



Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

January 5, 2016
3:00PM-5:00PM
1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Paula Mason; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann
Absent:	Supervisor Hub Walsh
Others Present:	Yvonnia Brown; Forrest Hansen, County Council; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Tabatha Haywood; Sharon Jones; Audrey Rodarte (Recorder) <u>As noted in February 2016 minutes, Steve Wilson and Liz Freitas were also present at this Board meeting.</u>

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 December 1, 2015 (Board Action)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Sally / Mary) to approve the minutes from December 1, 2016

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

Discussion/Conclusion: NAMI rep, Mary H. passed out flyers with information regarding the upcoming education classes (Family-to-Family; Peer-to-Peer; NAMI Basics).

Vince request adding the definition for SMI (Severely Mentally Ill) on the WC policy and if there can be a policy for those who would like to volunteer at the WC. He asked that the new PEI regulations be emailed so that it can be reviewed before next month's meeting.

Information shared by Vince:

- Advancing Recovery Webinar Series I-VI; Registration information was sent by Carol in December:
 - January 6, 2016 12PM-1:30PM
 - February 3, 2016 12PM-1:30PM
 - March 2, 2016 12PM-1:30PM
- MHSA Subsidy Money Focus Group – January 20, 2016 3-5PM @ Merced First 5 (676 Loughborough Dr., Merced)
- Heal the Healers Training coming up

It was clarified that information passed out does not need to be shared on the MC website because it is not an action of the community and is just information.

Steve, a WC member, was present to inform the board that some members of the WC liked the floor plan for the new building project and some did not. Some of the consumers would like to see a cafeteria be brought into the building so that they can have training for consumers to allow them to get jobs out in the community. Also, to feed everyone there in the building. Another concern is they request to have staff located inside the facility instead of outside for emergency purposes. Chris K. request that that this item be placed on the agenda for next month. She was asked to come to the WC regarding concerns they had with the new plan. Vince thinks the suggestions Steve brought to the table are good suggestions. He thinks it will help consumers be self-efficient.

Action/Recommendation:	Person Assigned:	Due Date:
V. Financial Report		
<p><u>Discussion/Conclusion:</u> Copies were provided to the members. Sharon reviewed the quarterly report with the board and explained how the cost of services goes back into the MHSA program. There are about 23 MHSA contracts and about 5 of them enter into MH's Service Activity Logs (SALs). It was clarified that there are programs that provide services that are Medi-Cal billable and some services that are not. With the services that are Medi-Cal billable, they enter the service into Anasazi and Medi-Cal is billed; with the invoice and back up documentation, fiscal verifies it is an open client, and it is then sent to MHSA to verify they are approved and apart of the MHSA plan. Once it is complete and final approved, the invoice is sent to Sharon M and she will sign off on the services being billed and the contractor is paid. Once Medi-Cal has paid MH for the services provided it is put back into MHSA programs. It was explained that the cost savings that is made each year goes back into the MHSA trust account. The Planning Council is a team that determines how the department can meet the needs of the community. Yvonnia explained that the savings for any revenue that is above what we allocated will go back for staff and will not offset the building project; the building project is a separate funding source. Sharon explained that state taxes (a certain percentage of sales taxes) gets put aside and spent on MH services. She also explained that fines for traffic violations come back to MH if it is deemed for MH.</p> <p>It was requested to bring back in a year the break down on the WC cost for food and supplies. <u>As noted in February 2016 minutes, Chris' actual comment was "since this was mid-year, perhaps they could get an update on the Wellness Centers' respective budgets and bring that in for review at this meeting – to see how it was working out for each Wellness Center". She was not asking for an update in a year; she wanted a mid-year report.</u></p>		
Action/Recommendation: WC cost for food and supplies.	Person Assigned: Sharon M.	Due Date: TBD
VI. Drug Court Overview		
<p><u>Discussion/Conclusion:</u> A packet was provided with the MC Drug Court (DC) overview. Tabatha mentioned that DC is probably one of the most intensive programs that individuals join in. They are in every state and some other countries. There is no longer wasting money being incarcerated, individuals now get sentenced into Drug Treatment Court which is 18 months to 3 years long. The team (the judge, DA, public defender, probation, Tabatha and 2 AOD counselors) meets every week and reviews all the referrals, the DA will determine the decision, and the AOD team conducts an assessment; based on their risk and needs, they are placed in the appropriate level of care. While in treatment, the focus is to get them stable, clean, continue education or any other source they may be interested in. At about month 4 or 5 members have created a new network of individuals who are in the same program who can relate and they start to open up and have also been clean for a while so now their mind is a lot clearer. At that point they will see if there are other issues, such as MH, and they will be linked to the appropriate program. In the last statistics MH overall AOD was about 36% and the state of California average rate per county was about 16.6% success rate. DC had about a 46% success rate.</p>		
Action/Recommendation: Information only.	Person Assigned:	Due Date:
VII. Chair's Report		
a. Wellness Center Lawn (follow-up)		
<p><u>Discussion/Conclusion:</u> Yvonnia added this to the agenda to provide an update and for feedback. They have come to a solution with providing a particular area in front lawn for the consumers to have access to within 15 minute increments. If they more time on the lawn that is appropriate, it will be monitored by a WC staff. The intent is to have them actively engaged in the WC but have the ability to come out and enjoy the landscaping as well. The entrance time has changed from 8:30AM to 8AM to help make sure the consumers have access to the WC and make sure those who are in the lawn are actually from the WC. It was suggested to beautify the backyard area and add shading to meet the needs of the consumers. Yvonnia stated that they have looked into options and does not want to tie so much money into a building that will eventually be vacated. They can look into other options that are not so costly one was purchasing a gazebo.</p> <p>It was asked if the board will be provided a copy of the annual report. Per Richard H., he is still working on it because the board is not fully intact.</p>		

<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Information only.	Person Assigned:	Due Date:
VIII. Supervisor’s Report		
No report.		
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i>	Person Assigned:	Due Date:
IX. Director’s Report a. Medi-Cal Reimbursement Process (contracts) b. Program Update		
<p><u>Discussion/Conclusion:</u> The department is working on the WC policy, currently it is in draft format and she is hoping to bring it to the forms and policy committee to review. She would like to implement the new admission criteria by February 1, 2016. She recalls a discussion around having more access to WC for those who are insured and meet the SMI criteria. The department has decided to have certain slots available, for example, there are 100 consumers in the WC and 10% may be insured consumers. At that point, there will be a waiting list because the first priority is Medi-Cal recipients. With the SMI clients who are insured does not technically need to be a MH consumer, but they will be in a certain category so that we can identify them in the system as receiving socialization through the WC. They will have to be connected to a primary professional.</p> <p>A handout for MHSA Innovative Project Proposals was passed out. They are due January 28, 2016. They are looking for 3-5 proposals that will be provided to the MH director, Yvonnia Brown, for final approval. It was mentioned that there was not any announcements in regards to focus groups being held before the proposals were written. For community input, there has to be an open process for ideas. Yvonnia would like to table the discussion until Sharon J. returns from vacation. It was mentioned if there are going to be innovation focus groups then it needs to be posted in the newspaper. Yvonnia will readdress this and bring it back.</p> <p>The department is in Phase II of the conversion plan. There were 3 proposed name changes. For information purposes only, the following staff recommendations have been made: 1) Merced County Department of Behavioral Health 2) Merced County Behavioral Health Services and 3) Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Yvonnia is hoping to go before the board in June or July 2016 once she receives the conversion plan from the internal work group.</p> <p>Yvonnia mentioned that the SB82 funds is at its 5th round of funding that is possibly available at \$30 million. Currently, there are SB82 funds that are designated for the Crisis Residential Unit that is part of the building project. There is going to be a released RFP or grant opportunity for a 5th and final round of funding. One of the things the department is looking at with the WC is expanding it to a possible 6-8 bed CSU. MG will then hopefully turn into a children’s CSU and that is a long term goal. That will allow funding to be available to remodel the current WC to meet the specs of a CSU expansion. In Sonoma, they have a one stop shop that she wants to tour and hopes that we can mimic that here in Merced.</p>		
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i> Focus Groups	Person Assigned: Sharon J.	Due Date: ASAP
X. Reports / Updates a. Executive Committee b. QIC		
<p><u>Discussion/Conclusion:</u> a. No report.</p> <p>b. The November report was attached in the packet provided. The group was informed that if there were any questions they will try to answer them and if they cannot do so, they will refer those to the right person.</p>		
<i>Action/Recommendation:</i>	Person Assigned:	Due Date:
XI. Announcements		
None reported.		

XII. Adjournment

Discussion/Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:08PM. The next meeting is February 2, 2016

Submitted by: _____
Audrey Rodarte
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____