



# Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

February 2, 2016

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

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

## MINUTES

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

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

### II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

### III. Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2016 (BOARD ACTION)

**Action/Recommendation:** Sally indicated that Steve Wilson was not mentioned as being present and he did make a comment about the Wellness Center. Liz Freitas was also present but not mentioned as being present. Richard stated that he would put together a sign-in sheet for guests; Carol indicated that she would begin having a sign-in sheet.

Chris Kraushar asked for clarification on Section V – Financial Report – the last sentence read, “It was requested to bring back in a year the breakdown on the WC cost for food and supplies.” Chris’ actual comment was perhaps they could get an update on the Wellness Centers’ respective budgets and bring that in for review at this meeting to see how this was working out for each Wellness Center. She was not asking for an update in a year; she wanted a mid-year report. Richard stated he would put this on the next agenda.

M/S/C (Walsh / Ellis) to approve the minutes from January 5, 2016 with the changes mentioned above.

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

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Vince – he participated with webinar on eBehavioral Health Solutions; he sent the website to Carol who in turn sent it to the rest of the Board. It was really interesting and documented how many times the client relapsed and documented it by race and culture. It was a 45 minute presentation.

Sally commented on the recent article in the Sun Star regarding mental health, homelessness and finding homes for those with mental illness. It brings the concept of mental illness to focus for those in Merced County. She suggested that the Housing Specialist from the Wellness Center come and speak to this Board. The mother mentioned in the article was very distraught when she found out that her son’s apartment had cockroaches. Sally re-commented that when her son was at K&R there were bedbugs and he also has cockroaches in his current apartment.

Sally commented that she and Mary Ellis recently went to a NAMI meeting and it was a focus group with Sharon Jones. Some excellent ideas came out in regards to the Innovation Project. One of which was getting information out to the public about where to find services. She feels this is a huge job that we are missing the mark on. Families don’t know where to go when mental illness happens in their family. Vince commented that he had a meeting with someone from Beacon and she showed him how people can access and find mild to moderate caregivers and doctors. It was very easy. Supervisor Walsh commented that the distribution of information is always a challenge but a large segment of our population does not read the paper. If it is not on social media, it will not be seen or heard. When thinking about outreach, this needs to be considered. Sally questioned Richard if this Board will be having a retreat this year; this would be a good topic along with places to live.

Yvonna discussed the draft Wellness Center policy (copies were distributed to everyone present). This policy is in regards to the

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criteria for admission to the Wellness Center. This policy will be implemented on February 8, 2016 for a 6-month trial period to evaluate and monitor the admission policy. If anyone has questions or comments, please send them to Yvonnia.

Yvonnia responded to Sally's comments regarding the referral process or notification to different providers. The new 2-1-1 system can be used to help link families to community resources. Mental Health does meet with Beacon on a monthly basis and talk about the cases that are transferred between each department. She would be more than happy if the Board put this on future strategic planning to outline this process and inform the community about services that are being offered. Many people do not realize that mild to moderate services are handled by their primary care physician or FQHCs. The 2-1-1 system may be a good means of social media. The Department is in the process of exploring social media and hopefully within six months the team will have a website.

Curt commented on the recent EQRO visit last week looking at our program and services. They gave us accolades on where we have come from, where we are at this year and the positive aspects of how we have come a long way in service provision, timeliness, forms and a lot of things the Department has struggled with over the last few years in the review. They reviewers are taking some of the information back to the State as models for other counties to look at. He congratulated the QI Department that put together two PIPs (Performance Improvement Projects) and both were acceptable, which is a rarity. Also, both PIPs were model formats for other counties to look at. He was extremely pleased and impressed with the whole Department. Vince asked about the Hispanic penetration rate and Curt responded that we were probably comparable to where we have been in the past, but, one of our PIPs was based on how to reach out to that specific population. We are working at this, but it is a population that hard to serve sometimes and this happening throughout the State.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**V. DMC 1115 Waiver Overview and Next Steps – Part I (Tabatha Haywood)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Tabatha went through her PowerPoint presentation explaining Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) and the 1115 Waiver. Drug Medi-Cal is currently the main pay source that provides services to alcohol and drug clients in our county. They have to meet medical necessity just like in Mental Health. Her presentation explained the different programs and how the 1115 Waiver works.

Yvonnia explained that we have tentatively opted in; but once we have the final implementation plan and all the work that Tabatha discussed is put into a formalized document, Yvonnia will have to get the CEO's approval, bring it back to this Board for approval, and then go to the BOS for their approval. The contract can then be submitted to the State saying we are officially part of this 1115 Drug Med-Cal Waiver process. Both the State and CMS will have to approve the plan as well.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VI. Financial Follow-up – Uninsured Mental Health Clients (Sharon M.)**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sharon M. passed out copies of FY 15/16 Quarterly Budget Report as of 1/31/16 and went over it. Also passed out was a document showing the number of clients by pay source for FY 14/15 and this Sharon went over also.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VII. MHSa Issue Resolution Process (IRP) – Sharon J.**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Sharon Jones could not be present today; Yvonnia covered this topic instead. Attached to today's agenda was a copy of the MHSa Issue Resolution Process. The attached copy was on old version which has been updated. This document is on the County website under Mental Health/MHSa. This document explains the process for someone who is concerned, or has issues, with the MHSa planning process. When submitted, this document would go to the QI Department for an internal investigation. If that resolution is not to the person's satisfaction, then they can go to the State to appeal the process. The State does encourage everyone to try to mitigate any concerns at the local level first.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VIII. Chair's Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Richard stated that Carol would like to update everyone's ID badge; please turn in your old badge to Carol. Yvonnia asked if pictures could be put on the badges; Carol said she would check on this.

<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> As noted above
<b>IX. Supervisor's Report</b>
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> Supervisor Walsh had to leave before he could give his report.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> None
<b>X. Director's Report</b> a. Building Project – Overview / Discussion b. State Budget Overview
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> a. Yvonnia's PowerPoint presentation showed maps of the building project and she went over these explaining where the different areas will be. Larger blueprint copies of the building project were posted to the walls for the Board to view also. The whole process will be about a year and a half. This should go before the BOS, hopefully, on March 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Right now we are in the development package stage and if everything goes well we should be doing demolition of the inside around the end of April or beginning of May. They say we should be moving in by October of 2017. When the new building is occupied, this leaves the opportunity of expansion for other areas. One example would be the Wellness Center. When the Wellness Center moves to the new building, the old area can be used for something different. The plan is to seek another grant to remodel the old Wellness Center to become a 6 to 8 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit vs the 4-bed CSU we have now and then convert the current CSU to a children's CSU. b. Yvonnia discussed Prop 63 revenues of \$1.9 billion are estimated by 2014/15, annual revenues of \$2 billion for 2015/16 and \$2.1 billion for 2016/17 are projected. There is the Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver Renewal that was approved by CMS which includes \$6.2 billion of initial Federal funding to support the State's Medi-Cal program and will cover more than 12.8 million individuals. The waiver was approved for five years. EPSDT – the budget includes \$11.9 million General Fund for implementation of EPSDT Mental Health Performance outcomes under development by DHCS. There will be a lot of accountability with this. 2011 Realignment estimates – budget estimates 2015/16 growth of \$119.8 million; when added to the current year's realignment of \$1.168 billion this would bring the overall budget to \$1.288 billion. Lastly, the Continuum of Care Resources – this goes into AB 403 – funding that was allocated to implement this new foster care reform. A bill just passed that the Governor has supported of moving kids out of group homes over the next year or two.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> Information only
<b>XI. 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 stated there was no meeting due to the EQRO.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> None
<b>XII. Announcements</b>
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> Kim had paperwork she passed out regarding which supervisor's district each member was in. Some of the information was not correct and Kim will revise it. She also passed out flyers on the Behavioral Health Board recruiting new members and a map of Supervisorial District #4. Vince congratulated Yvonnia on getting things to move forward within the Department.
<b>XIII. Adjournment</b>
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. The next meeting is March 1, 2016.

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

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

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

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