

**ALAMEDA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
FRONT DOOR/ADULT COMMITTEES**

**December 3, 2003
1:30 – 3:30PM
Alameda Room**

MINUTES

Present:

MHB Members: Alane Friedrich and Bernard Flusche

Public: Kathy Zatkan (ACNMHC), Clive Chambers (Washington Hospital),
Zelda Humphrey (WOMH), Manika Massey (Pathways to Wellness),
Steve Bischoff (MHA)

BHCS staff: Dr. Peter Alevizos, Gary Spicer, Michael Lisman, Maryann D’Onofrio
and Agnes Catolos

Welcome, Introductions and Announcement:

Meeting called to order at 1:45PM by Alane Friedrich

Mr. Flusche stated that he joined the MHB because he wants to be involved in mental health issues and would like to get into the system to be effective in making changes for patients’ rights.

Approval of November 2003 Minutes:	
Ms. Zatkan made a correction to the Nov. minutes: on page 3, a name of the program should read...Reaching Across	M/S/C Ms. D’ Onofrio/Dr. Alevizos As corrected All favor

Discussion Topics:

➤ *Sausal Creek Monthly Report*-Ms. Friedrich presented Sausal Creek’s November report:

- Admissions-262
- Average Per Day-8.7
- Discharges-261
- 5150’s-5.0

➤ *Ten Key Questions by Gary Spicer:*

Mr. Spicer reviewed question #10 (Present a Summary of On-going Challenges and Unmet Needs) which will incorporate some comments made at the last committee meeting.

- Identify resources for the continuation of services to mentally ill offenders as developed under MIOCR (Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction) Grant, this funding is scheduled to end in June 2004 because of the short term plan; there’s a need to replace the resources to continue the services as oppose to pending it.

- Children Services- Mr. Spicer stated that there's always a political motivation and lots of goals surrounding children services but it's not inappropriate because of advocacy for children services is very strong now in Alameda County and felt that historical goals are more viable in appropriate crisis and assessment services.
- Improve Cultural Competency of BHCS Systems
- Improve and enhance services to 'transitional' age youth who are 'aging out' of service eligibility in Children Services Programs that still need case management and other support services to achieve stability in the community.
- Maintain services to inmate of county jails, including medication support and transition service to released inmates to reduce re-arrests.
- Develop a plan to make BHCS more 'family friendly'
 - Increase family involvement in treatment planning.
 - Family-client training and orientation/education regarding mental health issues
- Designate a staff for older adults.

Ms. Friedrich suggested that issues that are related to one another be grouped together ie: children issues; MIOCR/jail continuation of services.

Ms. Zatkin addressed that the item "Making BHCS more family friendly; family-client training and orientation..." should be expanded and she felt that the term 'friendly' is not realistic it doesn't really talk about the clients; there's no real hands-on, no real feeling. Ms. Zatkin suggested may be developing a plan to make BHCS more responsive and more inclusive to the public it's serving; that would be family, community and clients who are living in Alameda County rather than specifying one particular group.

Mr. Spicer stated that the reason the term 'friendly' is used was to be more specific with the motion of being responsive to the community and consumers.

Ms. Zatkin addressed that the list of unmet needs she submitted at the last meeting was not included in the list of question#10 that Mr. Spicer distributed.

Mr. Spicer asked Ms. Zatkin to resubmit the list of unmet needs and will make sure incorporating it question #10.

Mr. Lisman suggested adding to the list clients' issues addressing what skills and supports do they need to move towards independence and to move getting off of dependency in mental health system.

Mr. Flusche addressed that the patients' rights and complaints concerns should be included to the list. Mr. Flusche related his own personal experience and asked if there's something to address consumers complaints more effectively because for him evidently nothing's happening.

Ms. Friedrich stated that the complaint process was not made part of ten key questions when they started doing ten key questions. Ms. Friedrich stated that the complaint process can be added as a new bullet that says 'Review the Complaint Process' to make sure it's effective and it's something that can be presented not only to the committee but also to MHB and she would suggest reviewing complaint process as part of next month's agenda.

Ms. Friedrich suggested to Mr. Spicer adding bullets for new suggestions made to question #10 and also putting something at the top 'not necessarily in priority order'.

Other Items Discussed:

- *Mental Health Initiative*-Mr. Bischoff stated that there's an effort now to qualify the initiative for 11/04 ballot, it's a 1% surcharge on tax of people who earn \$1 mil or more; it will add about \$600 mil to mental health services statewide. Mr. Bischoff mentioned that they are now gathering signatures; they need 550,000-600,000 signatures statewide to make sure the initiative will get to the ballot. The initiative will provide services to adults with serious mental illness level to a AB 34 type of program; will provide services to children with serious mental illness up to the wrap-around standardize service even if they don't have insurance or no other coverage at all; there will be some money set-aside for programs for preventions and early interventions; capital facilities and human resources development.
- *Chair's monthly report*: Ms. Friedrich addressed that MHB is currently short of membership and asked committee members if they know anyone who will be interested to become a MHB member to call Mr. Walker for info. Ms. Friedrich added that she is hoping there will be some movement with front door project; that the committee will continue to move forward with its goals.

Mr. Lisman suggested making announcement of the MHB members' recruitment to the family groups.

- *John George*-discussed some incidents happened at John George.

Ms. Friedrich related some info. that was discussed at the BOS meeting concerning an ordinance to increase sales tax by ½ cent to go to the Medical Center; the estimated revenue from the increase will be about \$90 mil, Medical Center's deficit is \$60 mil. Ms. Friedrich mentioned that no one was against the request to put the ordinance on the ballot.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2:30PM
Minutes submitted by Agnes F. Catolos