



Merced County Mental Health Board Meeting

April 17, 2015

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

1137 B Street, Merced, CA

Present:	Richard Hawthorne, Chair; Iris Mojica de Tatum, Vice-Chair; Vince Ramos, Secretary; Sally Ragonut; Kim Carter; Supervisor Walsh; Mary Ellis; James Fuller; Mary Hofmann
Absent:	David Baker; Keng Cha
Others Present:	Yvonna Brown; Curt Willems; Sharon Mendonca; Sharon Jones; Cara Rupp; Kimiko Vang; 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. Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince received an email from David Woods from the Central Region. He wants to update the workbook; the current workbook is dated 2006. Vince will give Carol the paperwork/forms to send out to everyone. David would like input from the Board.

Recommendation/Action: Carol will send the information to the Board.

IV. Building Project – Yvonna Brown

Discussion/Conclusion: Yvonna reported that at the last Mental Health Board meeting on April 7th there was some conversation around meeting with the Wellness Center clients and giving them information on this building project along with getting their feedback. Sharon and Cara met with some of the Wellness Center participants and explained how it would impact them on a positive or negative light depending on their thoughts. Based on some of the input Yvonna received, they were surprised about the building project. Once everything was explained to them, the clients/participants had the following comments/concerns: they wanted to make sure they would still have the same size space – they would not be losing space; that they would still have basically the same setup they have now – kitchen, different activities; that staff would be going with them – staff would still be available as they do now. Overall she felt it was a positive meeting.

Curt continued that one thing that was important to the consumers was outside access. This was one of the first things looked at as they were developing the design for this project; that they would be able to have the little area between the warehouse and the actual hospital and be able to do what they are doing now in the backyard of the Wellness Center. There will be a lot of area for the consumers to do gardening and create some projects that they have in mind. Vince questioned if they will still have the kitchen area that was in the old hospital. Curt stated that everything has to be revamped; the whole interior will be gutted out.

Sharon J. passed out copies of an email with a summary of the points that came up most. Sharon will follow-up with the concerns that were expressed and answer the questions they had. Cara continued that they did two focus groups on Thursday and Friday of last week for all the clients that were present at the Wellness Center. The clients expressed what they felt were the most important things to the Wellness Center – what makes the Wellness Center the Wellness Center – and what are the things they did not want to see lost in going to a new location. There were about 20 present at the first group and about 15 at the second group. Cara feels more follow-up is necessary. The things that were brought up the most were: concern over square footage – they felt the current Wellness Center was just holding them – they did not want anything smaller – at least the same size as now or larger; they were concerned about the kitchen – they have always wanted a nicer, bigger kitchen – they feel the kitchen is central to them; keep everybody onsite – a one-stop shop with everyone working together – Peer Mentors, Consumer Assistant Workers, Clinicians, Case Managers, housing, employment

IV. Building Project – Yvonnia Brown – con’t.

– everyone will be together and not spread out; outside access – they currently really use the backyard area a lot – smoking was very important – they do a lot of BBQs with fund raisers; a place to park their bikes so they will not be stolen; a laundry room – this was in the original blueprint but never materialized; ADA accessible; natural light – having windows; nice decorations and having a welcoming atmosphere – it is clean, it is nice – anyone coming in will feel welcome. These were the top items that came up the most; there was a lot of other stuff that was also discussed that was more detail oriented. Sharon J. stated that Cara will send her the entire list and she in turn will send it out to the Board. The consumers would like to be kept in the loop as this project progresses.

Yvonnia went over the PowerPoint presentation. The proposed location is the old Mercy Hospital and the annex attached. There is a three-story and two-story level. The services provided will be for Adult Mental Health, AOD services, the Wellness Center, DDP, MHSA, Centralized Intake, etc. The Department has a SB82 grant that was given to us for Crisis Residential Unit – a 16-bed facility that will be located there as well, if this project goes through as planned. There will be a children’s campus which will be on 13th Street. All the services at the EI Portal site and M Street would be housed on 13th Street for children’s services – AOD and Mental Health. Some of the project objectives – improved client care, improved care coordination, “soft handoffs” with internal and external providers, improve community access for Adult Mental Health and AOD services by having one central location, expand program development and treatment services – having a more comprehensive service delivery system, enhance/build a stronger communication linkage with community partners and stakeholders. The project objectives would be the ability to leverage more Medi-Cal dollars and seek more grant opportunities; employees would not have to travel too so many different locations for meetings – time could be spend giving more client care; wear and tear on county and personal cars; more cross training and staff development opportunities; more administrative accountability and oversight; and improve staff morale and build a stronger peer support network. Yvonnia then went over the different project cost estimates (options). Yvonnia’s preferred option (#3) would be to complete the annex and the three-story building to include the Mental Health, CRU, having a training center/auditorium, Wellness Center, DDP, automation, MHSA, Central Intake/Access, and Administration. Everything would be at this facility for \$27 million. The third floor of the 3-story building would be Administration; the second floor would not be completely done – certain parts would have to be shelled. There would be enough space to do the auditorium and some classrooms within this design. The Crisis Residential Unit will be on the first floor of the 3-story building. Vince questioned where the Triage would be located. Curt stated that the Triage personnel would be located at hospital settings – four in Mercy Hospital and three at Memorial Hospital in Los Banos. Office space has already been identified at both hospitals. Three triage workers are already working out of Mercy now. Yvonnia continued with the funding sources for the project. There would be a direct purchase loan for \$6 million. Other funding sources would be Realignment money, AOD fees, MHSA money and a couple other areas. Curt stated that they could have used all of the funds stored away, but they haven’t. There is still a “rainy day” fund amount that is stored up; the interest earned on this would be greater than the interest paid on the \$6 million dollar loan.

Recommendation/Action: A motion was made. Iris recommended an amendment to the motion; let it be known that in terms of the \$6 million from MHSA that this did go through the Community Planning Process and they are knowing and in accordance with that and that it was taken to the Planning Council also. **M/S/C (Hofmann / Mojica de Tatum)** to adopt option #3 for \$27 million. There was one abstention.

V. Announcements

Discussion / Conclusion: Vince stated that tomorrow is the Hmong Mental Health Awareness Day at Applegate Park. It is open to the public.

-Richard announced that tomorrow is Love Atwater Day.

-Supervisor Walsh announced that tomorrow is Love Merced Day.

-Iris attended a focus group that NAMI put together – it has to do with Sharon’s upcoming Annual Update Report. It came down to three things: 1. They want a team approach to treatment; 2. DDP residential facility; and 3. family advocate to help navigate system. Iris thinks that a lot of this is already incorporated in the system and is a matter of going back and saying that they have these things in place.

-Sharon J. announced that are getting ready to post a MHSA Program Update and within the update is the building project. If everything goes according to plan, they are looking at the June Mental Health Board meeting as a Public Hearing.

VI. Adjournment

Discussion / Conclusion: Yvonna thanked everyone for taking time out and adjusting their schedule to come back for this special meeting; she does appreciate everyone's support and approval on the building project. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is May 5, 2015.

Submitted by: _____
Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

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

Date: _____

Date: _____