



# Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

August 4, 2015

3:30 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; Supervisor Walsh; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann
<b>Absent:</b>	Kim Carter
<b>Others Present:</b>	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Sharon Jones; Tabatha Haywood; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

## MINUTES

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

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

### II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

### III. Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2015 (BOARD ACTION)

**Action/Recommendation:** M/S/C (Ellis / Ragonut) to approve the minutes from July 7, 2015.

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

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sally spoke as a parent of a client of Merced County. They have had a very hard time as a family for the last seven months as they watched their son sinking into the depths of mental illness. As is so often the case, he didn't believe he needed his medication. Sally is very grateful that Merced County Mental Health was there to pick him up and hospitalize him in Marie Green three times since May. Currently he is voluntarily placed at K & R Board and Care in Delhi. It is a privately owned facility; owned by the same gentleman that owns the Salvador Lodge. There have been two Board meetings at the Salvador in the past. Her son says the food at K & R is good and he enjoys the freedom there. The outdoor sitting area is grassy, well-shaded and pleasant. Sally and her husband visited their son at K & R shortly after he moved there in July. The entrance was very difficult for Sally with a walker; fine dirt and sand to park in and walk in and no paved area or parking lot. There was a paved sidewalk when they got through the gate. Sally wanted to look around indoors but the handicapped ramp was exceedingly steep. The day after their visit, their son told them there were bedbugs. She immediately called the Office Manager and it was verified that they had been having a problem with bedbugs for over two years now. They are trying everything they can to eradicate them but because the clients are not forced to shower or change clothes, the bugs remain no matter how often they spray. This has been difficult for Sally to comprehend – that the Mental Health Department continues to send our clients there. It is a voluntary board and care home. As a parent and a Board member this is concerning.

Vince stated that at the last Board meeting he asked Yvonna about the \$6 million and \$25 million budget for the new building because Sharon Jones had said they were not borrowing \$25 million and she said they are using \$6 million for the building. Vince asked for an update on this. Yvonna stated that the overall building project is \$27 million plus. However, there are other funding sources – MHSA funding, other capital project funding, realignment, and possibly some other loans to offset this. There is \$6 million slated from the MHSA program under capital projects to go towards the building project. There is a proposal for FY 17/18 for another \$1.8 million to come out of MHSA funding along with the \$6 million which makes almost \$9 million (this is an estimate, she didn't have the numbers in front of her) towards the capital project. The overall project is about \$27 million; of that, \$6 or \$8 million is proposed to come from the MHSA capital projects. The other \$19 million, there is the Crisis Residential grant funding under SB 82 which is about \$3.5 million going towards the building project. There is some realignment also going towards this. About 80% of the funding is dealing with capital projects. Vince questioned having to use this money at the time it is given. Yvonna stated that they consulted with the State office and was told that the Department has the ability to use up to four or five years of that process; they are starting from FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 and that is an accumulation of about five years of capital project funding through MHSA. This has been supported and documented for MHSA from the State saying this is permissible for this project. Sharon Mendonca stated that for clarification – it is not

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going to impact current programs. Yvonnia reiterated that the funding used for this building project will have no direct impact to programs. All the programs that are established already have funding tied to it.

Vince continued that he is not affiliated with the consumer partners, but he questioned the statement made about going over the contracts – inside and out – and making sure the community partners or contract partners are working up to their skill; in other words making sure they are spending their money correctly. Yvonnia stated that one thing about the system improvement plan – Sharon met with the MHSA providers back in April along with the internal partners – that they are developing a system improvement plan. Her expectation is that the Department will be monitoring their contractors and the outcomes. The same being done for contractors, she is trying to develop a program inside as well. Her job is to make sure that services are being provided to the best of the Department's ability and the money being used to meet the needs of this community. She is having an improvement plan to go provide some technical assistance to contract vendors to make sure they are meeting their performance outcomes under the MHSA programs. She also wants to incorporate that same philosophy into the whole Department – not just MHSA. There will be a higher level of accountability for not only internal but for external partners as well.

Vince passed out copies of a section of the Calif. Code of Regulations and Mental Health Service Act regarding outpatient and client care. This is about the Wellness Center policy.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**V. Legislative Update – Kurt Craig**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Kurt reported that California is in summer recess thus there is nothing to report. Since the last meeting, AB 1424 has been passed and signed into law – this allows a Board participant to remain on the Board after they have taken employment with the Mental Health Department. He did have time to go through the Federal laws. Some of interest are: SB 993 and companion bill HR 1854 which is an attempt to provide better coordination for the justice system and mental health systems, in particular they are looking at funding and more importantly a warm handoff between the justice system and the local mental health system. They are trying to get veteran treatment courts together. They want fund crisis services, which would include while they are in the criminal justice system which we currently do not have funding for. This would be all inclusive – it is not just mental health, but they are looking at the behavioral health component and that would include alcohol and drug, law enforcement, health care, emergency room, housing and such. There is a scaled-down version of this bill – HR 731 – if one doesn't go forward, they are hoping they can push the other one forward. This would bring in local dollars for mental health court or drug court. Going back to California law – SB 238 and 253 are still in flux – these are the ones that are psychotropic drug specific bills for children. He expects them to take on more momentum once they come back from summer session. SB 614 which is the peer mentor certification program – this seems to be picking up a lot of momentum and is currently with Appropriations. He thinks it is slated to go through quickly.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VI. Wellness Center Trips – FY 14/15 & FY 15/16 – Sharon Mendonca**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** There was a handout showing the adult trips taken and children trips taken. The handout showed the trips for FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16. Sharon went over the document. The FY 15/16 trips were for upcoming trips this year. The adult trips were for both Merced and Los Banos clients. Chris stated this seems to support part of what the Wellness Center was saying in that the CUBE got to go to great places like the Aquarium, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. But the Merced adult Wellness Center remained in the County for every trip in FY 14/15. Sharon did not remember seeing any requests to go out of County and she didn't know why. Chris had the understanding that the out-of-county trips were declined; this is what the clients have told her. Sharon said she would have to look into that. A comment was made regarding how many more trips were in-county versus out-of-county for the adults; Curt stated this could be looked into. There was another comment regarding adult trips this year and why there were so few. Sharon M. stated that liability insurance is taken out for the calendar year and that is why only 2015 trips are noted. In January 2016 they will take out liability insurance again for that calendar year. Iris commented that some adult trips look like they are more rehab than socialization. Yvonnia stated that another list could be made and brought back excluding those trips that are rehab. Vince commented that awhile back he made a statement that the money spent was prior to 2009 and he had been given some paperwork from 2009 and after 2011 the MHSA funding dollar was not spent on the clients. The paperwork he had showed everything was before 2010. Sharon commented that the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) was able to save up and purchase those items; she had a list showing which items were bought by the CAC and those purchased by the Department. There is more money going into this next

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year's fiscal budget for art supplies and program supplies and there is a new way of tracking them. In prior years for art supplies it is a hard process to find all those items and pull them out of the invoices; this information has been brought to this Board before and she can do it again. Vince continued that it was not separated out, it was just one lump sum. Yvonnia stated that this will be part of her discussion under the Director's Report. Vince continued that a client said that the Wellness Center is only getting \$10,000 for their art supplies and Vince wanted to know what will happen with the rest of the \$25,000 that was to go to the Center for the clients. Yvonnia stated that she will elaborate more during her presentation – this is part of the budget report for the Wellness Center. Mary H. reported that when NAMI first began (about ten years ago) they were asked to help the Wellness Center with the money they raised from fundraisers. The Wellness Center needed a place – a non-profit – to run the money and wanted to use NAMI. Mary had forgotten about this until \$100 was found which was designated for the Wellness Center. She asked who the check should be made out to. Chris stated that the Wellness Center has created their own account now. After some discussion it was decided someone should contact the Wellness Center to find out what they need, then go purchase it with the \$100.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**VII. Chair's Reports**  
**a. Donation in Memory of James Fuller**  
**b. Committee Formation for Reviewing Facilities**  
**c. Upcoming Retreat – August 8, 2015**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Richard contacted Mrs. Fuller and she was very appreciative of the Board's wishes. She indicated that it would be her wish to honor James in the form of a donation to the American Heart Association. She indicated that James passed away due to a heart attack. It was suggested that everyone do this individually and not as a group. Richard did ask that when someone does make a donation to please let him know because he will do some follow-up on this. Mrs. Fuller asked that Richard pass on to the Board that Mr. Fuller fully enjoyed his work with the Board and the members. He looked forward to coming to the meetings and she appreciated our interaction with him. b. This was brought up by Sally at the last meeting. The goal of this committee would be to visit contracted and County facilities. After some discussion those that volunteered to be on this committee are: Sally Ragonut, Mary Hofmann, Mary Ellis and Vince Ramos. Hub thought it would be nice to have a check-off list developed in order to have a standardized approach. That way at each review the same things will be looked at. Richard stated that the Director should be notified prior to any visits so she can prepare staff. c. Richard reminded everyone that there is an upcoming retreat this Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 1:00. The first part of the morning will cover reviewing how Merced Mental Health and AOD services get their funding and also an overview of Mental Health and AOD services in Merced County. The latter half of the day will be spent going over the mission, vision and value statement. Also, Richard is in the final stages of completing the Annual Report. One area that needs to be talked about is goals for this coming year. There will also be some other housekeeping issues to talk about.

**Recommendation/Action:** As stated above

**VIII. Supervisor's Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Walsh reported that today the BOS approved a couple of contracts for Mental Health as well as authorized a RFP for telemedicine. They also appointed an interim Director for HSA – Scott Pettygrove. They appointed John Ceccoli as interim County Veterans Service Officer. Both appointments are due to the retirement of Ana Pagan who was the Veterans Service Officer as well as the HSA Director. Final budget hearings for the County are August 18<sup>th</sup> and usually they occur in the afternoon. Supervisor Walsh is suggesting a meeting between Mental Health, Police and City staff because of what is going on downtown – panhandlers and homeless. Curt commented that not all homeless are mentally ill. There is a small percentage out there that actually belong to County Mental Health and there is a good chance that the Department is already serving them in some way. Collective help is needed for this issue. Chris stated that most of the severely, homeless mentally ill are not panhandling because they cannot get it together to approach people or organize themselves to panhandle. Supervisor Walsh continued that the County has launched its drought webpage and on that webpage it talks about the emergency water process for those without water. Lastly, if anyone has to go downtown to the County Administration building, Hub apologized for the inconvenience with the parking lot being redone. The parking lot is being redone because it was not ADA compliant. The old parking lot was done as a temporary parking lot back in 1975.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**IX. Director's Report**  
**a. Wellness Center Budget Follow-up**  
**b. Board Conversion Update**  
**c. Performance Outcomes Report (CARS)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Yvonnia followed up with Vince's concern and the funding for the Wellness Centers. The Department has been trying to find the best methodology of allocating certain funding for the Wellness Centers so it is clear. They have come up with the methodology by taking the contract cost and 10% of that will be allocated for supportive services. This will be across the board for consistent allocations no matter which Wellness Center it is – Merced Wellness, DDP or Los Banos Wellness. Yvonnia's example was the CUBE; based on their current allocation of \$414,000 10% (about \$41,000) would be allocated for art supplies, trips, etc. The same would be true for DDP. Their allocation last year was \$248,000 and 10% of that is about \$24,000. Merced Adult Wellness Center - \$1.1 million and 10% is \$110,000. For Los Banos it was about \$200,000 and 10% would be \$20,000. Each Center will have their own allocation and be able to monitor and address any needs within those Wellness Centers. Iris asked if there would be a criteria and Yvonnia responded that there is one already in place but it is not broken down. Right now there is art supplies, food, peer training, recovery supplies, etc., all kinds of things that help support. This excludes any type of equipment or office supplies. Yvonnia reminded everyone that just because a Wellness Center receives a certain amount of money this year, it does not mean that they will get the same amount next year. It will be based on the overall allocation each year. It will always remain 10% though of the overall allocation. This will become effective when the budget is approved by the BOS. Richard commented that to ease the issue for Board members, could a protocol be provided to the Board so that when an individual comes to a Board member with an issue, the Board member will know what that protocol is. The Board member could then direct the individual to the appropriate staff member. b. The BOS approved the conversion of the Board as of July. Yvonnia is working on a revised Board membership application to be more inclusive of AOD; blending the two applications into one. She is hoping to talk about this at the retreat. Another thing that maybe should be considered is reappointing the Board members because it is now a Behavioral Health Board, not a Mental Health Board. The Department is getting clarity on how to proceed with this. This may mean that Board members will have to be sworn in again. c. Every month Yvonnia would like to highlight some performance outcomes. Most recently the Department's Community Access to Recovery Services (CARS) was implemented on July 1<sup>st</sup>. From July 1<sup>st</sup> thru August 3<sup>rd</sup> there were 126 total scheduled intakes; unscheduled (walk-ins) were 14; they completed 140 intakes; for youth mental health intakes there were 44; adult mental health intakes there were 96; completed for LB was 4 adults and 4 children; Livingston had 1 youth and 6 adults. Yvonnia was asked what an intake is; she responded that it is a brand new client coming in and having a first-time assessment done. This is based on three workers averaging about 4 intakes per day. Failure to keep appointments (FKAs) are half from what they were last year. This means it is making an impact on a number of clients being served. In this 30-day window, they are really seeing a significant impact on services being provided to clients. Curt stated that this relieves the clinicians on the unit to provide those services. In Children's they have seen 13 hours/day that they have gained back from all their staff to be able to provide direct services now that before they were dealing with POEs (point of entry) or they were dealing with FKAs. It has become more productive in what we are providing now and a better continuum of care from point of access all the way through to implementation of a case manager and counselor. Yvonnia continued with the referral to outside agencies like Beacon. As of two days ago there were 18 referrals; last year only two referrals were made to Beacon. The Department is linking not only within the department but even to the external partners in a timely manner. She expects this report to look even better as they move forward. Yvonnia gave kudos to the team - Trechann, Perry, Curt and everyone – this was a real team effort.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**X. Reports / Updates**  
**a. Executive Committee**  
**b. QIC Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Richard had nothing new to report from the Executive Committee. b. Sally went over the QIC meeting from July 28, 2015. The meeting was quite extensive and she gave a disclaimer that some of the things she had written down have already changed. Both she and Mary are volunteers and they try their hardest to get the notes correct. Copies of her report were handed out and Sally went over her report.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

<b>XI. Announcements</b>
<p><i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> Mary H. announced that the NAMI classes are beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup>. That will be the first night for Family-to-Family classes; there will be a class in English and Spanish. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the Peer-to-Peer class will start and it will be in Spanish. On October 1<sup>st</sup> the Basics class begins which is for families with minor children. NAMI meets at the CUBE. Their number is 381-6844.</p> <p>Richard introduced someone who was in attendance – Tabatha Haywood who is the AOD Program Manager and she will be attending these meetings when she can. She will also be attending the retreat on Saturday.</p> <p>Yvonnia announced that she is working on trying to put members in their correct district. As the Board moves forward in trying to recruit members, it will be based on what is currently vacant in each district. Yvonnia told Mary H. that the NAMI website is great.</p>
<b>XII. Adjournment</b>
<p><i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. The next meeting is September 1, 2015.</p>

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

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

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

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