



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting and Public Hearing

August 7, 2012

4:00 – 7:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA 95341

Present: Mary Ellis, Chair; Sally Ragonut, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Mary Hofmann; Cora Gonzales; Hub Walsh, Supervisor; Chuck McClure; Jan Morita; Maureen Freitas; David Baker; Linda O'Donnell; Kim Carter; Keng Cha

Absent: Audrey Spangler; Norma Blackwood; James Fuller

Others Present: Manuel Jimenez; Curt Willems; Sharon Jones; Gary Comer, PRA; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Mary Ellis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was done. Roll call was taken.

II. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Plan Update FY 2012/2013

a) Close Public Hearing (7:00 p.m.)

1) Approve Annual Update (Board Action)

Discussion/Conclusion: Mary Ellis welcomed everyone present. Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator introduced herself and explained that the Public Hearing tonight is in regards to the MHSA Annual Plan FY 2012/2013. In FY 2011/2012 many new programs were implemented and she went over those in a powerpoint presentation. The document she went over has been posted for the last 30 days on the County website. Sharon then opened the meeting to testimonies from the public:

Julia – she attended on behalf of the Dual Diagnosis Program (DDP). They recently had a meeting to brainstorm some ideas. DDP would like some of the funds that the Wellness Center receives. Around 2007/08 when the Wellness Center opened and DDP was closed, there were eleven suicides in five months. Last year there were two suicides. They would like to have funds to celebrate recovery, prevention for adults, guest speakers, Red Ribbon, etc. Their therapists work very hard and average about sixty clients every two weeks, hold groups and interact with clients about dual diagnosis. Julia is also going through EMDR therapy with Silvia. Don't forget about DDP and help them financially.

Maria – she thanked God for being here. The program at the Wellness Center is the best. The workers are the best and have really helped her in her life. She hopes that everyone meets their needs. Everyone has different thinking and she really appreciates them. She has been here a long time and has put her time to growth. They do their part and she does her part to grow in the situation. She has no complaints – just very thankful for this place and appreciates it.

Female – the Wellness Center speaks for itself. She was challenged when she started. She is happy that everyone let them have this. A good staff was chosen for them. They encourage them and everything. It has made her a better person, a better mother. Sometimes she doesn't feel like getting up, but it's nice to look forward to something that they can go to. A lot of times things don't work out good, but when you go there you feel like you are heard and see people who are like family. She loves every staff at the Wellness Center because they are awesome and she is glad good staff was picked. She hopes they never take the Wellness Center away because Merced has nowhere to go, there is nothing out there. This is a place they can go to and reminisce and talk to people that they can relate to. Sometimes you wipe up their tears and say "I'm in the same boat". Thank you.

Veronica – she is a volunteer at the Wellness Center as well as a consumer. She and eleven others were chosen to go to Sacramento to see two other Wellness Centers there. They went and asked questions on how to improve Merced's Wellness Center. Everyone agreed that between the three Wellness Centers, Merced has the best because of the format. They got lost at the other places, but Merced has a big open space in order to see everyone. Thank you.

SEACAP Participant – her problem is about her life. She and her husband have been married for 30 years and now they are separated. She has lost her job and she stays with her kids. She doesn't have financial support and her kids do not want her. She went to Merced Lao family for help. They have helped her and she supports herself now. Lao Family and SEACAP are working.

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Male – he is from Turning Point and they have been there for him. He feels blessed. Thank you.

Maria – she has been in Mental Health since she was a minor and has sought a lot of help for herself. She is a mother and they get screened really bad through CPS because of what they are. They get labeled and tell them they can't have their children. That's not right – it hurts them and traumatizes them and their children. Even though they have an illness, they are trying to get help and should not be screened; they should be like any other parent. She thinks there should be a program to help the parents.

Female – she has been suffering for ten years because of her son. She is very grateful for the program that has been helping him and she feels it was angels that were sent. Turning Point has helped him a lot to better himself and be independent. She suffered a lot when he was in Marie Green. Now there is a big difference in the last couple of years. She thanked God that he is better. Thanks to Turning Point.

Cory and Edward – The first time she heard of Turning Point was a couple years ago. She saw her brother at the doctor's office with Cynthia and she hadn't seen him in a while. She started talking to them and learned that her brother had a place to stay, and was now on SSI. He was helped at Mental Health to get on medication to help his illness. They are really grateful for Turning Point for helping her brother because she doesn't know where he would be right now if it wasn't for Turning Point.

Female – she has been in the mental health system for 30 years and she will be 50 years old this year. She got a job through a friend at the Wellness Center. She did it and set an example. Her son was working but never got paid. After she worked very hard, he is now working at Foster Farms.

Eric – he complimented Turning Point on how much they have helped him. They accomplish a lot and furnish him transportation and furniture and all kinds of stuff. They have been really great people, they are really nice to him and he appreciates it. God bless them for it and he thanks them for their hospitality. They helped him get an apartment and everything because he was homeless for a while after he got out of jail. He didn't know what he was going to do. He was staying in hotels and he was lost. Everything in his apartment was stolen. Turning Point has really helped him and he appreciates it.

Female – her sister has been going to the Wellness Program for quite a few years. Their mother died when she was 22 and she was the oldest. The two sisters have been together for many years. They lived in the Bay area and she went to programs there – terrible. Horribly run, lots more money than we have here and not given the heart that she has here. She went from hospitalizations multiple times a year to a long stay at the Manor one time. Also she was living in a Board & Care. Now she is living in an apartment, she does her shopping, her groceries, she takes care of her med management. But, when she misses days at the program, she feels insecure because everybody is there to back her up. This program enables herself to have a life as well as her sister. Her social life is not just tied into four or five people in their family – it is enormous and she has blossomed with it. This is what the program is about. If more money was possible, she knows there are many people out there who could benefit from this. The staff is fantastic. Her sister also graduated from the CASRA program.

Marina – she thanked everyone for the program. She is from Guatemala but been here for many years. Since 2003 she has been going to the Wellness Center and she is so grateful. They have a ladies Hispanic group and they have a great time. They get together and go places and it is a great thing to do. She really, really appreciates it. The ladies Hispanic group also thanks everyone.

Susan – she works with Sharon Jones as a Community Partner on the Innovation Project out in El Nido. She introduced Manuela who was a student of the project – English Learners. Manuela gave thanks to the program, to the help that has been given to the El Nido community. Her and her daughter were both able to attend the English Learners class. She likes the work that the Dept. is doing, she hopes it will continue and she hopes there will be more funding in the future. She also thanked Manuel Ortiz who helped with the children while the parents were in the English Learners class.

Andrew – he is a volunteer at the Wellness Center. He thanks the Wellness Center because they gave him a chance to be there when he was about to give up but they told him not to. He also went to Sacramento and agreed with what the woman before him said. He likes the Wellness Center and the staff. They treat they people real good, they hear you out. He would like the Wellness Center to stay there.

Tio – he thanked the people at Turning Point because they have helped him.

Alfonso – he works in the kitchen at the Wellness Center. The people treat him nice. They teach you how to help yourself and other people in the community. They also teach you how to communicate with people and how to love people so you can love yourself.

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Lisa – she is a conservator at the Wellness Center. She moved here a couple of years ago and didn't get connected with Mental Health right away and ended up at Marie Green very sick. They connected her to the Wellness Center. She has lived in several different counties and gone to their programs being heavily involved in the MHSA. Of all of them, Merced is the best. They are professional, warm and caring and keep her out of the hospital. She is on the right path and her life is enriched by going there.

Female – when she needed help in going from a minor to an adult, she met a counselor here and became close to her. She was in the delivery room with her because she had no one and wasn't close to them. Her name was Jolene. This is family to her. It took her years to confess to herself that she needed help. When she delivered her baby, Jolene was there to help. She appreciates this.

Female – she comes from Los Angeles. She gets very depressed and is glad they have helped her a lot. She is getting better every day. Her therapy is good for her with her meds. These people are the best. They keep her alive and she sees more coming that need help. She gives a million thanks. More therapists are needed. She has learned a lot of things – thank you.

Male – he thanked the Wellness Center staff. They are caring, loving, charming, helpful and there will always be a place for us.

Linda – they have really have helped her a lot. She has been in the system for a long time.

Chuck – he is a consumer, a volunteer at the Wellness Center, and he is very proud and pleased and grateful to actually serve on the Mental Health Board of Merced County. He also serves on the Ongoing Planning Council; he is also becoming very involved with NAMI and three different areas. He does a lot of volunteer work at the Wellness Center and there is one reason why he does all of this. It is tragic that we do lose lives to mental illness; however, we save lives too. He doesn't have the cold, hard facts on how many he has run into, but a lot of people since he became involved at the Wellness Center, have explained to him that their lives would be either empty or over if not for the Wellness Center. When he first came to the Wellness Center at age 52, it was his first diagnosis. He had suffered from depression all his life, but never chose to deal with it. Right before he got here, in a month and a half period of time, he lost his wife, his family, his job, car, home, his sanity. He went to jail for the first time in his life. Went to a psychiatric ward twice for the first time in his life. Went homeless for the first time in his life. He did not know up from down. It was finally getting some medication that worked, but that is an important part of his recovery. If it wasn't for the love, support and caring people in the different programs available at the Wellness Center, he wouldn't be here. This is why he gives his time to all these different areas – to give back what they gave him. This is a decent life. He knows he has a way to go and keep making progress. He enjoys helping others travel this path. To the Wellness Center – thank you.

Jill – she has clinical depression. When she got out of the hospital a few years ago, the doctor told her about the Wellness Center. That is where she met Sandra. Through her groups and counseling she has guided her up the path of recovery. She has been a good mentor for her. She also likes the staff – everyone including the other clients – have given her hope and strength. She does not know where she would be without the Wellness Center and she intends to keep going to her groups so she will be guided in the right direction for the rest of her life. Thank you.

Evelyn – she is a participant at the Wellness Center and they help her look at her options by striving to get out of repetitious situations that lead nowhere. She is learning to use her new skills and knowledge which will help her lead to a better future and that short-term goal would be a job. Two years ago she had a nervous breakdown. Her job ended and she lost her home, her child, she became homeless and came to Merced not know anybody. She stayed at the shelter and they became her family. Then she was introduced to the Wellness Center and if it wasn't for the Wellness Center and the programs that are offered, she too would not be here. During her recovery she is very thankful for the kindness and warmth and unconditional reach that she received from the staff at the Wellness Center. This place is a safe haven for her. It has helped her improve her life style and wants to get more involved in programs that form partnerships by volunteering her services. She is very thankful because she is learning to love herself and she gives glory to her God, her higher power. Thank you.

Tonya – in 1997 she was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. She had a severe problem dealing with it because she is an over achiever. She was blessed with a higher education, a teaching credential, the ability to have her own classroom and teach. Then she collapsed in 2005 and it ripped her heart out that she could not be a school teacher. She ended up on SSI because she couldn't function and that was very hard for her to accept. But she knew in her heart that she would get better – maybe not as a schoolteacher, but she would get back out there. She has a lot of support from her parents and her therapists and her psychiatrist. Her psychiatrist told her she can do whatever she wants; there are doctors, lawyers, politicians who are bi-polar and she can do it. Lately she has been trying to pursue getting her driver's license after she lost it in 2005. It has been over six years now, she hasn't been in a psychiatric ward and

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she is very stable. She now wants to get her driver's license back. A doctor has to fill out an evaluation form and that is where she is having a problem. She cannot find a doctor who will sign off and her psychiatrist will only sign the form for the psychiatrist part. Because a doctor will not sign off, she cannot get her license. She was looking for any advice or suggestions on how to resolve this situation.

Female – she went to Turning Point because she was messed up. To other people she had to prove responsibility and she is trying real hard. They help her, they take her out to dinner, let them do arts and crafts, play bingo, have sessions about disorders. They even helped her get a job, to take care of herself, to hopefully come up in the world and eventually have a 40-hour a week job like she used to before she got to Merced County.

Genevieve – she is a Community Development Partner under the Innovation Plan with Sharon Jones. She thanked the Board for the Innovation Plan and giving the funding for it. She has an individual she is trying to get set up with the Wellness Center in Los Banos. She hopes that one day this person can come here and say thank you for that. Genevieve just wanted to say thank you for the money to have an Innovation Project and helping people in our communities.

Female – she wanted to recognize Aaron because if it wasn't for him she wouldn't have a job.

Manuel Jimenez, Director – as the Mental Health Director he was very moved by all these testimonies. To everyone who shared their story, this is why he got into this profession. Everyone talked very well about his staff but he also wanted to recognize other partners – it is not just Merced County Mental Health. Many talked about Turning Point, but there is also the County Office of Education, Community Action Agency, and Lao Family. Those are the ones who are doing the hard work in our community, working with everyone; because we do want to help our community and make people's lives better. He wishes that more people could be helped. He hopes that everyone present go out in the community and let them know what County Mental Health and all their partners are doing. He asked all the community partners and all staff to stand up in order to give them a round of applause.

Female – in 2007 her brother and sister-in-law died. She felt very sad and cried a lot. Her husband said she was crazy and walked out the door. Lao Family heard about her story and came to her house and brought their services. In 2008 she went to Merced Lao Family and her husband passed away. She got lost and couldn't eat. Her family put food on the table but she forgot to eat. Lao Family helped her improve her life and meet other people. Every time she goes there, the staff help her. Thank you very much.

Female – she knows it is difficult for some to get the right services. She is glad the mental health center, the therapies, the groups – are working with her. Her therapist is okay, these people are working good. The key is asking for help. She doesn't have depression. She got a house to live, but needs money. The people treating her feel like family.

End of Testimonies

Sharon Jones then asked if there were any questions.

- Supervisor Walsh questioned the WET and Capital Facilities funding being only one-time funding. Sharon reiterated that WET (Workforce Education and Training) and Capital Facilities/Technological Needs are one-time only money and they have ten years to spend it from the time it is received. Once the WET money runs out, money can be pulled from CSS to cover that part.
- Supervisor Walsh questioned that the prudent dollar reserve can only be used for MHSA services. Sharon responded in the affirmative – for core programs.
- Supervisor Walsh questioned the housing dollars – are they annual? Sharon stated they are one-time dollars - \$2.6 million.
- Supervisor Walsh questioned the collaborative services between Mental Health and Child Welfare Services. Are the folks who participate in that identified via mental health services or via child welfare services? Sharon responded that the DoWITH program is child welfare and it is a collaboration.
- Sally Ragonut questioned the 2011/12 finances. Sharon had previously stated that she doesn't have the 2012/13 financial figures yet. For the Board to have this Public Hearing, are they not approving the 2012/13 program and are they approving it without knowing what the actual figures are? Sharon responded that the funding is slated to go up, so it will not go below what she showed in the presentation. The programs can operate at the same level. The Board will be approving everything that we already have – no new programs other than the Juvenile Court which is already funded with Innovation dollars and the Adult Mental Health Court which is an expansion of CSS. The goal is to bill Medi-Cal and leverage some of the funding for these two programs.

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- A question was asked about the presentation slide showing the Wellness Center/DDP funding. Does this mean that DDP is included in this funding? Sharon responded that figure is the total number for both programs together. The DDP came out of the Adult Wellness Center and she put them both together because it is actually the substance use portion of the Wellness Center.
 - Linda O'Donnell questioned the voting of monies that cannot be seen or know what they are. Why is this Public Hearing being done now and not when the figures are available? Sharon responded that she is asking for the Board to approve the same numbers that were approved for FY 11/12 because that money is available. They always have to keep one year's money on hold so that programs can operate forward. It is the same level of funding, nothing has changed. But, an Annual Update has to be done. This is standard MHSA procedure.
 - Vince Ramos questioned what portion of the Wellness Center money goes to DDP? Sharon responded that it is not a portion of the Wellness Center money. She just has it lumped together. It runs similar to the CUBE and Westside Transitional; it is probably about \$200,000.
 - Jan Morita questioned the WrapAround Program costs being so high per client. Are the costs basically for clinicians or what are the costs composed of? Sharon stated that the reason it is so high is because they are a program because it is one of the "whatever it takes" model. They operate 24 hours a day and provide client service, access and intervention. Manuel continued that the goals of a WrapAround Program is to keep kids out of the hospital and keep them in their communities. Placing a child in a State hospital, the cost is very high. The philosophy, again, is to keep the kids in the community where they are from so they can stay there.
- a. The Public Hearing was officially closed at 7:01 p.m.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Baker / O'Donnell) to approve the MHSA Annual Plan Update for FY 2012/2013 as explained by Sharon Jones that it is budgeted on the terms of the years 2011/12. Sharon Jones stated this will go to the BOS on September 11th.

III. Approval of Minutes from July 3, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Gonzales) to approve the minutes from July 3, 2012.

IV. Approval of Agenda for August 7, 2012 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Hofmann / Walsh) to approve the agenda for August 7, 2012.

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: a. Cora wanted to make a couple comments about the Public Hearing. She was sure that Manuel is happy for all the wonderful things said about the services and staff. She commends the public for having the courage to stand up. It takes a lot of courage for those that have a challenge to stand up in public.

Sally mentioned that seven Board members attended the Ethics Training on August 1st. It was two-hours long and okay. August 24th is the second training and anyone who did not attend previously, they need to attend the second. The trainer will not be back for two years and if you don't attend on the 24th members could end up being out of compliance.

Cora attended the Mental Health 1st Aid Training along with three others. It was a two-day training that was done very well. Sharon Jones did a fabulous job. It was a lot of fun and learned a lot of things.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Report on Suicide Prevention Task Force (Kim Carter)

Discussion/Conclusion: Kim stated that Tanya, who was present today for the Public Hearing, will be working on the Suicide Task Force with her. Kim passed out some different flyers on this. She would like to integrate with groups that are already established (not using their money). The programs she was thinking about were Veteran Services, PEARLS, Cultural Brokers, middle school mentoring programs, and Community Outreach Engagement Education. She would like to work with these groups instead of starting a new program. There would still be a County-wide suicide awareness and prevention stigma reduction for mental illness. For seniors there is a suicide prevention line that is called Friendship Line. The Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs has come out with a smart phone app for PTSD for veterans. Kim heard about a program for seniors called Senior Center Without Walls. It is a telephone where there are different activities that the person can take part in. It is out of Oakland and it is free. Kim wants to work this out with PEARLS; she is going to take this information to the nursing homes and Area Agency on Aging (AAA). A new session of this will start in October. There is another program called Love is Louder. It is for pre-teens or teenagers who may be dealing with issues – bullying, etc. This would be good for the TAY group and middle school. There are many resources out there that don’t cost any money. Kim will be taking the resources to the groups that are already established.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VII. Review Updated Mission Statement

Discussion/Conclusion: The updated Mission Statement was in this month’s packet. Vince questioned the Mental Health Board and Alcohol and Other Drug Board combining, and would this mission statement cover the integration of the two Boards. Cora replied that we would be ahead of ourselves by trying to combine the mission statement for both at this time. Jan stated that not only do they want a Mission Statement, but also a Values Statement and Vision Statement. Many Board members have not yet completed the form that Jan passed out recently in regards to these additional statements. She asked again that everyone give their input on this by completing the form and turning them in.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Gonzales / Ragonut) to accept this Mission Statement. There was one abstention – David Baker.

VIII. Mental Health Board 101 Matrix (Cora)

Discussion/Conclusion: Attached to today’s packet was a matrix that Cora put together. This matrix will help the Board keep on track and hold people accountable to what they should be doing. Cora went over the matrix. She continued that she would like binders put together for all Board members with all this information. Cora will work with Carol to put these binders together.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Ragonut / Hofmann) to adopt this matrix for FY 2012/13.

IX. Supervisor’s Report (Hub)

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Walsh had to leave prior to giving his report.

Recommendation/Action:

X. Director’s Report (Manuel)
a. Reorganization of Dept. of Mental Health Functions
b. Budget

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Manuel passed out copies of a chart for the Reorganization of Dept. of Mental Health functions. He went over and explained it. He stressed that no services will be affected locally. However, there may be other departments that the Mental Health Dept. would need to report to; before everything went to the State Dept. of Mental Health, now it will go to a different department. This may be more time consuming or awkward for staff at first. Manuel may be attending more meetings. b. The budget was submitted to the County. The BOS will be approving the budget for the current fiscal year. The Department’s budget for this fiscal year is approximately \$35,384,627.00 (this is everything with all programs). Manuel reminded everyone that when he first started working here, the Dept. laid off between 34-44 individuals. Over the last fiscal year 21 new positions were hired because of the increase in EPSDT and Managed Care. A couple of months ago the CEO did approve the hiring of 5 vacant positions. Mental Health also took over the Public Guardians Office which added 8 more positions. The Adult Mental Health Court and Juvenile Mental Health Court will also add more positions. Approximately 34 positions have now been brought back.

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** (Gary)
- 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. Sally reported that she, Mary and Vince went to the QIC meeting on July 24th. Sally was pleased that the number of people attending had gone up. The list of grievances – there was a total of 18 grievances for FY 11/12; 11 have been resolved and 7 pending. Two of the grievances were for Access and the other 16 are listed under 'other'. The AOD Utilization Review – there is some cross training coming. Consumer sub-committee report – the Halloween event is coming up and will be at Lake Yosemite; plans are ongoing. Also there was a hot dog fundraiser in July. The computer lab has some new procedures – time limit is now 30 minutes per person and there are penalties for misuse. The Wellness Center is planning a trip to Monterey on September 7th. They will be using a Via bus, about 40 are going; they are still working on the insurance and signatures. Credentialing – nothing new. Cultural Competency – this is going along fairly well and training continues. They are looking at goals in Access. The Forms Committee and Medication Compliance Committee are being revived. Dr. Manuel stated that charts have been reviewed for the MMR (Medication Monitoring Review). Psychological Autopsies – Alan reported that from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 there were 33 autopsies done; 22 were completed and 11 are still pending. Six of those were suicides and they are checking what the causes of the suicides were. They also talked about a Suicide Prevention Hotline. Clinicians are being set up at the Hilmar Clinic, Livingston Medical Group, Castle Family Care, and Golden Valley Health Center. Castle will also include an AOD position. Curt was introduced as the new Assistant Director. They talked about training psychiatrists to provide treatment to clients who are addicted to opiates. They talked about DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) training to learn how to work with clients. There is also going to be a staff BBQ in September. Manuel commented that it is actually a competition. Mary E. commended Alan and his staff for the EQRO report. b. The matrix was already discussed, the Mission Statement was discussed. Mary H. commented about the form in this month's packet. They are expecting all Board members to fill this out each month from now on and turn them in at each Board meeting. This form will show what each Board member did for the month in terms of being on the Mental Health Board. This will help when it comes time to put the Annual Report together. There will be a folder at each meeting to put the form in. c. Kim had nothing to report. d. No report – Gary left the meeting early. e. Chuck reported that they had a successful fundraiser in July and the next is planned for September 21st. The reason for the gap between the two is because he also was one of those who is visiting other Wellness Centers and on the 17th they are going to visit one in Fresno and on the 31st they are going to visit Mariposa's Wellness Center. They are hoping to find ways to be more efficient and effective by gathering ideas and data that work at other places and can bring back to Merced. They have a new computer lab agreement for any consumer who wants to have computer privileges. Everything seems to be going smoothly; approximately 98% of the consumers are finding it easy to comply with. Some consumers have refused to sign. A newsletter has begun and they are going to attempt to do one monthly; all copies were quickly taken. f. Keng had his first meeting with the CALMHB/C. When he first arrived he didn't know where to go and on the second day he missed everything because they said the meeting was not for him. The third day not much happened because there was not a quorum. The next meeting is October 18, 19, and 20. The CALMHB/C also stated that Merced has not paid their yearly dues. g. Mary H. reported that they did 14 presentations in July for IOOV (about 400 people) and they have six more scheduled for this month. NAMI will be doing their next Family-to-Family class on August 30th and a Spanish Family-to-Family class will be held simultaneously as the English. They are doing their first Parents and Teachers as Allies to the staff of St. Anthony's school in Atwater. This Fall they are starting an "Ending the Silence" training which will be in freshman high school health classes. Two weeks after the Family-to-Family class starts, they will be starting a Peer-to-Peer class. h. Cora was not able to attend the recent meeting. She had a copy of the minutes and asked Manuel to help her with it. Manuel explained the Katie A. settlement which was a lawsuit regarding services to foster kids and it was settled. County

XI. Committee Reports / Updates – con't.

Mental Health Departments are to provide more services to kids in foster care. There are negotiations with the Dept. of Healthcare Services to get more money to provide these services; services can't be expanded without more money. Clinicians have been placed in 23 different schools. SOS is a program to coordinate services to kids out in Los Banos to make sure they are getting the services they need. Also, Chief Ball (Probation) was going to apply for a grant to provide more services. Chief Ball also talked about the high cost of kids involved with the DJJ (Dept. of Juvenile Justice) which used to be Calif. Youth Authority (CYA). The state came out with a cost they are going to charge counties for minors they have in their system. i. Sharon J. reported the Planning Council is going well. They still need family members and consumers for that committee. In January they will be reviewing all the programs, their funding levels and productivity. This will give them feedback for the upcoming budget in June/July. They are not taking any more proposal requests for funding until they send out a letter to everyone on how much money is available. j. Mary H. reported that there was someone present from Fresno County who stated it was the best Cultural Competency Committee meeting she had been to. k. Mary E. reported that she and Vince attended this meeting and it was very informative. Program updates were shared and the budget will be finalized August 21st. A Cultural Competency Conference will be coming up in Modesto next May.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

XII. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting is September 4, 2012.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____