



# Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

August 5, 2014

3:30 – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

<b>Present:</b>	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Supervisor Walsh, Mary Ellis; Mary Hofmann; Chuck McClure; Kim Carter; Cora Gonzales; Keng Cha
<b>Absent:</b>	David Baker; James Fuller
<b>Others Present:</b>	Yvonna Brown; Scott De Moss; Curt Willems; Sharon Robinson; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Jones; Kurt Craig; Jeanette Merchant; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

## MINUTES

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

Richard Hawthorne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

### II. Mission Statement

Mary Ellis read the Mission Statement.

### III. Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2014 (BOARD ACTION)

**Action/Recommendation:** M/S/C (Hofmann / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the minutes from July 1, 2014.

**Recommendation/Action:** None

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

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Mary H. informed everyone that the next NAMI Family-to-Family class will begin September 4, 2014, the Peer-to-Peer class will start September 18, 2014, and the NAMI Basics class will start October 2, 2014. All take place at the CUBE.

Sharon J. reported that the MHSA 3-Year Plan has been sent to the new Director and the exiting Acting Director. On August 14<sup>th</sup> the 3-Year Plan will be sent out to the MHSA Advisory Board. The Plan will also be sent to the MHSA Ongoing Planning Council one week prior to their next meeting scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>; it will be on the agenda that day. There will be a Mental Health Board Public Hearing on October 7<sup>th</sup> for the 3-Year Plan. Sharon continued that on August 27<sup>th</sup> they are having an Innovation Strengthening Families Learning Conference to showcase the work that has been happening out in the communities under Innovation over the last three years. She invited everyone to attend and it will be from 9:00-12:00 at B Street.

Sally stated that she forgot to call Carol and have the QI Report added to this month's agenda. She questioned if she could be added to today's agenda or wait until next month. The Chair, Richard, stated she could give her report under item #X – Announcements.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

### V. FY 13/14 Budget – Scott De Moss

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Scott reported that two meetings ago the third quarter budget report was handed out and there were some questions regarding it. The language used when talking about financial reports is not language commonly used by most people and a Glossary of Terms sheet was passed out to help the Board understand different terms. Scott continued that the third quarter budget report is the most accurate the Dept. has today. The County has not yet given the Dept. the fourth quarter reports; when the County closes out the books for the fourth quarter (which takes longer than any other quarter) an updated financial report will be given to the Board.

Vince had several questions regarding the budget report and Scott went over several. Scott also stated that the County will be moving to a different type of an accounting system in the future called Accrual Accounting. This means that in the future the books will stay open for an extended period to account for that lag in either paying something or receiving revenue. Sharon R. also went over the report. Due to time constraints Scott stated he would be more than happy to meet with Vince at a later date and go over his questions

**V. FY 13/14 Budget – Scott De Moss – con't.**

more thoroughly.

Iris questioned the expansion of contracts based on the history of what is billed the previous year. Scott explained that because of the way the County creates contracts, they created a contract that has about half of what was billed last year and they have agreed that after the first quarter they will look at where they are on their billing and see if that will get us through the first half of the year. At the first half of the year, they will look at what was done in the first half of the year and expand the contract based on that. They will always be looking back at the previous quarter and expanding the contract into the next quarter.

Sharon J. stated that some of Vince's questions could also be answered at the next Ongoing Planning Council meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>; she would add this to the agenda for Vince.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

**VI. Chair's Report – Richard Hawthorne**

- a. Laura's Law
- b. By-Laws
- c. Retreat
- d. Committee Assignments

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. Richard stated that over the past few months there have been many questions about Laura's Law and information was provided with website contacts and links. He questioned if the Board understands Laura's Law, do they have more questions and do they want to continue investigating this and eventually move towards some type of recommendation to the BOS. Sally stated that in the July 12<sup>th</sup> Sun Star there was an article regarding Laura's Law and Sally would like to advise Merced County to study this law and move forward with this law. San Francisco County is trying to move forward with this and that would make four counties in California implementing this. Sally feels it upholds the individual's rights and is definitely in favor of it. Vince emailed the Board members with information regarding Laura's Law. Vince continued that Governor Brown signed SB 585 which says Prop 63 funding's may be used for Laura's Law. Supervisor Walsh stated that this law would cover a fairly small population in Merced County; he would like to have an idea of what that number might be. Cora recommended that a sub-committee needs to be formed to study this further; the Chair agreed. Richard asked who would like to participate on this sub-committee. This sub-committee will do the research; meet outside this meeting, and then each month report back to this Board. Yvonnia stated that the data needed regarding this particular population will be taken care of by Curt Willems and he will report back on this next month. The purpose of this sub-committee is to do the study required and then report back to this Board a reasoned argument – one way or the other. Laura's Law sub-committee will consist of: Chair – Mary Ellis and Sally Ragonut. Other committee members are: Kim Carter, Vince Ramos, Chris Kraushar, Mary Hofmann, and Iris Mojica de Tatum. The Board requested that someone from Mental Health also be on the sub-committee; Yvonnia stated that she would designate an individual she wants to participate. b. Richard stated that at the last meeting a draft copy of the by-laws was provided; he asked if there were any questions, suggestions or modifications. These draft by-laws will also be passed out and discussed at the next AOD Advisory Board. c. Richard announced that the Board is looking at having a Board retreat on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Other possible dates were suggested and Suggestions for the retreat are: going over the Board's core values or talking about the Mission Statement and how to accomplish the goals set for FY 2014/15. Vince suggested having someone from the CALMHB/C be a guest speaker at the retreat; Richard stated that we could have someone from the CALMHB/C give a presentation at any of our monthly meetings; it didn't have to be just at the retreat. Supervisor Walsh suggested that since the retreat is a 6-hour event, the Board could break this down into three two-hour events and hold them after regularly scheduled monthly Mental Health Board meetings. Cora suggested bring the possible dates for the retreat to the next MH Board Executive Committee meeting; Richard stated that this would be discussed at the next MH Board Exec Committee meeting. d. Richard stated that there are several ad-hoc committees. Currently there is an Annual Report Committee and the members are Richard, Sally, Jan, Iris and Cora; Richard questioned if any wanted to remain on the Committee or if there were any other volunteers. Next year's Committee will remain the same, minus Jan. Next was the CALMHB/C Committee made up of David and Keng; Keng wished to remain on the Committee and Richard will call David to see if he wants to remain on the Committee. The Children's System of Care Committee now has Cora as the representative and she will continue on the Committee. The Community Partner's Committee has Vince and Mary E. on the Committee and both wanted to remain on the Committee. The Cultural Competency Committee consists of Mary H., David and Cora; both Mary H. and Cora cannot remain on this Committee and that leaves only David. Richard will contact David to verify whether he will remain on this Committee or not. Iris and Kim both made the decision that they would join the Cultural Competency Committee. The Executive By-Laws Committee now has Cora, Richard, Iris, Scott (and now Yvonnia) and Carol; all will remain on this Committee. The MHSA Ongoing Planning Council has Mary E. and Chuck as part of the Committee. Iris stated that she is the Chair of the MHSA Ongoing

**VI. Chair's Report – Richard Hawthorne – con't.**

Planning Council and thus she will remain on this Committee. Mary E. will continue on this Committee and Vince stated that he always attends this meeting. The Membership Committee only has Kim on the Committee and Kim wishes to remain on the Committee. The BOS position will remain with Supervisor Walsh. The NAMI Committee will remain with Mary H. The Quality Improvement Committee is currently Mary E., Sally and Vince and all three will remain. The Wellness Center Committee is now Chuck and he will remain. Lastly is Laura's Law and that will be (as stated earlier) Mary E., Sally, Kim, Vince, Chris Kraushar, Mary H., Iris and one MH staff member to be decided by the Director.

**Recommendation/Action:** M/S/C (Hofmann / Gonzales) to approve the formation of Laura's Law Sub-committee and committee members to study and make a recommendation to this Board. Other actions as noted above.

**VII. Supervisor's Report**

**Discussion/Conclusion:** Supervisor Walsh reported that the last few weeks the interest has been on water and there will be more of this to come. There is a BOS meeting next week on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Final budget will be August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. There are many new faces within the County – a new Librarian, Public Defender and a new Mental Health/AOD Director. Supervisor Walsh was appointed at the National Association of Counties to be Vice-Chair of the Human Services Committee and also Vice-Chair of the Veteran's and Military Families Committee and the National level.

**Recommendation/Action:** Information only

**VIII. Director's Report**

- a. Introduce New Director
- b. Outpatient Service Delivery Providers

**Discussion/Conclusion:** a. The new Director for Mental Health and AOD – Yvonnia Brown – introduced herself. She is excited about being here and the partnership with this Advisory Committee. She is also excited about making sure our clients, our customers, our consumers, our community are taken care of. Yvonnia explained that she has a background of over 20 years in Human Services – from child welfare, to mental health services, to substance abuse, to quality assurance, to doing training. She is from South Carolina, a small town called St. George. She has worked in various areas in her career – from private providers, Catholic Charities, through the State agency from the D.C. area (Maryland) back to Georgia to Tennessee. She got her foundation in South Carolina in child welfare overseeing many social services programs, implementing a lot of behavioral health programs like substance abuse and mental health programs. Yvonnia has an open-door policy for staff, community partners, and clients. Yvonnia believes in having a forum where clients can come and talk about issues and this is something she would like to see in the future; improve the process from a client perspective vs just an administrative perspective. She also sees a need for the homeless population and helping them integrate back into society. Richard commented that one of the goals set for this year is defining the homeless population, their needs and wants. b. Scott received a question from the Executive Committee about staff and who can provide services. He had Mike Zdanowski put together a high-level PowerPoint to share. Copies of the PowerPoint were passed out. Scott then went over the PowerPoint explaining the clinical outpatient side of the house – not the doctors and nurses or the inpatient unit. There are three classes of County employees that provides care to clients – the Program Assistant, Mental Health Worker I/II and Mental Health Clinician I/II. There are two types of Clinicians – someone who does not have their permanent licensure yet, but are working on it and then the Clinician II who have their permanent licensure. The PowerPoint outlines what their level of discretion is in performing their job, what some of the duties are that they might perform and then what experience is required, what education is needed, and is there any licensure. A question was asked about licensure and Scott explained that a Clinician II has a licensure and a Clinician I has passed all the educational requirements and has an agreement from the licensing board that as they complete the requirements, they will be licensed. The question was asked if any of the Clinicians have been "grandfathered in" and Scott stated that he did not know about this. Chris Kraushar stated that in 2007 there were some current employees that had been "grandfathered in". Scott stated that to be "grandfathered in" the employee does have to have a waiver from the State in order to provide care as a clinician. The waiver does have to be renewed every six years. The question was asked how many Clinician II's are licensed and how many are on the waiver. Scott stated that Yvonnia will have to report back on this.

**Recommendation/Action:** As noted above

<b>IX. Reports / Updates</b> <b>a. Executive Committee</b>
<b>Discussion/Conclusion:</b> a. Cora reported that the Committee worked very hard to make the Annual Report a friendly-user document for the BOS. They would like to present this report on an individual basis to the BOS; this will be discussed at the Exec Committee on how this will work. She asked that everyone read the report; it has a lot of information in it. Some of the information in this report will be used in the Mental Health Board binders. Richard then thanked everyone who was involved in this process. After they present the report to the BOS, they would like to meet with the editorial staff at the Sun Star and do the same.
<b>Recommendation/Action:</b>
<b>X. Announcements</b>
<b>Discussion / Conclusion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sally requested that the July QI report be put on next month's agenda in order to have time to go through it.</li><li>- Iris stated there is ethics training coming up tomorrow.</li><li>- Mary E. stated that since she will be chairing the new Laura's Law Committee, she asked that those participating come prepared next month with three dates/times to begin meeting.</li><li>- Vince reported that the Maryland police are training their dispatchers and Fire Dept. to deal with people with mental illness.</li></ul>
<b>Recommendation/Action:</b> As noted above
<b>XI. Adjournment</b>
<b>Discussion / Conclusion:</b> The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is September 2, 2014.

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

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

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

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