



Merced County Behavioral Health Board Meeting

September 1, 2015

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Supervisor Walsh; Mary Ellis; Keng Cha; Kim Carter
Absent:	Mary Hofmann
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Chris Kraushar, PRA; Sharon Mendonca; Kurt Craig; Sharon Jones; Tabatha Haywood; Jeanette Merchant; Paula Mason; Liz Freitas; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Richard Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. The flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

II. Mission Statement

Richard read the Mission Statement.

III. Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2015 (BOARD ACTION)

Action/Recommendation: M/S/C (Ragonut / Ellis) to approve the minutes from August 4, 2015.

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

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince stated that last month he commented on the community partners. The reason is because he advocates for them at times and some people think that he has communication with them. But he does not have communication with them. He just looks at the MHSA updates – he looks at how much somebody is getting and how much somebody is not getting. That is why he advocates for them. At the retreat Sharon said that the County can only treat people with Medi-Cal; he couldn't find that in the MHSA. Also she said that the Medi-Cal dollars sponsors non-MHSA programs and he would like to know what they are and how much they are getting. He also wanted to know what happened to the Wellness Center policy that was presented to the Board – it was supposed to be presented to the Board. He is still getting questions about the \$100,000 on supplies for the Wellness Center. He told them he would talk to Sharon and see if she could go to the 10:00 meeting at the Wellness Center. Sharon stated she would be happy to go to one of the meetings. Vince would like this on next month's agenda.

Sally questioned if a short report could be given today from the Facilities Review Committee during the Committee Reports. Richard stated he was planning on doing this.

Chris stated that about two weeks ago clients began coming to her stating that the Merced Police Dept. and the security officer at Public Health had started coming up on the lawn at the Wellness Center and making them remove themselves from the premises. They were told this was because Merced County had authorized this. It is ongoing to this day. She has not received a clear answer about this. This disturbs her because she is the advocate and patients are coming to her. She feels this is contra-indicating in terms of how the MHSA and Wellness Center are supposed to function. She thinks that process has numerous problems associated with it. One of which is that the police officer told them that if he came back and found them sitting there, he was going to cite them and remove them. For our clients they do not have the money to pay the fine and they will not appear in court so a bench warrant will be issued and throw them into the legal system. They were just sitting on the lawn. She feels that by not allowing them to sit on the lawn, this stigmatizes them and makes them feel that they shouldn't be seen in public. This is the wrong message that we want to send from a Wellness Center that is supposed to be engaged in outreach and gathering clients in. The clients are just sitting there; they were not breaking the law, they were not harassing anyone, they were not asking for money or donations. They were not doing anything illegal. She would like a solution figured out for this and she would like it placed on next month's agenda. Supervisor Walsh commented that local businesses are calling to express their concerns about the people who are loitering and affecting their businesses in the area. A client who was present stated she was there they day the police showed up in full body suits with their guns and she found this very offensive. It was not necessary, they were not doing anything wrong. Chris continued that there is one business that has complained

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

since Marie Green opened in 1996. This business has called the Mental Health Department for years complaining about the clients. Supervisor Walsh continued that there is an apprehension about the number of folks who are homeless in our community. That apprehension is growing and questions are being raised about Mental Health services. Yvonna responded that this will require a deeper discussion. She wanted to let everyone know that if people are being asked to leave, it is not because it is a directive from the Mental Health Department. She needs to do some additional research on this. If people are being asked to leave, it is because there is a document that has been generated and this requires more conversation and follow-up. Sally commented that last month Supervisor Walsh mentioned that there was a meeting/committee involving the Police, Mental Health and City staff regarding the homeless and what is happening with that. Supervisor Walsh stated that the meeting was held with the Police, City staff, HSA and Mental Health. It will not be a continual meeting – it was a one-time discussion. There were downtown people who were not aware of the kinds of services that are currently available from HSA and County Mental Health.

Sharon J. stated that they are working on the FY 2015/16 MHSA Annual Update and there will need to be a Public Hearing on October 20th. She wants to make sure that a quorum will be available on that date. This has to be submitted to the State by December 30th. Richard stated that by having the next meeting on October 20th this will be a combination of the October and November meeting dates. Normally when there is a Public Hearing the meeting generally starts at 4:00 with the Public Hearing beginning at 5:30.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

**V. Legislative Update – Kurt Craig
a. Drug Medi-Cal – 1115 Waiver**

Discussion/Conclusion: Kurt reported that AB 1300 is the bill that was to allow ER doctors the ability to do a 5150 hold and release independently of Mental Health. This has turned into a 2-year bill and is being held in committee currently. SB 238 and 253 are the ones that have been pushed by prior foster care youth for psychotropic medication oversight – they are all still moving in the committees; they are in their third read, all have passed appropriations. The Judicial Committee stated that they are all great bills; however, they are not going to fund them. They are opposed by CBHDA. SB 453 is on the Governor's desk already and that is to authorize a psychiatrist designated by the facility Medical Director upon court petition to make a determination and certification whether anti-psychotic medication is medically necessary and appropriate. You can involuntarily administer that medication, if the defendant is IST for 21 days (in the jail). SB 614 is to establish the peer and family support mentor specialist's certification. This has moved forward and is being read for the third time. AB 1056 is the second chance program for housing assistance for formerly incarcerated tenants of mental health and substance abuse needs. It is on its third read. It creates a housing program, but will be a grant-based program through the BSCC (Board of Corrections). It is not necessarily designated for the county; it is designated as a grant application based funding program. Vince questioned a bill training police officers on mental illness. Kurt stated there are two, both are in the Assembly. One is to increase the training requirements for POST (police officer standards training) while they are in the academy and one is to increase the training requirements for ongoing POST. Kurt did not check on these, he thinks they both passed appropriations and are in the final read before it gets to the Governor's office.

a. Tabatha stated that the 1115 waiver has passed. It is a demonstration waiver for the State to be able to increase alcohol and drug services so that it reflects parity with mental health. The Department would be able to bill Drug Medi-Cal for individual sessions which they cannot now. They would be able to bill for case management sessions, which they can't now. They would be able to hire recovery coaches which are like peer mentors and don't currently have in the system. It opens the door for alcohol and drug services to be a parity with mental health. Currently Drug Medi-Cal only pays for perinatal residential services. If our County opts in then the IMD exclusion (which says if you have over a 16-bed facility) under the current DMC, they wouldn't pay for residential services. If the Department opts in, they are lifting the IMD exclusion and residential services will be able to be billed under DMC for both males and females. This is a huge benefit to the people in our community. Yvonna continued that the Department has tentatively opted in and once she receives the feasibility study she will make the decision to go forth as an opt-in county or not. If the BOS and CEO approve, the Department will be ready to start in August 2016. Tabatha continued that Drug Court graduation is this Friday in Dept. 11 at 1:00; if anyone wants to see what Drug Court is all about, everyone is encouraged to attend.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

VI. Chair's Reports
a. Revisit Meeting Time/Dates
b. Revisit Mission Statement
c. Meetings More Accessible to County Residents
d. Review Draft Application

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Richard asked if the Board still wants to meet Tuesdays at 3:30. The only individual this time does not work for is William; he just started a doctoral program and after this semester this date/time will not be a conflict for him. No one present indicated they would like to change date/time. Richard stated the meeting will remain on Tuesdays at 3:30. b. At the retreat the Board began talking about revising the mission statement. Attached to today's packet was the draft of a revised mission statement. After some discussion, it was decided to keep this new mission statement. The mission statement will be: "The mission of the Merced County Behavioral Health Board is to ensure that the Agency provides integrated, culturally responsive mental health, substance use disorder and community based services that promote wellness and recovery." c. Richard stated that making meetings more accessible to county residents was discussed at the last meeting. When the BOS were asked to look for candidates in order to make recommendations to this Board, their response was that the community members feel all the meetings take place in Merced and it is hard for some of the candidates to come to Merced every month. Richard asked for recommendations or suggestions on how to make this Board more accessible to the community and County. One suggestion was making the meeting a conference call. Another suggestion was utilizing the current offices that the Department has out in the community. Community members would not have to come to Merced, they could go to the Livingston or Los Banos office and call in. The logistics of having members call in was discussed. Needing to have staff available at the different sites – in order to give members access to the building and closing up when the meeting was over – was one issue. Yvonnia stated that it would not be an issue as long as the meeting is over at 5:00 in order to lock up. But with AOD now part of the Behavioral Board, she is not sure if 1.5 hours is sufficient time. This could mean changing the time for this Board. Richard stated he will do some research and bring the information back to the next meeting. d. In today's packet was a draft of the Board's application. One change was requested – page 1, the paragraph discussing the W&I Code (5604) states that 50% . . . must have received mental health services – change the "mental" to "behavioral". Yvonnia stated this is an in-house document and that change can be made. With that change the application was acceptable to the Board.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

VII. Supervisor's Report

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

Recommendation/Action:

VIII. Director's Report
a. Results of EQRO Report FY 13/14
b. Operational Assessment (Infrastructure)
c. Performance Outcome (Productivity)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonnia stated we did receive our final report. Jeanette had a powerpoint showing key recommendations, strengths and opportunities, and recommendations. The only change this year was that they sent the draft to DHCS at the State first for review and then sent it to the County for feedback. Jeanette went over the report. b. Yvonnia stated that when she first came here she wanted to look at the current infrastructure and doing a full assessment of the Department. She has started the process. The first phase was the financial assessment; a preliminary assessment was done on August 18-20. This is a 6-month process (or less) and the contract agency that is facilitating and providing the additional sub-contracting is CIBHS. One area under the financial assessment is looking at the fiscal accounting system, electronic health records, contract development, monitoring and compliance process. The assessment will focus on enhancing the current business processes, identifying additional revenue streams, identify funding maximization strategies, reduce Realignment cost and fiscal audit findings/penalties, and identify infrastructure enhancements. They are scheduled to come back in September to do a deeper assessment. This is just one part of a three-phase approach. c. Monthly Yvonnia would like to bring to this Board the Department's performance. One item being tracked and modifying currently is the productivity report. Tremendous changes were made to the current productivity report. They are no longer looking at a certain 65% productivity rate. It is really looking at giving 100% of an actual number. There is a whole powerpoint presentation that Sharon's staff have created and hopefully it will be presented to this Board soon. Curt explained how they came up with the new criteria. They looked at total hours they are available, subtracted out vacation hours, certain amount of sick leave, training hours and

VIII. Director's Report – con't.
then came up with a number for each full-time staff as to what is available for them to provide service. The Department is making progress. They are not at 100% yet, but they are at 73.4% as of July. The new process started in July so hopefully as they move forward productivity will increase. The question was asked if this productivity outcome is based on billable services or a combination of non-billable and billable. Sharon M. stated it was a combination.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> Information only
IX. Reports / Updates a. Executive Committee b. QIC Report c. Facilities Review Committee
<i>Discussion/Conclusion:</i> a. Richard had nothing to report from the Executive Committee. b. Sally went over the QIC report. c. Sally reported that they had Facilities Committee meeting on August 20 th . They talked about a lot of things. Talk did center on Marie Green and the CSU. They would like to speak with Trechann about this. They want to put together a checklist of things to look at when they visit different facilities. They want to develop categories that encompass individual questions. They heard there is a new Safety Committee and they are interested in that; they would like to have someone from the Safety Committee come talk to the Board.
<i>Recommendation/Action:</i> Information only
X. Announcements
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> Richard stated that the Exec Committee usually meets with the Director the week after this monthly meeting. If anyone wants items on the agenda, please get it to Richard as soon as possible.
XI. Adjournment
<i>Discussion / Conclusion:</i> The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m. The next meeting is October 20, 2015 and will include a Public Hearing.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____