

Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes
March 9, 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: Kelly Dulka, Rochelle Elias, Luvenia Jones, Dorothy King, Sheldon Koiles, Laura Mason, Maxine Oliver-Benson, Dr. Stephen Post, Ravi Sodhi and Patricia Sweetwine

Excused: Pat Buchanan, Alane Friedrich and Sup. Gail Steele

Absent: Lisa Gifford

BHCS Staff: Michelle Burns, Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Barbara Majak and Carolyn Novosel

Public: Paulette Hogan and Jerome Attaway

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<u>Approval of February 2009 MHB minutes</u>	No correction was made to the February 2009 MHB minutes.	Approval of Feb. 2009 MHB Minutes M/S/C Ms. Oliver-Benson/Ms. Manson All Favored
<u>Correspondence:</u>	Ms. Elias distributed newspaper articles re: MHSA funding and Mental Health Matters.	
<u>Presentation:</u> From Community Activism to Board Collaboration with ACBHCS Maximizing Board Activism through Identifying Our Individual Background and Interests and determining issues to pursue	Ms. Elias stated that she felt the need to hear from the board members to look at their backgrounds and to hear what kind of interests or issues they would like to see address while working on the board. Patricia Sweetwine: She is currently working as a consultant with the AC Office of AIDS. She related that her interest is about people who have dual diagnosis with mental health issues and have HIV/Aids. Kelly Dulka: She is a Clinical Social Worker, previously worked at Stanford re: sexually	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><i>to Board Collaboration with ACBHCS...(Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>Laura Mason: She stated that she became involved in mental health for a number of reasons e.g. she is a Clinical Professor at UC Berkeley and runs a community clinic to train graduate students in their 1st clinical experiences and she is committed in providing community service and developing treatments that consumers endorsed. She related that she has family members living through mental illness. She expressed concern about access of people with serious mental health issues to services and housing.</i></p> <p><i>Stephen Post: He stated that he became involve in mental health for 2 reasons 1) he represents the Alameda/Contra Costa Medical Association, he reports back on what is going on in the mental health area 2) He has a son who is bipolar. He learned that mental health will eventually rely on the social network where family cannot take care of an individual and will need to be taking care of the police, the fire dept., the hospital, etc.; he felt that it is important that the social network is established as caring, understanding and responsive. He addressed that the first responders should have an understanding on how to respond appropriately to an individual dealing with mental health issues.</i></p> <p><i>Margot Dashiell: She is a liaison to the board from the AC Family Coalition, she related that she has family members suffering with mental illness and she is a member of the NAMI. She related that people with mental illness life span is 25 years less than the average person. She related that her group's interests are: how to integrate physical health with mental health; provider education; mental health court and housing.</i></p> <p><i>Michelle Burns: She provided some of her backgrounds e.g. she worked at a homeless clinic in Boston and dealt with homeless kids living with HIV and mental health issues; she also worked in Berkeley HS prior to working in BHCS. She addressed the importance of developing mental health programs for young people to prevent mental illness becomes chronic. Currently, as the TAY Director, she stated that they started developing programs for the TAY through the MHSA funding and added that they will be starting the 1st episode program which is based on a research that has been done internationally and now throughout the US.</i></p> <p><i>Barbara Majak: She provided some of her backgrounds e.g. prior to working in the county she worked as a Public Health Nurse in Oakland and she has been working in mental health for 30 years now. She stated that it is really inspiring to hear everyone's passion, care and concern and related that one of the most exciting things about MHSA has been the opportunity for a better collaboration with the community. She mentioned that for so many years mental health services lost funding every single year and they were only able to provide services that the federal govt. was willing to fund and right now at</i></p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><i>From Community Activism to Board Collaboration with ACBHCS...(Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>the state level they are beginning to take from the MHSA funds which is something need to be watched carefully. She expressed that its really exciting to see the MHB filling its membership and has a diverse membership that can work with the BHCS Dept. to educate the community e.g. through PEI process there's a significant funding for stigma and discrimination and social inclusion; Family Education Resource Center (FERC) which will be located in all regions of the county; programs for first episode etc. Ms. Majak stated that it's really important to have a partnership with the board members and the community to come up with solutions and approaches in supporting people with serious mental health issues.</i></p> <p><i>Rochelle Elias: She related that she grew up in Oakland and it was where she gained most of the wisdom she has now. She addressed that the community she lives now which is part of the Tri-Valley area is lacking mental health services. She related that when she was appointed to the board one of her motivations is to resolve some of the mental health problems in Latino community. She mentioned that she attended the Cultural Competency and Mental Health Summit in San Diego and some of the workshops that of interest r to have i.e. Transforming MH Services through Community Partnership; Reducing Stress of Caregivers and Cultural Competency to Work Towards Diversity. She would like to see some of those concepts of services happen in Alameda County.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias asked to have discussion on how the board can organize around issues that have been mentioned that are important to them.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones suggested that the board get together to discuss certain interests and certain issues.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. King would like to see if the board can develop better programs and if the board can figure out how to educate the first responders like the police and the community as well</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias felt that some of the issues that were addressed may not be within the work of the board though they can be address to various other committees e.g. addressing criminal justice issues to Criminal Justice Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones stated that she is part of various committees of POCC but she felt that they don't address her concerns e.g. board and care.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias felt that the board need to look at bringing staff to a higher level of responding to board inquiries and hoped that with the collaboration with BHCS the board can heighten the level of expectation of responses toward questions.</i></p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<i>From Community Activism to Board Collaboration with ACBHCS...(Cont.)</i>	<i>Mr. Koiles suggested that may be the Consumer/Family Committee can open up time for the public, make it like a town hall meeting to give public ample time to discuss or address their issues. He also felt that may be the solutions to some of the problems is not totally within the mental health system because from his experienced he got some help out of the mental health system e.g. educational system, faith based community, peace corps, etc.</i>	
<u>Action Item:</u> <i>Securing Board Consultation with William Rhett-Mariscal of CIMH to facilitate session on board organization and issue development</i>	<i>Ms. Elias asked for approval of securing a board consultation with William Rhett-Mariscal to facilitate a work session on board organization and issue development.</i>	<i>This action item was approved with 1 board member abstained.</i>
<u>Discussion Item:</u> <i>Role of Consumer/Family Adhoc-Committee</i>	<i>Mr. Koiles stated that he felt that the Consumer/Family Ad-hoc Committee could be a learning experience for the board to learn what the public has to say and be educated on what issues are affecting the community from a consumer/family perspective. He stated that the consumer/family committee still needs to decide when and where meet.</i>	
<u>Director's Report</u>	<i>Ms. Majak provided budget update:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BHCS Budget Task Force will meet on Tuesday, March 10th from 3pm-6pm</i> • <i>County and State budget-Ms. Majak stated that with the economy not doing too well it is affecting the county and the state budget significantly though the county is not clear yet what the full impact will be. She related that the state legislature has passed a couple of laws that resulted in an initiative ballots in May e.g. E1-ensuring funding for children mental health services and helps balance the state budget. What the state is doing is taking MHSA money and swapping it out to the state general fund in order to balance the budget.</i> • <i>MHSA funding update-there is a significantly profound drop in MHSA money due to a lot of millionaires are not doing well either. Ms. Majak felt that they should start planning now on how they will manage the drop in MHSA funding.</i> 	
<u>MHB Chair Report</u>	<i>Ms. Elias made an announcement of an upcoming meeting re: stimulus package-\$7.5 mil for programs for the homeless on Tues., March 17th.</i>	
<u>Committee Chair Reports</u>	<i>No reports were given.</i>	
<u>Public Comments</u>	<i>Ms. Hogan addressed the need for a town hall meeting; she presented a draft of her goals for the youth of Oakland and she related what she has experienced in John George.</i> <i>Mr. Attaway provided an update re: Howie Harp MSC and thanked the BHCS Dept. for their support about the audit.</i>	
<u>Board Comments</u>	<i>None.</i>	

Meeting was adjourned @ 2:20PM