



Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

March 7, 2017

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Iris Mojica de Tatum, Chair; Richard Hawthorne, Vice-Chair; Paula Mason, Secretary; Mary Ellis; Kim Carter; Mary Hofmann; Sally Ragonut; Micki Archuleta; Supervisor Lee Lor; Vince Ramos
Absent:	Keng Cha; Roger Moua; Angelo Perez
Others Present:	Yvonnia Brown; Alice Liang; Sharon Mendonca; Jennifer Jones; Chris Kraushar; Liz Freitas; Tabatha Haywood; Robert Porta; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Iris Mojica de Tatum called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

2. Mission Statement

Iris read the Mission Statement.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2017 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hofmann / Ragonut) to approve the minutes from February 7, 2017.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince questioned if there is \$60K left in the Wellness Center budget and what happens to the funds that are not utilized. He questioned that when the new building is complete, can these left-over funds be used to give the clients work experience such as learning food handling in the new building. Sharon M. stated there is a new budget every year and the dollars are put in the budget for processes throughout the year. If money is not used, the MHSA dollars are not drawn down. MHSA money can only be used for MHSA programs. If it is not used one year, it can be used for the next year, or the year after that. The Planning Council and the Department will decide what a good use is for those dollars.

Leo Ragonut was present. His wife, Sally, sits on the Board. He thanked the Board for volunteering their hours for Mental Health. His concern is that they have sent letters to staff and the letters ask that there be acknowledgment of this letter. It has been over two months since they sent the last letter and they have not heard from anyone except the PRA, Chris Kraushar. His tax dollars are paying staff's salaries; all he wants is acknowledgment that the letter was received.

Micki stated she went to one of the triage meetings with law enforcement. Law enforcement does not want to be involved in Mental Health was the message she got. She would like for there to be discussion at this Board about law enforcement's role. Iris asked that this be put on next month's agenda.

Mary H. commented that she also attended both of these meetings and it was interesting to hear very different perspectives. You would think that the police and the ER were not talking about the same situation. There is another meeting tomorrow and all Behavioral Health Board members have been invited. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Sally stated she took notes from the triage discussion with the police. She will type out her notes and have Carol print them for next month's meeting and put on the agenda. She had a different interpretation than Micki did.

Kim stated she felt they expressed a lot of frustration with working with the hospital because they had to stay there so long with people. Steve Roussos is going to compile all the information from this, so Kim is sure they will get all the information.

Chris K. asked that when Steve compiles all this, could it be put on the Board agenda. Yvonnia stated that would probably be in a few months because he is doing this as part of a bigger grant. He will brief internal staff first of his findings and once it is released she will be more than willing to put on this Board's agenda once Steve's report is complete.

4. Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda. – con't.

Sally stated that she, Mary E. and Kim are working on Board training. They are looking at training on March 14th, 16th, 21st or 23rd. They have the training established for that day. They are wondering if there is a room available for them to use. Supervisor Lor stated there is space available at the Sierra Health Foundation office (it is right across the street from Bob Hart Square), or the United Way. Both can be used for free. Dr. Jones was able to confirm that the Board could use the CUBE.

Liz F. commented on law enforcement. She attended a meeting that discussed the shooting of the homeless person downtown. The comments she heard was why are law enforcement not being trained. The Department used to have this kind of training. Yvonna stated that would be part of the presentation because training is taking place. Richard stated that officers do receive training when they initially go through POST and is about 40 hours of training dealing with individuals with disabilities. There is follow-up training after they come back to the agency. Up until two years ago, it is up to the agency to participate. The Sheriff's Dept. took it upon themselves to certify a three-day POST-certified training in regards to this; this is the training that Gary Comer did. Sally commented that NAMI did 2-3 hours of that training.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

5. Medi-Cal Earned by Program/Contractor – Sharon Mendonca

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon M. passed out a spreadsheet for FY 16/17 showing the contractors the Department works with on a regular basis and the Medi-Cal associated with each. She then went over the information. All the contractors bill Medi-Cal on the Department's behalf.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

6. Quarterly Budget Report – Sharon Mendonca

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon M. passed out a Quarterly Budget Report for FY 16/17 and went over it. This budget report includes information to the end of February 2017. Sharon continued answering Vince's earlier question regarding dollars that are not spent. If the dollars are not spent, they stay in the MHSA fund and are not used until there is a plan to use the money. As for using the money to teach the clients job skills, the Wellness Center does work on job skills. This is something that could be brought up to the Planning Council and they can see if they would like to grow that program. There will be a big kitchen in the new building. Providing food to the public would require more discussion. Sharon clarified that if the Wellness Center did not use a certain amount of money one year, the money goes back to MHSA and the Wellness Center would not get that particular money back with the next year's allocation. Iris questioned if the MHSA unspent dollars are reverted back to the State and, if so, is it being tracked or does the money stay. Sharon stated that there is a Revenue & Expenditures Report which tells the State how much has been used of each component on a year-to-year basis. The Department tracks this closely. The oldest dollars are always used first. The State has not reverted any dollars yet, but they are looking at that.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

7. EQRO Update – Robert Porta

Discussion/Conclusion: Robert reported that they have not yet received the final report from the State but he could give preliminary findings from the Exit Interview on January 19th. Robert explained that the EQRO is a review conducted in accordance with their Medicaid Managed Care regulations. It is mandated that the Department of Health Care Services provide an external quality review of the quality, outcomes, timeliness of services, and also access to services provided by the Mental Health Plans in the Department. The External Quality Review Organization is APS Health Care that comes during those dates. They review the Department's Specialty Mental Health Services waiver program. They reflect the findings and make recommendations based on those findings. They look at the Performance Improvement Projects; Information Systems (IS) capability assessment; they look at focus groups and their opinions on the organization; and any changes, progress or milestones that have happened in the previous year. In terms of the focus groups – it was good. The main thing that came out was the positive energy within staff members as opposed to maybe two years ago where it was okay. The morale has built up. For IS – there was kudos to two staff members in terms of their knowledge and data bases they are building and also in regards to Tableau which is a strong database the Department is starting to use. The areas to expand: use outcomes data in an aggregated way, in a collected way. One main tool the Department was asked to look at are the implementation of level of care and outcome tools. One would be LOCUS (Level of Care Utilization System) which is for the adults. The tool for youth is TOP (Treatment Outcome Package) which would measure the outcomes and level of care needed for the youth. Other areas

7. EQRO Update – Robert Porta – con't.

needing improvement were the timeliness of the point of entry appointments. There is some bottlenecking happening with the initial appointment to the continuing appointment. Robert stated they are looking at this through a PIP. Other issues are increased staffing in regards to hiring more clinicians and more Program Managers. They would like the Department to do more on-line communication.

Vince gave kudos to the Director, Yvonna. He felt it was because of her that the Department did so well. Mary H. stated that at a recent NAMI meeting one of the attendees gave kudos to a staff member at CARS. It was the Office Assistant, but didn't know their name. She was patient, understanding and very helpful. Yvonna responded by saying this was a team effort and Robert's work made the Triennial and EQRO reviews the success they were.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

8. MHSA Innovation Plan Update – Sharon Jones & Yvonna Brown

Discussion/Conclusion: Sharon could not be present today. Yvonna gave a brief overview, but asked that this be put back on the agenda for next when Sharon could be present. Yvonna and Sharon both went to the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission on February 23rd. Sharon did an exceptional job presenting the innovative plan – Innovative Strategist Network. This was very instrumental for the Department and the County. It was very intense and Sharon handled it well. The State approved the plan for \$6.8M. It is a major accomplishment; many other counties have been denied. They liked the concept. They were very pleased about the Planning Council interaction and involvement. Yvonna thinks that the plan could be something the State might model. There are seven positions tied to this plan. One of the Commissioners volunteered to give his own input to help shape and frame the plan. They have six to nine months to put everything together. No staff will be hired until everything is in place.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

9. Chair's Report – Iris Mojica de Tatum
a. Update Standing Committee List

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris announced that there has been a resignation. Roger Moua will no longer be part of this Board. a. Iris and the Board went over the Standing Committee List and updated who wanted to be part of each committee. Carol will update the form. The form is part of the Board binders.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

10. Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Lor

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Lor did not have a report this month. She did ask that any positive news be shared at the Board of Supervisor's meetings. This is not only for the Board's knowledge, but also for the public's knowledge. Supervisor Lor did recently attend NACO (National Association of Counties); there was not a lot of news to report.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

11. Director's Report
a. B Street Update / Next Steps
b. Department Organizational Chart Overview
c. BHRS – New Vision & Mission Statement

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonna mentioned that at the recent Homeless Summit there was a presentation from the City of Merced regarding this property. She stated that there is interest between the County and City working together to develop supportive housing project looking at this location. She clarified that nothing has been solidified. That presentation was premature. There is still discussion going on; the presentation made it sound like it was a done deal. b. Several meetings ago this Board requested a Department organizational chart. The most current organizational chart was attached to today's agenda. Yvonna and the Board went over the chart. c. The Department's new Vision and Mission statements were attached to the meeting packet. They are working on fine-tuning the Values.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

12. Reports / Updates
a. Executive Committee
b. QIC

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The Executive Committee had nothing new to report. b. Kim and Mary E. attended the last meeting. A copy of their report was passed out to everyone. Mary briefly went over the report.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

13. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Chris announced that Community Action Agency is having community forums. The purpose is to gather information on the conditions and causes of poverty, the needs of the low-income community and to identify programs addressing those needs. Chris will send the flyer to Carol.

14. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. The next meeting is April 4, 2017.

Submitted by: _____

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____

Paula Mason, Secretary
Merced County Mental Health Board

Date: _____

Date: _____