

Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes
November 9, 2009 ◊ 12:00pm-2:00pm
First 5 Office Suite 130
1100 San Leandro Boulevard
San Leandro, CA 94578

Meeting called to order @ 12:15 by Chair Rochelle Elias

HOUSEKEEPING

Roll Call/Introduction of Guests

Mental Health Board Members:

Present: Pat Buchanan, Rochelle Elias, Alane Friedrich, Lisa Gifford, Samuel Greyson, Luvenia Jones, Sheldon Koiles, Laura Mason, Ravi Sodhi, Sup. Gail Steele and Patricia Sweetwine

Excused: Kelly O’Lague- Dulka, Dorothy King, Maxine Oliver-Benson and Stephen Post

BHCS Staff: Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Barbara Majak, Carolyn Novosel, Gary Spicer, Marye Thomas, MD and Rosa Warder

Public: Jerome Attaway (HHMSC), Joseph Carter (HHMSC), Margot Dashiell (ACFC), Dennis Romano (ACCMHA), Joe Rose, Josh Thurman (BOS Chief of Staff), Diane Stewart (JGPP) and Nadia Lockyer

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<u>Public Comment</u>	Ms. Mason provided info on a research study at UC Berkeley re: schizophrenia symptoms; people who can participate have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder and are ages between 18-60 years; participants will get \$15 per hour and the study will take about 3 hours. Parking is provided. Ms. Mason can be contacted via email for more info about the study.	
<u>Approval of October 2009 MHB minutes</u>	No corrections were made to the October 2009 MHB minutes.	M/S/C Lisa Gifford/ Laura Mason All favored
<u>Correspondence</u>	Ms. Elias related that she will be meeting with the Judge in charge of the Mental Health Court on Tuesday, Nov. 17 th	
<u>Presentation/Discussion</u> MHB Workshop Summary “Finalization of Issues and Committees Formalization”	Ms. Elias stated that the MHB had a workshop in August and identified the top 5 issues that the board need to address for this year, the top 5 issues are: 1) Santa Rita Jail-to address the quality of treatment of the inmates who are mentally ill 2) Consumer Satisfaction and Dignity-to ensure consumers’ dignity is respected 3) Children and TAY Inclusion-to be more aware of Juvenile Justice System	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>MHB Workshop Summary... (Cont.)</p>	<p>4) <i>John George Pavilion-to address problems at John George</i> 5) <i>Violence against the mentally ill-to address violence to clients that occurs at program sites and by law enforcement.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias would like to establish committees for the top 5 issues and would like the board members to submit their realistic time frames to make a commitment and be available for committee works.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions e.g.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ms. Friedrich stated that she did not see on the list what the board is currently doing and would like to know if the proposed new committees will be priorities than the existing committees.</i> <i>Ms. Elias responded that those top 5 issues are priorities that several board members really cared about to be engaged and those proposed new committees are in addition to the existing board committees.</i> ▪ <i>Ms. Novosel asked who would chair those committees.</i> <i>Ms. Elias responded that an email will be sent to the board members asking them to choose which committee they would like to serve.</i> ▪ <i>Sup. Steele expressed concern that the Juvenile Justice System is a huge complex system that involve not just BHCS but also Probation Dept. and Social Services.</i> <i>Ms. Elias felt that having a committee on Juvenile Justice System is a good opportunity for the board members to find out what is going on Juvenile Justice System and to become more aware of its issues.</i> ▪ <i>Dr. Thomas stated that the BHCS Admin staff could inform the board of what is going on various countywide committees that board members may want to learn or participate.</i> ▪ <i>Ms. Friedrich suggested keeping John George in Adult Committee and may be expand their meeting time rather than having a new committee for John George.</i> <i>Ms. Elias responded that she would like to start a committee for John George to have an urgency in addressing problems at John George and she hopes to work together with the Adult Committee.</i> ▪ <i>Ms. Dashiell suggested adding family to the consumer satisfaction and dignity to make it family and consumer.</i> ▪ <i>Mr. Koiles suggested reducing the top 5 issues to 3 because he felt that the consumer satisfaction and dignity and the violence towards mentally ill could be applied to all 3 remaining committees for Santa Rita, Juvenile Hall and John George as stated on the board's mission statement to serve the community with dignity courtesy and respect.</i> 	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p><u>Action Item A:</u> <i>Adopt Finalization of Issues and Formalization of Committees</i></p>	<p><i>Ms. Gifford made a motion to adopt the finalization of the issues and the formalization of committees as presented by the workshop with regard to Sheldon’s recommendation to reduce the top issues from 5 to 3, by collapsing consumer satisfaction and dignity along with violence towards mentally ill based on the board’s mission statement.</i></p>	<p><i>M/S/C Lisa Gifford/ Laura Mason 1 opposed 2abstained Motion passed</i></p>
<p><i>Community Forum Adhoc Committee</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Koiles related the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The board members from district 3 would like to establish a community forum to share information to the community in an educational format and to learn what the community needs are.</i> ▪ <i>District 3 board members met with Sup. Lai-Bitker and she was very supportive of having community forum and wants to contribute whenever she can.</i> ▪ <i>Ms. Elias and Mr. Sodhi will be involved in the working session.</i> ▪ <i>BHCS Admin. has offered to help and they will be part of the community forum to answer questions that board members might not be able to answer.</i> ▪ <i>Ms. Sweetwine added that the idea of the community forum is to educate the public to know what services are available, where they can go and who they can address their concerns.</i> 	
<p><u>Action Item B:</u> <i>Community Forum Adhoc Committee</i></p>	<p><i>Ms. Gifford made a motion to accept Sheldon’s desire to establish the Community Forum Adhoc Committee for District 3, do it as a pilot and may be other districts could follow.</i></p>	<p><i>M/S/C Lisa Gifford/ Laura Mason All favored Motion passed</i></p>
<p><u>Director’s Report</u></p>	<p><i>Dr. Thomas provided an update on the budget as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>She stated that the county will continue having difficult budget in the coming year because of the issues that impacted this year’s budget e.g. Prop 36 funding, decreased revenues from realignment that come from sales tax, vehicle license fees and Measure A which is another local sales tax revenue will also be reduced.</i> <p><i>Mr. Spicer provided MHSA updates that included the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The State has approved majority of Alameda County’s MHSA plan with the exception of Innovations Plan, which is 5% of overall MHSA funds that will be awarded to counties in an annual amount of about \$2.2 mil.</i> ▪ <i>Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)-the county is currently working on the release and review of RFP’s for the following PEI programs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Underserved Ethnic Specialty Population-the RFP was released to provide prevention services in the underserved communities e.g. Native American, Afghan, Southeast Asian, Latino and Asian-Pacific Islander; the county has received and reviewed proposals and they are now in the final stage of making a decision of awarding the RFP.</i> 	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<i>Director's Report (Cont.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Recovery Education Center-this program is affiliated with a program formerly know as Creating Homes which is now called Community Choices to provide housing and employment and intensive recovery services to a population that is being served by adult service teams. RFP has been released and the county is now in the process of developing contract terms for the successful bidder.</i> ▫ <i>Stigma Reduction Program-the targeted date for the release of RFP is delayed and it might be released this week. This program will include several components e.g. education and development, video/cable approach (Mental Health Matters) and the county will look for a consumer run organization to manage this program.</i> ▫ <i>Mental Health First Aid-to provide first aid training and education when somebody is having emotional or mental health crisis.</i> ▫ <i>Early Childhood Program/Early Childhood Consultation-the county successfully obtained a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Grant and they will be working with First Five of Alameda County, the program will be called Early Connections and the local match is coming from the PEI Early Childhood funds.</i> ▫ <i>Primary Care-2 major areas of Primary Care are: 1) A program for Latino and Asian/Pacific older adults to provide services for mental health issues as well as primary care needs. 2) The other program will provide funding for mental health services within the primary care clinic.</i> ▪ <i>Capital and Technology-the county hasn't move very far with this plan but they starting to look at some facilities in the county that can house some of the newly developed MHSA funded program.</i> ▪ <i>Workforce Development-is continuing with the development of High School Academy and Financial Assistance Program which can be used for loan forgiveness for people who are already working in the system and also for ethnic, language and minority population.</i> ▪ <i>Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)-is a set of bylaws and agreement between counties and various governmental entities; it will allow counties to commit funds to the JPA for the purpose of funding and purchasing regional activities which requires authorization by each individual counties Board of Supervisors. Currently, there are 13 counties that adopted the JPA bylaws; Alameda County Counsel is still reviewing JPA bylaws. Benefits of JPA e.g.:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Unspent county funds at the state level will count as spent as oppose to available because if the money is unspent at the state level for a certain period of time, it rolls out of the counties allocation.</i> 2) <i>JPA is intended for projects that are not county specific.</i> 	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<u>Committee Reports</u> <i>Adult Committee</i>	<i>Ms. Friedrich stated that the minutes from the previous Adult Committee meeting was included in the MHB meeting packet, the next Adult Committee is scheduled on Monday, Nov. 16th.</i>	
<i>Children’s Advisory Committee (CAC)</i>	<i>Ms. Novosel related that at the last CAC meeting, they had a presentation about the electronic health records presented by Oliver Zee and Camille Peterson from BHCS IT Dept.</i>	
<i>Public Awareness Committee (PAC)</i>	<p><i>Ms. Elias provided the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>She recruited a Kaiser Psychologist to do an article on managing stress during tough economic times, the article will be published on the Castro Valley Forum and in addition to Kaiser resources, it will also include article on how to access Alameda County resources.</i> ▪ <i>PAC established contact with a producer at ABC News who expressed a high level of interest in doing a story re: mental health. PAC is going to consider different options in media to get more positive aspect of mental health in the news and they will be working closely with BHCS for approval of the committee’s proposal which is still in progress.</i> 	
<u>Public Comments</u>	<p><i>Mr. Attaway inquired about the future of Howie Harp and asked what will happen to the consumers who still receives services at Howie Harp.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Thomas provided info. about Howie Harp as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sup. Carson and Dave Kears held a community forum to hear concerns and issues with the current program and some recommendations were made e.g. RFP will be issued for a provider to manage a multi-service center for homeless population with serious mental illness in downtown Oakland.</i> ▪ <i>BHCS’ commitment is to do some remodeling with the facility because one of the major concern is the safety issue and its not certain whether to close the center during the renovation.</i> <p><i>Mr. Carter expressed concerns to Howie Harp’s staff who will be affected of the proposed change in Howie Harp.</i></p>	

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm
Minutes submitted by Agnes Catolos*