

Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes
May 11, 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, Rochelle Elias, Alane Friedrich, Sheldon Koiles, Luvenia Jones, Laura Mason and Maxine Oliver-Benson

Excused: Stephen Post, MD, Sup. Gail Steele and Patricia Sweetwine

Absent: Lisa Gifford, Ravi Sodhi and Dorothy King

BHCS Staff: Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Carolyn Novosel and Gary Spicer

Public: Darnell Levingston

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION |
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| <u>Public Comment</u> | None | |
| <u>Approval of April 2009 MHB minutes</u> | Not approved...no quorum | |
| <u>Correspondence:</u> | None | |
| <u>Presentation:</u> Family Education Resource Center (FERC) | Ms. Karina Foote (FERC Executive Director) together with Steve Bischoff (Mental Health Association) provided info on FERC such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FERC is the largest program of its kind that offer support to families in CA. • Purpose of FERC: 1) to provide info, referral, training and resources to families who have loved ones with mental illness and severe emotional disturbances. 2) to work with BHCS contracted agencies to support their efforts to work with families 3) to work with various organizations around the county e.g. schools, CPS, law enforcement, etc. 4) To promote client and family driven mental health system by trying to transform relationships in providing input and feedback about families experiences to BHCS decision makers at all levels 5) to be a resources to BHCS | |

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| <p>FERC Presentation (Cont.)</p> | <p><i>programs and contract agencies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FERC's first year organizational and developmental structure focus are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>staff recruitment-Ms. Foote was hired as the FERC Director in Feb, an Admin. Assistant, Training Coordinator and warm line operator were hired in March; Lead Family Advocate was hired in April; finished first round of interview for 5 family applicants and there will be a second round of interview soon. FERC will have 5 locations throughout the county and each location will have a family advocate.</i> ◦ <i>infrastructure-FERC main hub will be located in Eastmont Mall and 4 satellites sites will be located in Oakland, Livermore, Hayward and Fremont. Eastmont Mall site is over 3000 sq. ft. and it will have an area for children when family members are in training; about 80% computer equipment were purchased; servers were purchased and in placed; internet is now up and running; telephone system has been purchased and working on how the call system will work and there will be 800#. Fremont office will be located in Fremont Family Resource Center; 2nd site at Oakland will be in the MHA office; Livermore and Hayward offices still pending</i> ◦ <i>to provide training such as staff orientation, leadership training, community trainings, etc. Ms. Foote stated that they would like to have a Training Coordinator and to host supplemental trainings that are in addition to the NAMI Org. Trainings where people can get info quickly and also to host peer support group meetings where families can support one another.</i> <p><i>Questions and Answers such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Friedrich asked to define families in crisis.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that they try not to use crisis because they are not really a crisis call center and they are deciding whether changing calling the warm line to info or referral line. She related that they went to Crisis Support Services to observe and to figure out how to help family members having crisis such as how to make a careful transfer of the situation and be able to handle a crisis call appropriately.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Jones addressed that the warm line should provide clear info to the people calling so that they don't end up where they started from and don't have to start all over again asking for info.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that they are trying to work on what info the warm line provides, where to transfer calls and how people will be able to navigate the system and not feel frustrated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Elias asked how the feeder agencies will be managed, how many people will be served and what their goal is.</i> | |

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| <p><i>FERC Presentation (Cont.)</i></p> | <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that it is difficult to say how many people to serve but they do want to serve thousands of people and be able to grow.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias asked if the feeder agencies are geographically diverse.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bischoff responded yes and that it is part of what they are looking at and it's part of the contract to reach out to all BHCS programs; they will be setting up poster, they will be looking at places where families go and places that are referral sources.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias addressed her concern that services and special workshops/events will just happen at the hub and not in the satellite sites.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that they tried securing sites that have conference or training rooms to be able to host events/meeting in different sites not just in Oakland hub and they plan to go to various local communities as well.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Dulka asked if the main resources will just be at the hub or if resources will also be housed in each satellite site.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that Oakland will have larger resources but each site will have material books, computer stations for people who don't have access to computer and internet and a list of the books will be posted on the website. She added that they are still trying to figure out how to send out resources to various sites.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Dulka asked how the project is funded.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bischoff responded that FERC is funded by MHSA through a contract with the BHCS which is about \$950,000 year contract.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Friedrich asked to describe the advisory committee.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote stated that the FERC advisory committee is comprised of leadership positions from various agencies throughout the county e.g. NAMI president, representatives from adult and children services, criminal justice, various hospitals, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Bischoff stated that the advisory committee is the group that was committed in developing the FERC and they were involved in the interview process for the Director and other key positions.</i></p> | |

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| <i>FERC Presentation (Cont.)</i> | <p><i>Ms. Friedrich recommended the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Sending FERC representatives to Criminal Justice Committee</i> ◦ <i>Try considering outsider art for FERC facility which is art by people with mental illness</i> ◦ <i>Talking to Carolyn Cooper who might recommend some sites for Pleasanton and Livermore areas.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Koiles asked what would be the percentage of employees that are family members and consumers.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that there will 6 staff at Eastmont Mall and 1 in each location and their goal is to have 100% family members and consumers as well.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Jones suggested publicizing FERC to inform people and also police officers.</i> • <i>Ms. Oliver-Benson asked to distinguish the difference between family member and consumer...how many family members and how many consumers were hired.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that they've hired people who are just family members and they also hired people who have had past experience with some mental health issues or currently experiencing some things and they have loved ones who have mental illness. They've hired 5 family members and 2 are also consumers as well as being family members.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Oliver-Benson stated that it still doesn't distinguish the difference between family member and consumer, she felt that a person cannot be put in 2 different categories like her, she is only a family member advocating for a family member.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Koiles asked about needs assessment.</i> <p><i>Ms. Foote responded that the initial needs assessment was done with extensive community input about the huge need and gap in the county that resulted having FERC; another level of needs assessment will be done to know what specific support, info and education to provide.</i></p> | |
| <u>Public Comment:</u> | <i>Darnell Levingston addressed that he was not aware of the FERC planning process and he felt that there is discrimination going on with the MHB and BHCS towards African-American and that it is going to stop.</i> | |
| <u>Action Item:</u> <i>Approval of Awards Nominations</i> | <i>Ms. Friedrich made a motion to approve the awards nominations.</i> | <i>M/S/C Ms. Friedrich/ Ms. Buchanan Motion Passed All Favored</i> |

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| <p><u>Discussion Item:</u> A. Update on MHB Community Service Awards</p> | <p><i>Ms. Elias reminded board members of the MHB Annual Community Service Awards which will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at Jack London Aquatic Center.</i></p> | |
| <p>B. Review of Work Session on April 29th</p> | <p><i>Ms. Elias asked board members for feedback/comment of the work session that was held on April 19th.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles stated that the work session was very worthwhile; he felt that some board members seem a bit powerless sometime and not clear of what the board is really doing.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Dulka felt that the board is halfway done of what they needed to do and she would like to have another work session to have a clarity of who the board is accountable to and accountable for.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias asked board members if they want Will Rhett-Mariscal to continue as the facilitator of the work session.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Friedrich responded no because she felt that Mr. Mariscal did not recognize the people who participated in the OPC and she wants someone who has specialty in mental health boards and knows the board's function.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones stated that she enjoyed the work session and she liked the facilitator because he offered diversity.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Mason stated that she also liked Mr. Mariscal and she liked the info sharing process. She would like to have presentation on the history of the MHB because she felt that it would be helpful to get some ideas when and why the board was formed.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Dulka felt that it would be important for the facilitator to be able to stay the duration of the work session and she wants to have clarity on what the MHB is charged in doing.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias suggested having Jay Mahler (a former board member) do presentation about MHB's history.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Mason related that part of what motivated her to be on the board is through her work. She addressed the difficulties that people experienced in accessing county services and she would like to find out what the board can do to help with what people go through when they call ACCESS.</i></p> | |

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| <i>Review of Work Session (Cont.)</i> | <p><i>Ms. Friedrich stated that ACCESS issues can be addressed at the Adult Committee; she asked Ms. Mason what would be a better time for her to be able to attend the Adult Committee meeting and to be able to address her concerns.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Mason responded that she will be able to attend the Adult Committee meeting if it's 12-2pm instead of 1-3pm. She stated that she can come to the next Adult Committee meeting.</i></p> | <i>Ms. Friedrich will find out if the Adult Committee time can be moved to 12-2pm.</i> |
| <u>Director's Report</u> | <p><i>Mr. Spicer provided updates on the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• County budget-the CAO's Office identified a \$177 mil deficit that will be distributed across various county agencies. Health Care Services Agency is assigned with \$30 mil deficit and it is going to be addressed through the following: 1) a combination of savings-about \$14 mil 2) one-time resolution from a lawsuit which is referred as the emergency services-about \$2.5 mil 3) Changed in Federal formula for services matched by federal dollars-about \$6 mil 4) elimination of COLA for CBO's contracts-about \$4.5 mil; this is a significant impact to CBO's. BHCS deficit is about \$1.2 mil and it's going to be addressed by collecting revenues from capitative programs where clients utilized services not provided by capitative programs.</i> <i>• May 19th election-mentioned that IE is an initiative that will affect mental health services and encouraged everyone to vote.</i> <i>• PEI-the Dept. is moving forward with the PEI contracts and related that they are taking a strategy in building a contingency reserve fund that will fund a 2 year period even if the state initiative passes and stated that they are not going to hold off programs that were already approved. Mr. Spicer added that they are also moving forward with the WE&T plan.</i> | |
| <u>MHB Chair Report</u> | <i>Ms. Elias stated that she will put together a nominating committee soon for the MHB election in June.</i> | |
| <u>Committee Chair Reports</u> <i>Adult Committee</i> | <i>Ms. Friedrich stated that there were 2 months Adult Committee minutes in the MHB packet and related that their next meeting is on Monday, May 18th.</i> | |
| <i>Children's Advisory Committee (CAC)</i> | <i>No report given.</i> | |
| <i>Public Awareness Committee (PAC)</i> | <i>Ms. Elias stated that one of their committee member suggested publicizing Spirituality Conference on You Tube but she related that she is not comfortable with the idea and she would like to know the process of the Public Info Office on how the county provides info.</i> | |
| <u>Liaison Report</u> <i>Alameda County Family Coalition (ACFC)</i> | <i>No report given.</i> | |
| <u>Board Comments</u> | <i>None.</i> | |

Meeting was adjourned @ 2:20PM