

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
June 2, 2016 - 12:00-2:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Monica Wilson, Veatrice Jews

Excused Absence: Akin Merino, Catherine Inscore

Guests: Tracy Bomberger, Christy Hamilton, Chris Williams, Cynthia Gutierrez, Laretta Ross, Danielle Delgado, Laurence Gonzaga, Brenda Garcia, Cheryl Placide, Claudia Toscano, Esther Parnell, Aimara Freeman, Matthew Parnell, Jon Buffong, Miriam Clark, Linda Hart, Jennifer Pacheco, Karen Cervantes, Michael Sweitzer, Julie Hale, Tessa Hernandez, David DeLap, Faith Ikeda, Tamara Ingram, Leeann Fiarra, Jason Hill, Georgina Yoshioka, Teresa Etheridge, Dwane Devoe, Louisa Hayton, Brigitte Shaw, Veronica Kelley, CaSonya Thomas, Margaret Rochelle, Cynthia White, Jennifer Pacheco, Sharon Nevins. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Monica Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:08p.m. Commissioner Troy Mondragon led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Chris Williams is a Navy veteran who experienced a traumatic event that changed his life and the life of his children. He was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and participated in group sessions at the VA that gave him the tools to help manage. Chris became actively involved with different organizations such as Mothers against Drunk Driving as a victim's advocate, Peer Support Specialist with the VA, Community Resiliency Training and continues to be active with veterans' organizations: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Loma Linda VA, and the Mental Health Advisory Council at the VA. He is involved with many different programs to help our Veterans who have similar challenges such as himself. As he says, "We raise our hands to fight for our country in the Constitution. My allegiance never ends. I will continue to fight for my fellow Veterans in our community." Chris always takes time to help fellow Veterans find their way through the VA system, walks them to their appointments, advocates for them, stands by them and supports them. Chris also does this with anyone he meets in the community, though Veterans have a very special place in his heart; he stops to take the time to listen to people when they need to talk or vent; he always has a smile for everyone he encounters; and he does this everyday regardless of what he is dealing with in his own life. CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!

Review Minutes of 4/7/16

APPROVED

Motion/Second: Christopher Massa / Michael Grabhorn

AYES: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager, Monica Wilson, Veatrice Jews

ABSENT: Akin Merino, Catherine Inscore

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brigitte Shaw, African American Mental Health Commission (AAMHC), stated that the public depends on the Community Health Workers to provide resources and information year round.

Linda Hart, AAMHC, stated the Community Health Worker (CHW) Program has had an interruption of service for the past four months. Minimal services have continued through donations of community members. We have a due diligence to the community and want to know how much longer until we can appropriately serve the community. We are requesting a plan of action to be in place to prevent this from happening in the future.

Michelle Pollard, AAMHC, as the coordinator of the CHW program it is difficult to conduct events alone and concerning that we can only manage four events a month at this time.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Monica Wilson conducted Suicide Prevention training for adults after recent suicides of youth in Redlands. She thanked Commissioner O'Brien for speaking during a National University event that prepares students as future clinicians. She invited everyone to attend the CA Mental Health Planning Council Meeting June 15-18, which will be held in Ontario.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

First District:

Vice Chair O'Brien thanked the AAMHC for the public comments. He appreciates their passion and work as they provide valuable resources to community members. I am interested in further information.

Commissioner Michael Grabhorn visited First Step Recovery, which recently opened in Victorville. It is the only medical detox center in the High Desert and also offers intensive outpatient programs. Anne Michelle-Ellis from the Coalition of Sexual Exploitation presented during the First District Advisory Committee meeting.

Second District:

Commissioner David Caine attended Evening with the Stars. He appreciated the presentation by Doris Fuller, Author and Chief of Research at Treatment Advocacy Center, who lost her daughter to mental illness and suicide last year.

Secretary May Farr attended Directing Change events, which honored students who participate in the statewide Directing Change Student Film Contest. Students creatively addressed the topics of suicide prevention and ending the silence of mental illness through the use of 60 second videos that they created.

Third District:

Commissioner Christopher Massa attended the Diocese of San Bernardino Behavioral Health Conference. He appreciates that churches are becoming more involved in behavioral health.

Commissioner Troy Mondragon continues to participate in DBH's Crisis Intervention Training to assist law enforcement in understanding mental health crises from a consumer perspective - Recommended reading "My Life for Your Life" addresses police suicide and understanding why these brave men and women struggle to accept help.

Fifth District:

Past Chair Susan McGee-Stehsel continues to teach Psych nursing to students at Cal State University San Bernardino and Palm Desert. There is a lack of behavioral health services in the Coachella Valley. She hopes that San Bernardino and Riverside counties can collaborate to increase services in this area. She thanked AAMHC for speaking with CSUSB nursing students about the services they provide.

Commissioner Jane Godager took the Patton State Hospital Museum tour, which highlighted equipment used years ago to treat mental health.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Homeless Outreach Support Team (HOST)

Michael Sweitzer, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Program Manager I, introduced Deputy Halloway of the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach and Proactive Enforcement (HOPE) program.

- HOST collaborates with the HOPE team and other law enforcement agencies throughout the county to offer outreach services in the field with a focus on developing trusting relationships with individuals who may have traditionally declined services in the past in an effort to engage them into permanent supportive housing. This may include numerous

contacts and attempts to build trust and create a relationship in which engagement into permanent supportive housing can take place.

- DBH, in collaboration with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, receives Federal Housing and Urban Development Homeless Assistance (HUD) Grant Funding to provide permanent supportive housing and wraparound case management services to homeless mentally ill individuals and their families.
- Funded by the Mental Health Services Act: HOST staff provide the case management portion of permanent supportive housing; lease up assistance; bus passes and other supports necessary to obtain and maintain permanent supportive housing.

Qualifying criteria for an individual or family includes:

- Resides in places not designed for as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings OR
- Resides in a supervised operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements OR
- Is exiting jail or hospital where they resided for 90 days or less and had resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering the institution

For either 1 continuous year or has had at least 4 episodes in the last 3 years AND can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, physical illness or disability.

HOST provides ongoing case management services to over 200 permanently housed individuals:

- Activities of daily living rehabilitation
- Brief therapy as needed
- Resources and referral
- Maintain Housing Authority requirements
- Provide services in the home
- Serves as liaison between landlord and client

Vice Chair O'Brien inquired whether pay rates of county staff affect getting homeless individuals off the streets. The response was yes. Director Thomas stated the county is nearing a resolution with the Services Employee International Union that is agreeable to both parties.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director CaSonya Thomas stated that the DBH HOST and Sheriff's HOPE teams have both received awards from the National Association of Counties. With the support of Supervisor James Ramos, Supervisor Josie Gonzales and Sheriff John McMahon it has been determined that "we cannot arrest ourselves out of homelessness".

Director Thomas expressed the value of behavioral health outreach and engagement, which has been expanded through the Community Health Worker (CWE) programs. The following services are set to resume 7/1/16.

- **African American CHW Program:** Agreement is being drafted to contract with Loma Linda University (LLU). LLU plans to enter an agreement and serve as the fiscal agent for the African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC). AAMHC will be the entity providing the services outlined in the contract. The dollar amount allocated for this contract is \$90,000.
- **Asian Pacific Islander CHW Program:** Agreement is being drafted to contract with the Asian American Resource Center (AARC). AARC will oversee the fiscal and program requirements of this contract. The dollar amount allocated for this contract is \$90,000.
- **LGBTQ CHW Program:** Agreement is being drafted to partner with California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions (CiBHS). CiBHS will serve as the fiscal agent for Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance (RPYA). RPYA will be the entity providing services under this contract. The dollar amount allocated for this contract is \$90,000.

Included in the Governor's May Revise are several initiatives we are monitoring closely:

- “No Place Like Home” leverages up to \$2 billion in MHSA funding to build or refurbish permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals living with a serious mental illness; requires 2/3 vote of the legislature.
- “Continuum of Care Reform” – Families who provide foster care will receive targeted training and support; moves away from the use of long-term group home care by increasing youth placement in family settings and by transforming existing group home care into places where youth who are not ready to live with families can receive short term, intensive treatment. DBH, in collaboration with Children and Family Services, will implement in January 2017.
- Health Homes for patients with complex needs takes effect in July 2017

Whole Person Care provides care to high utilizers of emergency departments. San Bernardino County’s application for WPC is set to be approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 28, 2016.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Karen Cervantes, DBH Program Specialist II, thanked everyone for their support of May Mental Health Month activities. Upcoming events include:

- 9/17/16 - Recovery Happens
- 10/29/16 – NAMI WALK

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Monica Wilson, Chair
Behavioral Health Commission

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission