



Merced County Behavioral Health Board and Public Hearing

November 1, 2016

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Iris Mojica de Tatum, Chair; Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; Paula Mason, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Keng Cha; Mary Hofmann; Kim Carter; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Roger Moua
Absent:	Vince Ramos; Supervisor Walsh
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Alice Liang; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Trechann Barber-Jacinto; Sharon Mendonca; Micki Archuleta; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Iris Mojica de Tatum called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Mission Statement

Sally Ragonut read the Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2016 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hawthorne / Ellis) to approve the minutes from October 4, 2016.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Yvonna introduced the Department's new Assistant Director, Dr. Alice Liang; this is her first day. Dr. Liang talked a little about herself – she is a Clinical Psychologist. Her background has been mainly in the forensic psychology field. She has worked in correctional institutions at State Hospitals; she has also worked at non-forensic settings such as the Crisis House and drug and alcohol programs out in the community. She has a mental/behavioral health background and has been in a leadership role for the past few years. It is a strong passion for her to be working in the mental/behavioral health field. She also went back to school and received a degree in Public Health; she not only wants to help people individually, but also on a community/public level. She is very happy to be here and be part of the team.

Sharon Jones commented that she really enjoyed the Behavioral Health Board Retreat. She was very excited about presenting on cultural competence. She looks forward to more exercises on cultural competence/cultural responsiveness with the Board.

Yvonna stated that at the last Behavioral Health Board meeting she was going to follow-up with updating the Board on the MHSA FFP true-up. Sharon Mendonca will give this report at the December meeting.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

V. Chair's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris stated she would like to have a participatory discussion regarding the recent retreat. For those who did attend she wanted to know what was the one thing they got out of it and any comments on making it better or different next time.

-Sally commented that at the last meeting there was discussion on access. She was very appreciative of that discussion and Trechann's presentation. The best thing she got out of that was the Family Information packet; she recommends that everyone who has access to other areas where copies of this could be posted, they should write their name on this in order to be contacted. Mary H. commented that she handed this information out to her support group and it was very appreciated. Richard thought that this packet should be made available electronically on the website. Trechann stated all the forms are electronic and can be made available. The Provider Directory, grievance forms, change of provider forms, etc., are on the Behavioral Health site.

-Mary E. stated that access has been a dream of hers for a long time. This is now coming true. The agenda was so full, that it felt a

V. Chair’s Report – con’t.
<p>little rushed towards the middle and end. There just needed to be more time. She couldn’t think of how it could be better because so much good information was shared.</p> <p>-Mary H. agreed. She liked having the agenda packed. There was never a dead moment. She left wanting to know more.</p> <p>-Iris commented that the cultural competency exercises were great. She wished there had been more time for them. She also wishes there had been more time for Christopher because he had a lot of good information. All three presenters were great; they all came well-prepared and answered all questions. She wished there had been more time for each topic.</p> <p>-Sally asked what the chances are of having two retreats per year or follow-ups. Iris thought this was a good idea because it takes more than three hours a year to train a Board. Now there are additional new Board members who can learn from the Board members who have been here longer. They can also learn a lot from staff. The By-laws do state that members can work up to twelve hours a month on the Board. If there is a training that members would like to have, please let Iris know.</p> <p>-Kim thought that fewer topics – or more time to spend on subjects – would be helpful. Everything was good, just not enough time.</p> <p>-Richard commented that the last time law enforcement received a handbook or packet from Mental Health was probably 1982. Trechann stated that she has been working with the Sheriff and Police on a monthly basis. This information has been provided to them. She will duplicate more packets and when they go to the All Chief’s meeting, she will give them out there also. Richard suggested giving the packets to the Chiefs and telling them it is available electronically on the website; let each agency print their own.</p> <p>Iris continued with the Chair’s Report. The Calif. Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions sent a survey for Board members. She asked each Board member to fill the survey out today before the end of the meeting. The survey has to do with having the ability to get training from the State via use of the MHSA funds. When completed, please give to Carol and she will mail them back.</p>
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> As noted above
VI. Supervisor’s Report
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> Supervisor Walsh was not present.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i>
VII. Director’s Report a. B Street Location Update / Next Steps
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> a. Yvonnia stated that Sharon M. recently gave the MHSA Planning Council an update on where we are with this and the next steps. She commented that she wants to begin the Planning Council stakeholder process to explore the opportunity to sell this property. She will then come back to this Board after that process is completed and make a recommendation.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> As noted above
VIII. Reports / Updates a. Executive Committee b. QIC
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> a. The Executive Committee had no updates. b. Mary E. and Kim all attended the last QIC meeting. Two sets of minutes were passed out on the QIC meeting.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> Information only
IX. Announcements
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> None
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i>

X. 5:30 p.m. – OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 2016-2017 Annual Update

a. Close Public Hearing

1. Approve MHSA 2016-2017 Annual Update and Innovation Plan

Discussion/Conclusion: Due to a member of the public being present and not being able to stay long, the floor was opened for comments prior to Sharon Jones giving her presentation.

Public – she is associated with Merced County NAMI. Last year there was a lot discussion over their budget. They are all volunteers and there is only so much they can do and they are an important part of supporting the Mental Health Department with helping the families. This year, with the budget everyone is looking at now, the NAMI budget has been tripled and she appreciates the acknowledgement of NAMI getting out there more. She encourages everyone to vote “yes” on the budget. They will do a lot good with that money.

Sharon Jones went over her PowerPoint presentation for the MHSA 2016-2017 Annual Update and Innovation Plan.

Public – he wanted to give an update on the Strengthening Families Program. Today he met with Dr. Schiber, Superintendent of the Atwater School District and they will be working together. Today he was also at Elmer Wood Elementary and met with the Principal and Dr. Schiber. They were able to talk about the Strengthening Families Program. Last year this program was only in one school. This year they will be at the elementary schools - Bellevue, Elmer Wood Elementary, Thomas Olaeta, Aileen Colburn, and Shaffer. There is a good relationship with the schools in Atwater. Their goal is to help the relationship between parents and students and anything needed in the community. He goes to the school and meets with the teacher, principal and parents. Any child that has problem in the class, the principal will send a consent form to the teacher who will then send to the parents. Once they have the parent’s approval, it is sent to the Strengthening Families Program. They also do events in the community. Anything the community needs, they go out there and help. The teachers and principals are very happy with this program. Many communities are not aware of the Strengthening Families Program.

A Board member questioned one of the new ideas – the pre-trial services. It is a diversion program through Probation. Before someone gets to the court system, they have the option of going into this program where they will be monitored by a DDP Specialist (Dual Diagnosis Program) with Behavioral Health. Law enforcement will take the lead. They will do site visits. Behavioral Health will engage them and connect them to service while they wait for a court hearing. Their time in treatment will offset their sentence (time served). This is still preliminary discussion; further discussion will continue with the Community Planning Process. Probation is the lead.

Public – she works with the Strengthening Families Program in Planada. She has been having a lot of activities in the park – having different groups. Many family members just came from Mexico. They drop the kids off at school and come back looking forward to meeting and discussing what is going on – whatever issues are going on at home. She brings brochures, gives them information and answers any questions they have. This program is really strengthening the families. They have been doing art in the park; they have been painting plates. One lady painted some plates beautifully and it greatly helped her self-esteem.

Kim – she read the Annual Update and for the most part all these programs either met or exceeded the SMART goals. She was really impressed.

Sharon continued that she is preparing for March Outcomes Event. She encouraged everyone to attend because you can really learn what all the programs are trying to accomplish and how they are serving the community.

Iris – Sometimes credit is not given where credit is due. Sharon spends countless hours out in the community. As a Department employee being out in the community, she has the pulse. The atmosphere in Livingston is different than the atmosphere in Planada or in Merced or Los Banos. By going to churches and other events she is able to tweak these programs. She really appreciates Sharon being allowed to do this because this is the way you get to know the people in the communities.

Sharon stated that today she was at The Grove, giving workshops on stress, workplace issues, relationships, etc. She has done four Raising the Emotionally Healthy Child workshops and now she doing a series of eight workshops and is about half-way done. As time permits, she would like to do more of this out in the community. Through some of the stakeholder feedback, they need more early intervention programs. There seems to be a gap in early intervention programs. Early intervention is when individuals first start to feel the symptoms of depression – can’t get out of bed or calling in sick at work. This is where you want to intervene.

Chris, PRA, stated that there is a need for intervention as someone is being discharged from Marie Green. More of an outreach – where someone goes into the house and finding out how the individual is, are meds being taken, real intensive intervention at this point. Families need so much education; they have no idea what this means to their lives and how difficult the road may be. They also need to know that there is hope. Young people who get effective intervention early on, do much better later in life. You are impacting

that person's whole life if you can be effective right at the beginning point. Yvonna commented that the Department does have the First Episode of Psychosis (FEP) Program that was sponsored by SAMHSA and extended from 16 to 30 years of age. Connecting those leaving Marie Green to this program will be looked at.

Public – she did not have her first episode until she was 38. She knows someone who has been exhibiting signs of mental illness for quite a while. This person wasn't taken to the hospital until the last couple of years and now this person is very resistant to being labeled mentally ill. She thinks it should not be limited by age. Yvonna stated that as they redesign or develop the current program, which is restricted by SAMHSA funding, there is bigger discussion from the State level about how to use MHSA funding for those particular age groups not defined by a grant. There is some interest in it being a Statewide initiative.

Discussion / Conclusion: a. The Public Hearing was closed. M/S/C (Hawthorne / Ellis) to approve the MHSA 2016-2017 Annual Update and Innovation Plan. There was one abstention.

XIII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. The next meeting is December 6, 2016.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____
Paula Mason, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____