



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

October 2, 2012

3:30 – 5:00 pm

40 G Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

Present:	Mary Ellis, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Hub Walsh, Supervisor; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Mary Hofmann; Cora Gonzales; Chuck McClure; Jan Morita; James Fuller; Keng Cha
Absent:	David Baker; Kim Carter; Linda O'Donnell; Audrey Spangler; Maureen Freitas
Others Present:	Manuel Jimenez; Curt Willems; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Denise Grace, LB Wellness Center; Carmen Segura, LB Wellness Center; Tony Ryland, LB Lead Clinician; Maurina Erickson, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Pacheco Place Open House, 232 J Street, Los Banos, CA 93635

The dedication was well attended. A small reception and tour followed the ceremony.

II. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Mary Ellis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was done. Roll call was taken.

III. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Fuller / McClure) to approve the minutes from September 4, 2012

IV. Approval of Agenda for October 2, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Cora requested adding two items: 1. Development of Board binder and 2. A brief overview of the Latino Conference she attended. M/S/C (Fuller / Ragonut) to approve the agenda for October 2, 2012 with the addition of two items "L" and "M" under Committee Reports.

V. Opportunity for Public Input to Speak on Any Matter of Public Interest Within the Board's Jurisdiction Including Items on the Board's Agenda (Time Limit of 3-5 Minutes)

a. Open Discussion for Board

Discussion/Conclusion:

- Vince wanted to discuss Proposition 63. He would like discussion added to next month's agenda under the Supervisor's Report.
- Vince questioned some of the information presented by Perry Watkins last month. Per Vince, Perry stated that the CSU cannot hold a person over 24 hours. He felt this was incorrect because of Laura's Law 1569. He asked that this issued be looked into for clarification. Manuel explained that Laura's Law is applied differently in each County. He explained that our CSU is a 23 hour hold facility. After 23 hours, the person can be placed in Marie Green on a 5150 hold if necessary.
- Vince stated that Marie Green was supposed to have received funds to update the lobby. Manuel stated that the department is looking into cameras and installing better lighting. The parking lot incident concerning the potential assault was brought up. Vince had other concerns that were tabled to the end of the meeting, time permitting.
- Cora went ahead and spoke about the Latino conference during this open forum. She attached this annual conference in Los Angeles. She stated there was great information throughout the conference. The one thing she wanted to bring back to the group was that the department can't do enough staff training to deal with the Latino issues. Data collection has changed drastically the last ten years, especially for the Latino community. There needs to be a great improvement in translation. This is key to capturing the necessary data. There needs to be a consideration in merging the spiritual aspects into the mental health services provided.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VI. Guest Speaker from Los Banos Clinic (Tony Ryland)

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel introduced Tony Ryland, lead clinician for the Los Banos Clinic. Tony thanked everyone for being there and for attending the Pacheco Places Ribbon Cutting and Open House. It is nice to see the town support for this project, especially during these economic hard times. This will be a great resource for the clients and the community. He explained the direction the clinic is going right now. Tony feels they are better meeting the needs of the clients and the participation is growing. The Wellness Center is providing a good feeling and the progression is happening nicely because they are providing a safe place for the clients to drop in and receive services. Attendance is up.

There is a need to provide more services in the schools. Last year, there was a clinician working directly with the students. This year, the department will be providing two clinicians to outreach to the schools, one for the high school and one for the elementary school. The schools are great places to implement programs to catch potential problems early. Tony introduced Carmen Segura, Program Assistant. Carmen has gone from a volunteer to a full time Merced County employee. She is a shining example of how our programs can work. She is proof that the system does actually help people. The Los Banos clinic is very thankful for Carmen and all the assets she brings to the clinic. They are grateful to have her and she states she is grateful to be there. It truly is a win/win situation for all.

Tony was going to introduce Denise Grace, Extra Help Consumer Assistance Worker, but she had to transport a client. This is another example of how well the staff is working with the clients. The program is doing what it is supposed to do. One of the obstacles is transportation. The lack of funding makes it extremely difficult to provide transportation to all of the clients needing this service. The clinic staff provides transportation to the surrounding areas two to three times a week.

Sally asked how many people daily attend the Wellness Center. There are 10-15 on average.

Vince asked about walk-in services. Every Thursday is the Walk-In Clinic day. There is an average of 15 clients receiving services every Thursday.

Manuel advised the attendees that the Board of Supervisors has approved a Program Manager position for Los Banos/Livingston. This has been the only management position submitted and Board approved in a very long time. Hub explained that when a RIF hits the County, the Board is very cautious about making sure that the cuts happen across the board and not just on the below management positions. Manuel is fully aware of who generates revenue and he wants to make sure these valuable positions are kept. Hub stated that the funding for Mental Health has increased but not so much in the rest of the County. Manuel spoke briefly about the Realignment II dollars.

Mary pointed out all the good things that are being done in our department and in the communities.

Vince asked if the Pacheco Place residents can have roommates. Yes they can. Provisions have already been set in place to allow qualifying people to live in a roommate situation. Sally was glad to see the Pacheco Place was only four blocks from our Los Banos Clinic.

VII. Report of AOD/MH Merge

Discussion/Conclusion: There are continued meetings to combine the Mental Health and the AOD governing boards. Manuel will be speaking with Dave Olsen, County Council, to assist with the guidelines. There are differences between the Boards that need to be addressed. The Mental Health Board will readdress this topic at another meeting. Sally would like new bi-laws by April. It is the goal to have the two Boards blended by July of 2013. Manuel will present the actions to the Board of Supervisor's when the time is right. Many counties have already blended the Boards to create one governing Board.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VIII. Supervisor's Report (Hub)

Discussion/Conclusion: Hub reported that Vince had come before the Board regarding MHSA. There is still review of the specifics. The efforts made by Mental Health are helping. When there is a firmer, clearer model available, there will be a report back to this Board. Hub feels that MHSA is directly related to the economy.

There is a level of frustration in the communities regarding the homeless population. There are complaints about the temporary camps,

VIII. Supervisor's Report (Hub) – con't.

panhandling, safety, etc. Our Department is doing our part to help this situation. We have contracted with Turning Point for ten beds to serve our clients, some of which qualify as homeless. We have a full time employee dedicated to working with the homeless.

Cora was concerned about the panhandlers at the busy intersections. Hub suggested they call the police. The laws are changing concerning the homeless issues. Additional problems are being created by this population for the downtown merchants.

Sally asked about the D Street shelter. Hub was lead to believe that it was full. He discovered that in actuality they are not full. They have the ability to grow in numbers. If people are turned away, it is usually because of another reason and not because they are at capacity. Sharon reminded the group that Mental Health owns a bed at the D Street shelter. It is not always in use. At this time there is no homeless shelter in Los Banos. The community is having a function on October 12th at Bethel Community Church to raise awareness about this problem. There is a desperate need for help in the homeless population.

Recommendation/Action:

IX. Director's Report (Manuel)

- a. Budget Updates
- b. Program Updates

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Manuel reported that we will be planning next year's budget soon. We received an additional \$800,000 for the mental health side through EPSDT and Realignment funds. This information was received after the Department submitted our final budget. This has led to a lawsuit against the Department. We must provide more services for the Foster children in our system. AOD has an additional \$100,000. Both of these numbers came through on September 20th, after the budget was finalized. These are dedicated dollars aimed at providing services for kids.

b. Our department is in a hiring phase. We are currently recruiting for many positions. We have been able to fill some of the positions that were previously on hold because the previous staff member retired. We are filing the CSU positions as quickly as possible.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

X. Committee Reports / Updates

- a. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) (Sally / Mary E.)
- b. Executive / Bylaws / Planning Committee (Sally / Vince / Mary E.)
- c. Membership Committee (Kim)
- d. Patients' Rights Advocate (Chris)
- e. Wellness Center Update (Chuck)
- f. CALMHB/C Update (James / Keng)
- g. NAMI (Mary H.)
- h. Children's System of Care (CSOC) (Cora)
- i. MHSA Ongoing Planning Council (Sharon J. / Chuck / Mary E.)
- j. Cultural Competency Committee (Mary H. / David)
- k. Community Partner's Meeting (Vince / Mary E.)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. The next meeting is on October 23, 2012. b. There is work on the vision and values. c. No report was given. d. Chris met with CPT, Country Villa, Board and Cares and Alan Vaughn. She has not received a complaint about the mental health staff yet. She is contracted with King's View and she deals with much more than our clients and our staff. She coordinates county wide to resolve issues brought to her attention. There was a question on how she receives her calls. Chris get referrals from phone calls, through meet and greets and through outreach. It's a big job and a part time position. She reports to the Director but she serves the entire county. e. Chuck reported for the Wellness Center. The CAC is having discussions to revise the kitchen rules and responsibilities. They are going to combine the holiday event and their talent show in the middle of December. The consumer Halloween event is on October 26th. The CAC is trying to decide what they are going to do to help with these functions. There is discussion about having social events on a monthly basis to meet and greet new folks and to keep the current people interested in still attending. The election of their officers has been postponed to November 12th. They may have to push the April elections back as the

X. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

positions are held for six months. The Monterey trip went really well. Attending that field trip were 25 clients from Merced, 10 clients from Los Banos and seven staff. This opportunity was a valuable tool to build socialization skills. Everyone had positive things to say about this well planned event. The Multi-Cultural event was also well received. f. There was no contact. The next meeting is on October 18th or 20th. g. NAMI is in week six of the Family to Family classes. They are going well. They are on week three of the Peer to Peer classes. There was a previous presentation, Voice to Voice, that went very well. They are working with a program to enhance the relationship between parents and teachers. Creating allies is beneficial for the kids. Ending the Silence is a program for freshmen and it will be incorporated into their health class. This is not scheduled yet but will be shortly. There is monthly program to help navigate the mental health system. Their next meeting is October 24th at 6:30 in The CUBE. h. NO report was given. The next meeting is on October 9th. i. No report was given. j. No report was given. Mary shared a personal story about her grandchild growing up multi-cultural and bi-lingual. k. No report given.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XI. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is November 6, 2012.

Submitted by: _____
Maurina Erickson
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____