



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

July 7, 2015

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Kim Carter; Supervisor Walsh; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann
Absent:	David Baker; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Sharon Jones; Kimiko Vang, AOD Board; 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. Moment of Silence – Memory of James Fuller

Richard requested a moment of silence in memory of James Fuller. Vince asked if the Board was going to give a plaque to Mr. Fuller's family commemorating Mr. Fuller's contribution to the Mental Health Board. It was stated that his family already has many, many plaques and suggested that a donation be made instead to the American Heart Association. Richard stated he would call Mrs. Fuller and talk to her about this.

III. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2015 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to approve the minutes from April 17, 2015.

V. Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2015 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hofmann / Ellis) to approve the minutes from May 27, 2015.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince commented that a consumer recently asked him for a ride home from the Wellness Center. When he went to the Wellness Center he was not allowed in and had to wait outside because he was not authorized to enter due to confidentiality. When he was first a member of the Wellness Center he did sign a confidentiality statement. Vince continued that he had previously been through a training program and was fingerprinted which authorized him to go into the Wellness Center. In June 2010 he was kicked out of the Wellness Center and could be arrested for trespassing if he came back. He was never given a reason why he was kicked out. He doesn't understand what this is all about. He feels that there needs to be written policy on this. Richard stated he would get with the Director, do some research, and then get back with him.

Vince commented on last month's agenda item on funding and if the money wasn't used it was taken away. In 2009 the clients did not take a trip. Material and art supplies were supplied by donations. He wanted to know what happened to the money allocated to the clients – where did it go? It was about \$35,000.

Vince commented on the \$6 million which Iris brought up last month and couldn't be used for other programs because it was tagged for technology and building. Richard commented that this will be covered under the Director's Report today. Vince continued that they took CSS money and transferred it to PEI funding. He said that Iris had questioned why the money cannot be used for other programs that need to be implemented or beef up the ones already existing. It was also brought up that that the Dept. allocated \$25 million for the hospital but Sharon had said that they are not borrowing \$25 million. Vince questioned how much is being borrowed. Yvonna stated she will give an update on the building project and information on the Wellness Center.

VI. Opportunity for <u>public</u> input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda. – con’t.
<p>Sharon J. passed out a chart showing the MHSA funded programs, the non-MHSA funded programs and the non-MHSA contract program.</p> <p>Sally commented that there was someone present today that she had never met and asked if she could introduce herself. Kimiko Vang stated she is from the Human Services Agency. Carol stated she is on the AOD Advisory Board.</p>
Recommendation/Action: As noted above
VII. Legislative Update – Kurt Craig
<p>Discussion/Conclusion: Kurt reported on AB 1424 which has no local impact. This will allow consumers who are employed or have some other affiliation with the County to remain on the Board until their term is up. This is still moving along and has moved to the other side of legislation so they are voting on it. There is not a lot of opposition on this bill.</p> <p>Others that are being watched closely: SB 253 - psychotropic medication – this keeps going back and forth. The issue is that foster care children have made a movement in the State to have a third party monitor or evaluate the medications being prescribed. There is one that requires the County not to meet medical necessity as much as it just requires the County to have a different level of cause for the prescription and that one is being fought. Basically, if the psychiatrist prescribes, and the Medical Director reviews, then the County is required to have a third party evaluator. This is being watched closely. Yvonnia asked if there was any funding attached and Kurt replied there was not.</p> <p>AB 1193 - Laura’s Law, and others like it, that were out there for the most part have been opposed. They failed in a variety of committees. One will probably become a two-year bill which means that it didn’t get voted in for this year’s round of legislation and may pass over to next year. However, it is being amended constantly. Kurt was asked if Laura’s Law is a State mandated law or county by county to decide if they want to adopt it. Kurt replied that the one that is still going back and forth in committees is the one where they just wanted the counties to have a conversation. The Federal bill has this language in it also and it forces the States to implement a program. The Federal bill would have funding.</p> <p>Kurt mentioned there is a Federal bill out there about how they want to change the way mental health services are going to be managed locally.</p> <p>SB 11 and 29 - regarding the post-requirements for additional training for mental health services. Those have rebounded themselves after they were talked about with the authors and may come back. These are both on hold.</p>
Recommendation/Action: Information only
VIII. Chair’s Reports a. Retreat – August 8, 2015 b. End-of-Year Report
<p>Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard reminded everyone that the Board Retreat will be Saturday, August 8th from 9:00-1:00. Possible topics were discussed at the last Board meeting. When the Executive Committee met with the Director the list was narrowed down to the following topics: 1. With the blending of the two Boards, they need to revisit the Mission and Vision statements. 2. Give an overview of AOD and Mental Health services. Included in this would be discussion on the 1115 Waiver, 1115B Waiver, the 2020 Waiver, the AB 1300 in regards to Bill AB 403 and AB 614. If there is time, funding sources will be discussed. Yvonnia stated there is a lot of legislation to go over and there may be a lot of questions. She suggested reducing it down to one or two items. Because Sharon M. gave a financial report at the last meeting, and Yvonnia isn’t sure how many questions there will be at the retreat. Yvonnia isn’t sure if they should do a financial topic vs legislation. She will continue to have the legislative agenda on the monthly Board meeting with Kurt. b. Richard reported that he has been working on it but has been holding off until the two Boards are blended so he can include this in the report.</p>
Recommendation/Action: Information only
IX. Supervisor’s Report
<p>Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh reported that in June the BOS accepted a preliminary budget. In August will be the final budget hearings. The reason they hold off until August is to give them a sense of what the Legislature is going to do in their final</p>

IX. Supervisor’s Report – con’t.

sessions. The BOS appointed Yvonnia to the Community Corrections Partnership with Probation; she is replacing Ana Pagan who has retired. Today the Board approved a temporary emergency water delivery proposal. This is for the people whose wells have gone dry. The County will be setting up a process by which they can have temporary water delivered to their house for health and safety reasons until they can get a new well. If by chance someone who has run out of water is close to an existing municipal water source, they will have to have applied to this water source to be connected to them.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Director’s Report

- a. Highlights / Accomplishments for FY 14/15 & Goals for FY 15/16
- b. Board Update
- c. Wellness Center Supplies Report (follow-up)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonnia went over some of the highlights and accomplishments her staff have achieved over the last year: 1) Mental Health court expansion through the recidivism grant; triage unit was implemented. 2) Hired 68 full-time/extra-help staff; the first Spiritual Wellness & Recovery Conference was held on June 20th and there were over 100 individuals present. She thanked Sharon Jones and the planning group for putting a successful conference together. 3) MHA system improvement plan to help bring more accountability to the contractors, internally and externally. 4) Implemented PEI services in Winton, Hilmar and Delhi. 5) Did over 900 screenings or assessments for Katie A. foster kids. 6) Implemented the First Episode of Psychosis (FEP). 7) DSM-V training for staff. 8) New employee training program was implemented to include the Anasazi system and documentation. 9) E-prescribing. 10) Revised County assessment tool that workers use to do assessments on consumers. 11) Part of the contract with HSA is to do a CalWORKs Veteran’s Clinician – this has been approved and hopefully recruiting for at this time. They will be housed in the Veteran’s Office. 12) New building project was approved. 13) Implement Utilization Review in October. This is not a comprehensive list. The Department and staff have been very active. During the year there was an AOD peer review and they did exceptionally well again. This has been consistent with the last three audits. Supervisor Walsh complimented Yvonnia on going over this list because it is important to review the successes we have. Many times successes are not celebrated. He greatly appreciates this and feels it should be included in the yearly report to the BOS. Yvonnia continued that she did not put the Community Access to Recovery Services (CARS) Unit on the list – it was just implemented July 1st and has been doing very well. Staff have been working very hard on getting this implemented. Mary H. asked if she could expand on this and Yvonnia asked Curt Willems to do so. Curt stated this is an important step - it is a full system change for the Dept. In the past access to the system has come by way of any clinician that can do a point of entry intake and assessment. This is bringing together, for a continuum of care, an umbrella of services that starts with Access, Crisis Stabilization Unit, Central Intake, Mobile Crisis Team and the Triage. It is all that first point of entry support and service to ensure that there is a continuum of care for individuals under the umbrella of one program. They have hired a new Coordinator, Trechann Barber-Jacinto. It is the management of people that call or walk in and are looking for that point of entry to come into the system of care and ensure that they get into the County’s system of care or are referred to the correct system of care. This will be extremely important to the 1115B Waiver. Some counties have this already, most do not. This is a huge step in the right direction. Yvonnia asked Curt to expand on the Marie Green transition. Curt continued that there is separate charting – CSU, Marie Green and outpatient service. It is separate charts and the Department hasn’t integrated them in the past. Now the Department is integrating that so when a person comes into the system through the CSU, for example, the initial intake is done there and they can move straight into treatment now instead of going through the whole POE process. The information is already in Anasazi (electronic health record system) and seeable by the clinician and all they have to do is update the client plan to move towards ongoing treatment as opposed to just the crisis intervention. The Department is trying to knock down any barriers that might exist and try to ensure that individuals are getting the support and care they need. When a client leaves Marie Green they will be connected with a clinician and that clinician will contact them within five days for an appointment time. Sally questioned the recent newspaper article about the umbrella services with the Health Dept., Mental Health, and the Federally Qualified Health Centers. How is this different than what they have been hearing about before? Curt stated that this is actually complimentary to what is going on in our County overall. The issues mentioned in the article are more for the mild-to-moderate but eventually Curt thinks this will roll over into the Mental Health Dept. as well. It would be nice to have a medical clinic available to our population so that we are not just dealing with behavioral health issues, but really providing good quality primary care physicians that are not afraid to deal with this population in a positive, affirming, recovery model way. Mary H. told the Board about someone whose family member had just had their first break. Perry Watkins was able to talk with this person and gave them some advice. Perry told her what to do and they did everything they were supposed to – called 911 and the

X. Director's Report – con't.

family member was taken to the CSU and admitted to Marie Green. The person was there for three weeks and was being released yesterday. The family member was very relieved at how well it all worked out. Mary was very grateful to Perry – kudos to Perry! Sally continued that knowledge of the system is very important. Hub stated that at some point this might be useful – what are the points of entry? He thought that a walk-thru might be useful for the Board to hear. Mary H. continued that she has received several calls wanting to know the suicide hotline number. Mary was informed that the suicide hotline is in Fresno. Richard stated that he knows the person who is implementing to 211 program here in Merced. Richard explained how 211 works – this service will assist anyone on any problem they have. The program is being managed through United Way and should be available within a few months. b. Copies of the new building design had been passed out. This is just a rough draft; it was used for the feasibility study to come up with the numbers for the project. The proposed plan when the Wellness Center moves into the new building is to expand the CSU for adults and will move into where the Wellness Center is now. Hopefully, where the CSU is now, which is a 4-bed unit, will turn into a children's crisis stabilization unit. This will be a 23-hour hold to stabilize them and find placement. Fresno has a crisis residential program for youth but it is filled to the max already and they just opened in April. The Department is trying to secure at least one bed there. Yvonna went over the different site plans explaining what each entailed. She met with DPW and the architects on July 1st to begin talking about the design work. They will now put some designs and numbers together. Hopefully, within a month they will bring back a design. From there the Department will have to go back to the BOS. c. Sharon M. passed out copies of the budget for the three different Wellness Centers for FY 14/15 and copies of the FY 14/15 quarterly budget report as of June 30, 2015. First she went over the Wellness Centers budget. She then went over the quarterly budget report. Vince questioned the Wellness Center budget and stated that the Merced Wellness Center has not been on a trip for the last four years. Sharon stated that the Wellness Center has gone on trips. Richard told Vince that he would look into this and get back with him. Sharon stated that every year the Wellness Center supply a list of trip and events that they would like covered by insurance. She will bring that information next time and it will show what trips have been taken. Chris questioned if the cost of the bus services was for picking people up and bringing them to the Wellness Center; Sharon believed it was. Vince questioned the funding from the \$36,000 and it should be kept separate. The art supplies should be separated from this so that everyone will know how much of the \$36,000 is going to the consumer. Sharon J. questioned Vince if he thought it should be a separate line item and he thought it should be. Sharon J. stated that the FY 15/16 budget should be a little more specific like that in order to track it better. Yvonna stated she would follow up with Sharon M. on this. Yvonna continued that anytime the consumers want to go on a trip, they have to give a list of these trips in order to put it into the budget. She will make sure that this information from last year and for this year will be discussed at the next meeting. Yvonna stated that when one Wellness Center goes on a trip, the other usually goes also – there is a collaboration with both Wellness Centers.

Richard asked Yvonna when the blending of the two Boards would be going to the BOS. Yvonna replied that it is tentatively on the calendar for July 21st but it may shift to August 4th, but no later than that.

Recommendation/Action: As stated above

XI. Reports / Updates
a. Executive Committee
b. QIC Report

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard did not have any information from the Executive Committee to pass on. b. There was no report because there was no meeting.

Recommendation/Action:

XII. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Sally stated that two or three years ago this Board was reviewing facilities here in Merced County. According to the Mental Health Board Roles and Responsibilities, the Board is supposed to review and evaluate the communities mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems. The Board has visited a number of facilities in the past but it has not been done in the last couple of years. The Board used to have some of their meetings at different areas around the County also. Sally would like put on the agenda for next month that a committee be formed of people who are willing to go out and visit a facility then bring a report back to this Board. Some of the facilities are: the Wellness Center, Marie Green, private inpatient facility in Livingston/Delhi, the CUBE, the Los Banos Wellness Center, and the Children's System of Care. A written report could be provided to the Board and Mental Health Administration. Richard stated he would put that on the agenda.

XIII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. The next meeting is August 4, 2015.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____