

Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes
June 8, 2009 ◊ 12:00pm-2:00pm
First 5 Office Suite 130
1100 San Leandro Boulevard
San Leandro, CA 94578

Meeting called to order @ 12:10 by Chair Rochelle Elias

HOUSEKEEPING

Roll Call/Introduction of Guests

Mental Health Board Members:

Present: Pat Buchanan, Kelly O’Lague-Dulka, Rochelle Elias, Alane Friedrich, Lisa Gifford, Sheldon Koiles, Luvenia Jones, Laura Mason, Stephen Post, MD, and Ravi Sodhi

Excused: Sup. Gail Steele and Patricia Sweetwine

Absent: Maxine Oliver-Benson and Dorothy King

BHCS Staff: Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Jay Mahler, Sharon Kuehn, Carolyn Novosel, Gary Spicer, Marye Thomas, MD, Tonni Tulleys and Rosa Warder

Public: Darnell Levingston, D. Evans, Ronald Lee, Cecelia Wynn, Aaron Kling, Dennis Romano (ACCMHA), Steve Bischoff (MHAAC) and Shirley Posey

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<u>Public Comment</u>	<p>Mr. Bischoff distributed invitation and invited everyone for a Thank You Event for Dave Kears.</p> <p>Ms. Evans addressed her personal issues such as: incidents she has experienced with San Leandro PD and she asked for help to pay her medical bill.</p> <p>Dr. Thomas stated that she will try to help Ms. Evans re: her medical bill issue.</p>	
<u>Approval of April and May 2009 MHB minutes</u>	No corrections were made to the April and May 2009 MHB Minutes	M/S/C Ms. Friedrich/ Ms. Gifford All favored

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<u>Correspondence:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elias congratulated Ms. Gifford and Ms. Jones for serving as presenters at the Spirituality Conference. • Mr. Hall described the following packet that he put on the table: 1) Nomination packet for MHB election 2) Info re: Statewide MHB/C Conference in June. 	
<u>Election: Slate of MHB Officers</u>	<p>Ms. Dulka (Chair of Nomination Committee) conducted the meeting while election was being held. The other MHB members who were part of the Nomination Committee aside from Ms. Dulka were: Sheldon Koiles, Luvenia Jones and Stephen Post. Nominees for the MHB Slate of Officers FY 09-10 were: Chair-Rochelle Elias; Vice-Chair-Alane Friedrich; Secretary-Pat Buchanan and Luvenia Jones</p> <p>Ms. Dulka asked for any additional nominations from the floor.</p> <p>The results of the MHB election were: Chair-Rochelle Elias Vice-Chair-Alane Friedrich Secretary-Luvenia Jones</p>	<p>There were no additional nominations from the floor and ballots were distributed.</p>
<u>Action Item:</u>	None	
<u>Discussion Item:</u> A. Consumer and Family Employment Data in ACBHCS Current Status and Projected Outcomes	<p>Mr. Koiles explained how the discussion on consumer/family employment came about...He related that he heard from a lot of consumers that there are no jobs or if any only few jobs are available for consumers. He stated that when Gary Spicer explained and assured the desire of the BHCS Admin. to hire consumers, he felt that there was no real plan and it seems so vague. He would like to know what the board can do to help employ consumers and also to know how many consumers are in the system.</p> <p>Mr. Spicer responded that at this point in time they still don't have a reliable data on the number of consumers who are working within the mental health service and substance abuse service delivery system. He related that they did the planning requirement imposed by the State to do needs assessment which is an inventory of positions across the system but the question on whether or not an individual did self-identification of being a consumer was not ask in needs assessment. He stated that one of their initial goals is to put good baseline data to show what the county have across the system, what kinds of roles and also to look at opportunities that exist to further develop peer employment which reflects both consumers and family members employment in the system. He affirmed that they are committed in implementing the peer employment kit which is part of the approved WE&T plan and it will create promotional opportunities and adequate training to ensure peer employees will achieve successful work.</p>	

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<p><i>Consumer and Family Employment Data... (Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Thomas mentioned that they also have to inventory CBO's positions because about 85% of services are being delivered by CBO's.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Spicer pointed out that when the CSS plan was developed, it was built on the contracts of FSP providers to hire consumers e.g. consumer peer counseling roles. He added that consumers were also involved in the development of the Consumer Relations Office and WE&T Planning.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones stated that she has lots of suggestions for consumer/family employment for FERC and she is willing to speak to Steve Bischoff e.g. to consider hiring people who are culturally diverse.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Sodhi acknowledged that self-identification will be a challenge.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles felt that the use of the word "peer" does not really define what the department meant as consumers and family members and he believed that most people identify "peer" as consumers only. He suggested using accurate language because it's very important to be able to differentiate consumers to family members.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias stated that as the department move forward with goals for consumers and family members, that there should be a clear definition of a particular word because she felt that the word "peer" can be misleading.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Tulleys (Workforce Development Manager) stated that they have been using peer employment because WE&T leadership team felt that it's an accurate representation of both consumers and family members but after hearing several concerns from the board they will reconsider the suggestions. She provided the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The BHCS Workforce needs assessment that was completed in 2008 identified 232 consumers and family positions currently employed in BHCS (both county and contracted CBO's)</i> <i>• BHCS intends to develop a provider survey to collect more specific info on peer positions</i> <i>• Alameda County Human Resources offers a consumer/family member option for designated county positions</i> <i>• MHSA Funded Peer Positions (represents both consumers and family members)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>◦ Community Services and Supports Plan-total: 46 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) e.g. Consumer Relations Manager, Family Relations Manager, Full Service</i> 	

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<p><i>Consumer and Family Employment Data... (Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>Partnerships, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Prevention and Early Intervention Plan-total: 11.85 FTE e.g. Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Campaign, Older Adult Peer Support Program</i> ◦ <i>Workforce, Education and Training Plan-total: 7 FTE e.g. Peer Employment Kit</i> <p><i>Mr. Lee addressed concerns re: In Home Support Services (IHSS) e.g. no one to contact, hotline not working, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Thomas clarified that IHSS is administered through Social Services Agency and related that IHSS are Governor's budget to be reduced; it will reduce IHSS providers from 13,000 down to 4000; hourly rate will reduce from \$11.50 to \$8 per hour.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones suggested to Mr. Lee to call somebody within Social Services Agency and try to talk to his union.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias expressed her concern re: POCC members, she would like to know what the next step is for them and she would like to see the county focus on helping those individuals who are already engaging in empowerment and recovery and wellness.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Tulleys responded that the Dept. is trying to create positions and related that there are about 25-40 new positions designated for consumer and family members e.g. FERC is recruiting for family advocate positions and Creating Homes Project is expecting about 18 positions. She agreed that employing consumers and family members is really an important step but she expressed that the financial crisis that the county is facing impacts the ability to recruit.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Post asked if there is a registry in the county where people can register to apply for a job.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Tulleys responded that she is in the process of creating an employment roster of all the mental health providers in Alameda County with their contact info for people who are looking for jobs.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Posey (member of POCC) related that she just completed BestNow Program and she hoped that all of them who completed the program will be remembered and considered for employment and not be stepped over by somebody who has not gone through the certification program.</i></p>	

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<p><i>Consumer and Family Employment Data... (Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>Ms. Wynn believed that consumers and family members are basically the same there should not be a conflict between consumers and family members.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Mahler stated that with the 250 POCC members there is not enough resources to be found in the county but he felt that there are a number of things that are being in place e.g. Creating Homes Project. He felt that to keep the POCC momentum going, they need the peer employment tool kit accessible; they need year round internship; they need people who have several experiences like BestNow class..</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Sodhi expressed that it's very exciting to hear what the county is doing even if the state is lacking opportunities for consumers and care givers and he suggested improvising the bridging to other agencies in the county and providing technical assistance as well.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Tulleys responded that bridging and providing technical assistance are some of the things that they really like to do particularly for consumers who are getting ready for employment.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias stated that it would be really wonderful if the county could help facilitate training for POCC members who would like to be trained to prepare them for employment.</i></p>	
<p><u>Director's Report</u></p>	<p><i>Dr. Thomas provided the following updates on the budget:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential impacts on BHCS of the revised state budget for FY 09/10:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Eliminate funding for AOD and MH treatment for CALWORKS participants</i> ◦ <i>Eliminate funding for Prop 36 (SACPA-Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act)</i> ◦ <i>Cut the Healthy Families Program</i> ◦ <i>EPSDT Reduction of \$28 mil services</i> ◦ <i>\$64 mil reduction in the Medi-Cal MH Managed Care payment to counties for inpatient services</i> ◦ <i>Defer \$52 mil of payments to counties for AB3632 services for a year</i> <p><i>If the State proposals were enacted, they would create about \$11 mil gap in BHCS funding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The State proposes to borrow an additional 8% of local property tax which could reduce funds for county services even further. In Alameda County, only 15¢ of property tax goes to the county to fund county services; the county has estimated that</i> 	

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<i>Director's Report (Cont.)</i>	<p><i>the borrowing of the state could amount to as much as \$40 mil for the county and when this happen, it is possible that Health Care Agency could get about \$20 mil of the county deficit and BHCS could get \$10 mil from Health Care deficit in addition to the \$11 mil reduction from the state funding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• All payments from the state will be deferred from 30 days up to 6 months.</i> <i>• Other handouts were distributed e.g. 1) Funding Options for County Alcohol and Other Drug Programs 2) Memo re: Opposition on FY 09-10 May Revision Proposals to Further Reduce and Defer Funding for Community MH Services 3) Fact Sheet re: Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (Prop 36).</i> 	
<u>MHB Chair Report</u>	<p><i>Ms. Elias related that she is having conversation with Eden Housing in Hayward about partnering with La Familia in doing supportive housing program and she also has been working with consortium at churches in central county to have a dialogue re: senior services and she has been working with Clint Nix about bringing him into their conversations.</i></p>	
<u>Committee Chair Reports</u> <i>Adult Committee</i>	<p><i>Ms. Friedrich stated that the handouts from their previous meeting were in the MHB packet and mentioned that the next Adult Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 15th, meeting details will be emailed to committee members.</i></p>	
<i>Children's Advisory Committee (CAC)</i>	<p><i>Ms. Novosel stated that the base challenge that they are facing with the current economy is going to be the integration of some of the strategic planning goals that they've worked on the last year ½ to 3 years. She made an announcement of the opening of the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Willow Rock Center which is supported by MHSA funds.</i></p>	
<i>Consumer/Family Committee</i>	<p><i>Mr. Koiles felt that there is really a need for the Consumer/Family Committee after hearing an extensive discussions about the consumer versus family members and that there seems to be a conflict because consumers have their thing and family members have their own and he related that when he looked at the FERC position papers he didn't feel right about some of the things he read.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Warder stated that the FERC is designed to help bridge the gap with the whole purpose of educating family members about mental health e.g. how to navigate the system and to have understanding of what is going on with mental illness to not have conflict conversation with consumers. She clarified that the Family Advocate Position is considered as a family member position because they are looking for family member who are also consumer and who are identified primarily as family members who already been gone through the process of navigating the system on how to advocate for their loved ones.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles believed that every consumer should be automatically a family member.</i></p>	

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<i>Consumer/Family Committee (Cont.)</i>	<p><i>Ms. Warder responded that family member means somebody who is giving care, a navigator, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles expressed that how a family member is defined is another language issue and he also felt that the FERC title does not really describe what it is actually doing.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Tulleys suggested having presentation about the BHCS' definition of consumers and family members.</i></p>	
<i>Public Awareness Committee (PAC)</i>	<i>PAC minutes were distributed.</i>	
<i>End of Life Issues (EOLI)</i>	<i>Ms. Friedrich mentioned that the next EOLI meeting will be held on June 26th from 12pm-2pm.</i>	
<u>Liaison Report</u> <i>Alameda County Family Coalition (ACFC)</i>	<i>Ms. Dashiell stated that the ACFC met with Rosa Warder last month and at their next meeting they will meet with Robert Ratner (BHCS Housing Director)</i>	
<u>Public Comments</u>	<p><i>Mr. Kling felt that the media is a very strong vehicle for anti-discriminating efforts for mental illness and he suggested having free media for mental health like KPFA, East Bay Express to publish problems in mental health. He stated that thousands of people read those kinds of publications and he expressed that as a recipient he will be willing to write something on behalf of Alameda County and Contra Costa County to address what is not happening to people with mental illness.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Wynn mentioned that she completed BEST Now program and expressed that consumers do want to have a good job.</i></p>	
<u>Board Comments</u>	<i>None.</i>	

Meeting was adjourned @ 2:20PM