU will look like.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

<b>IX. Reports / Updates</b> a. Executive Committee b. QIC Report
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> a. Richard had nothing to report from the Executive Committee. b. Sally gave a report on the QIC meeting from October 27 <sup>th</sup> . Mary E. stated that for the November 17 <sup>th</sup> QIC meeting, she will table this and give Carol a copy of her report to be included in the next monthly packet.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> Information only
<b>X. Announcements</b>
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> Richard wished everyone a happy holiday. Richard reported that a recent board member, Chuck McClure, recently passed away. He asked that everyone keep Chuck and his family in their prayers.
<b>XI. Adjournment</b>
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. The next meeting is January 5, 2016.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Hulsizer  
Recording Secretary

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_