



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

December 4, 2012

3:30 – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA 95341

Present:	Mary Ellis, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Mary Hofmann; Cora Gonzales; Jan Morita; Linda O'Donnell; Audrey Spangler; David Baker; Kim Carter; Keng Cha
Absent:	Supervisor Walsh; Maureen Freitas; Chuck McClure; James Fuller
Others Present:	Manuel Jimenez; Sharon Jones; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Irene & Luis De La Cruz; Diane Bair; Fred Risard; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Mary Ellis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 6, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: Sally commented that Audrey Spangler was noted as being both "present" and "absent" in November minutes; Audrey was not present in November. Mary E. noted a correction was needed on page 3. Where it stated "National Council of Negro Women", it should read "Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc." and instead of "Estella Dunn" it should read "Sylvia Fuller". M/S/C (Morita / Hofmann) to accept the minutes from November 6, 2012 with noted corrections.

III. Approval of Agenda for December 4, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Gonzales) to approve the agenda for December 4, 2012.

IV. 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: a. Irene and Luis De La Cruz were present today. They publish "Between Amigos" and are entering their 12th year of publication and have documented a little over 21,000 readers in Merced County. They are very happy with the way Merced has been good to them. They do have some concerns though. One concern is what is happening with Healthy Families and the Medi-Cal providers. They are concerned that services will be weakened because of the large number that the present agency is going to need to serve and there will only be one. They believe in choices and they would like the Mental Health Board to advocate for at least more than one choice. Another concern is the Latino perspective on mental health and the services to the Latino community by the Mental Health Department. They know the effort is there and that there have been a lot of cuts and changes especially with the health care initiative. They would appreciate moving forward in looking at the services for the whole community, but specifically for the larger population which happens to be Latino. Irene continued that the Mental Health Dept. has made great strides in getting services to Planada but there still needs to be more work. Luis discussed One Voice (through Merced County Association of Government-MCAG), the group of people that go to Washington to meet with the elected officials. He wondered if there was the possibility of sending a Mental Health Board member with this group to move the agenda/awareness forward. Lastly, if the De La Cruz's can be of any assistance, please let them know.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

V. Retreat: Date and Volunteers

Discussion/Conclusion: The decision was made to hold the retreat on Saturday, April 20, 2013. It will be from 9:00-4:00 at the B Street site. Jan Morita and Cora Gonzales both volunteered to be on the Planning Committee. The Director, Manuel Jimenez, will be the main presenter because he has been instrumental in putting together a document entitled "Community-Defined Solutions for Latino Mental Health Care Disparities". A copy of the "Table of Contents" from this document were passed out and Board members were

V. Retreat: Date and Volunteers – con't.

asked to look the list over and decide which chapters they would like Manuel to present on in April. Mary thanked the Director for his hard work and putting time into all of these activities to make things happen.

Recommendation/Action: Board members to bring back their decision on which chapters they would like presented.

VI. Video on Hispanic Culture/Mental Health

Discussion/Conclusion: A DVD entitled, 'Voices – Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health' was viewed.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Services for the Latino Community (Manuel)

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel handed out a document from last year's EQRO Report. The EQRO Report is a yearly event that happens to all counties where an outside agency comes in and evaluates the county. This particular document showed the penetration rate of the Latino community receiving mental health services in Merced County. The EQRO only looks at Medi-Cal recipients. Our penetration rate is 1.97%. Out of all 58 counties and 2 cities, Merced ranked 53rd in serving the Latino community; this is not a good report. The average Statewide is 3.58%, thus, the State is not doing good. Latinos make up a large percentage of not only the State, but also Merced County. Manuel went over how many Hispanic speaking staff the Department has; unfortunately, the Department does not have a high number of Spanish speaking staff. Manuel also reported that about 18 months ago the EPSDT funding went up for kids. The Department was able to hire a lot of new clinicians, primarily for children, and there are staff now in 22 different schools. The Innovation Plan has Community Developmental Partners working in rural communities and a good portion of who they are reaching out to is the Latino communities – Le Grand, Planada, El Nido, Dos Palos and South Dos Palos. The Department is also working with a nationally known social worker who is Latino and is training the Community Developmental Partners as well as the Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Recommendation/Action: Due to lack of time and the nature of this subject, this agenda item will be brought back next month

VIII. Disparities Project Document (Manuel)

Discussion/Conclusion: Manuel helped work on a Disparities Project and as part of the Mental Health Services Act some different reports were done on several different ethnic groups throughout the State – the African-American community, the Native American community, the Pacific Islanders and Asian community, LGBTQ community, and the Latino community. Liz Slate e-mailed the whole report to this Board. A document on Latino Mental Health Care Disparities was passed out. UC Davis got the proposal to do the research, gather the data and to compile it. Manuel served on the committee to help organize all the focus groups as well as looking at the preliminary data that came out and making recommendations until they had a finished project. If anyone has questions after reading the report, Manuel will be more than happy to discuss it next month. Lastly, Manuel mentioned that possibly Dr. Graxiola could be invited, along with some of his UC Davis staff, to do a presentation here in the community.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

IX. Supervisor's Report (Hub)

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh was not present today.

Recommendation/Action:

X. Director's Report (Manuel)

- a. Staffing
- b. Changes "In the Air"
- c. Health Care Reform

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Manuel reported that the State of California has changed its retirement laws and some staff are retiring. Currently there are four staff retiring, but there could be more. Debbie Dean, Sandra Diaz, Rosanna O'Donnell, and Rosa Lopez will be retiring. Hopefully, as staff retire, we are able to replace them. However, the process does take time. b. Manuel has been able to hire two new Managers. Janet Spangler will be replacing Debbie Dean in Adult Services. Betty Hoskins, a new employee, will be taking Janet's place in Children's. Jon Masuda, who was in CalWORKs, will be going out to Los Banos/Livingston/Hilmar to be the Manager

X. Director’s Report (Manuel) – con’t.

there. Trechann Barber-Jacinto, a Social Worker in Marie Green, will be taking Jon’s place in CalWORKs and EI Portal. c. Merced County has decided not to participate in the Low Income Health Plan (LIHP). Health care reform is coming in January 2014 and this will make many Merced County residents eligible for Medi-Cal. At this time Manuel does not know how many. Manuel also handed out the budget that he had promised to bring.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XI. 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. There was no report; the next meeting is January 22, 2013. b. Mary E. stated that the Board was asked to read pages 1 and 2 from Rosenberg’s Rules to familiarize themselves with this. Mary asked that the Board read pages 3 and 4 for next month. c. Kim reported that she had nothing on membership today. But she did mention that the next meeting for the Suicide Coalition is next Monday; she will report on it at the January meeting. d. Chris reported that every month she meets with Manuel and Kings View. They go over a standing agenda which talks about policy and procedures not only in the Department but also in facilities that she monitors. They go over the contacts and types for the month that she has had in terms of certification hearings on the Marie Green and ombudsman reports that come in that she has to investigate; they go over any HIPAA disclosures; they review any providers or contract providers that she monitors for the care homes or facilities; they review compliance with the contract they have with the County and lastly they go over any needs, progress and concerns that she has from the previous month. e. Jan spoke for Chuck today, who could not make the meeting. Everything is going great at the Wellness Center and he extended an invitation to everyone to the Extravaganza that will be taking place on December 13th at the Wellness Center. It will be from 10:30 – 1:00 and will include a talent show and lunch. f. Keng stated there is supposedly a meeting this month but he does not have any information on it yet. g. Mary H. reported they just finished their Family-to-Family Class for the Fall. They are sending two more to be trained to teach in Spanish. They start new classes in January; more information to come out. Perry Watkins spoke at their meeting last week and it was very informative and helpful for those attending. Their Peer-to-Peer class is going well and concludes next week. They did another Parents and Teachers as Allies presentation last month. In January Janet Spangler will be talking about the Children’s System of Care. h. Cora stated that there was no meeting; the next meeting is in January. i. Sharon J. stated they are gearing up for presentation at the beginning of the year for the contractors and moving towards an infrastructure for outcomes and outcome measures. j. Sharon J. reported they meet on the 3rd Monday of the month and are covering different goals – looking at quality of service, access to services, and getting everyone trained multi-culturally. There is another CBMCS training in January. k. Vince reported on the new hires for the Department. Mary E. reported that Angelica Martinez, who is deaf, will be doing a Deaf Culture 101 training in February.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

XII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. The next meeting is January 8, 2013.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____