

**Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes**  
**April 12, 2010 ♦ 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, Jeffrey Davidson, Rochelle Elias, Alane Friedrich, Samuel Greyson, Luvenia Jones, Dorothy King, Sheldon Koiles, Laura Mason, Dr. Stephen Post, Sup. Gail Steele, and Patricia Sweetwine  
**Excused:** Lisa Gifford  
**Absent:** Kelly O'Lague-Dulka and Ravi Sodhi

**BHCS Staff:** Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Gary Spicer, Barbara Majak, Marye Thomas, MD, Millie Swafford, Sandra Smith and Rosa Warder

**Liaison:** Margot Dashiell (ACFC)

**Public:** Joe Rose, Joan Miro, Guy Qvistgaard (JGPP), Colette Winlock, Asara Tseha, Howie The Harp Representatives- Joseph Carter, Lonnie Jones, Ronald Holmes, Lavar Brown, Gregory Thomas, David Bell, Lorenzo Kearney, Clifford Manor, Jolanda Dixon, Tyron Gaffney, Yvette Gaffney, Jerome Attaway, Troy Johnson, Linda Woodard, and Bernice Black

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b><u>Public Comment</u></b>	<p>Colette Winlock addressed her concern re: African-American services and she would like to hear updates on African-American Utilization Study, Howie the Harp planning process and PEI process as well.</p> <p>Asara Tseha talked about the African-American Holistic Help Practitioners and Professionals as a preventive help resource for African-American.</p> <p>Mr. Kearney addressed that Howie the Harp (HH) needs continued financial and moral support. He mentioned that HH was given \$900,000 but now they only get \$380,000.</p> <p>Mr. Attaway shared some pictures of HH activities and asked for support for HH.</p>	

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>						
<b><u>Approval of March 2010 MHB minutes</u></b>	<i>Ms. Friedrich made an amendment to the March minutes...she stated that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page under the presentation on major funding for mental health services, vehicle license fee should be added as mental health major funding support.</i>	<i>M/S/C Pat Buchanan/ Luvenia Jones Motion Passed As amended</i>						
<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Flag Day in honor of children who died in preventable death will be held on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am in Alameda County Admin. Building, 1221 Oak St.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The MHB was requested by the League to present questions for the candidates night in District 2 at Hayward City Hall.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>NUMMI DVD was distributed to board members, it's a video providing guidance on the mental health and stress management.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Congratulatory note: Laura Mason has been promoted to full professorship at UC Berkeley School of Psychology.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>ACMHB Annual Community Service Awards deadline to submit nomination form is on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.</i></li> </ul>							
<b><u>Director's Report</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Update on the Status of African-American Utilization Study:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>Dr. Thomas provided an overview of African-American Utilization Study: The passage of MHSA created funding stream to support transformation and restructuring of mental health services.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Background on MHSA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>CSS (Community Services and Supports) focused on people who were homeless with serious mental illness-a population that is over represented by African-American. CSS fund 3 programs that focus on criminal justice and homeless populations 1) Full Service Partnerships 2) Court Advocacy Project 3) Behavioral Health Court</i></li> <li>○ <i>PEI (Prevention and Early Intervention) funding focused on people who are underserved as identified by the State Dept. of Mental Health, targeted population are: Asian-Pacific Islanders; Native-Americans; Latino and Hispanic; South Asian and Afghan</i></li> </ul> <p><i>BHCS recognized that African-American community is inappropriately serve by virtue of their high utilization of mental health services in very restrictive settings.</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of African-American:</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>34% or population BHCS expect to serve</i></td> <td><i>43% of all hospital costs</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>40% utilize mental health services</i></td> <td><i>55% of the cost of all jail mh services</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>40% utilize psychiatric hospital users</i></td> <td><i>43% of all mh crisis services</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>BHCS decided to take a look at the utilization and convene a study group to learn what best practices might be put in place to provide better outcomes for African-Americans.</i></p>	<i>34% or population BHCS expect to serve</i>	<i>43% of all hospital costs</i>	<i>40% utilize mental health services</i>	<i>55% of the cost of all jail mh services</i>	<i>40% utilize psychiatric hospital users</i>	<i>43% of all mh crisis services</i>	
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<p><i>Director's Report (Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>A 27-person study group was formed to conduct study of African-American Utilization-staffed by Gigi Crowder (Ethnic Services Manager), facilitated by a consultant team, represented by multiple stakeholders e.g. staff, BOS staff, faith-based group/ministries, providers, and community advocacy groups.</i></p> <p><i>The primary deliverables resulting from the utilization study would include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>o Recommendations identifying the specific mental health needs of the African-American consumers</i></li> <li><i>o Provide a list of practices and tools to be implemented to achieve the desired outcomes of better understanding and meeting the mental health needs of the targeted population.</i></li> <li><i>o A comprehensive plan to utilize and/or redesign existing services in a manner of more culturally effective in meeting the mental health needs of African-American population.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Ms. Crowder provided the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>o The group had a kick-off in Dec. '08, they started meeting in Jan. '09 and their last meeting was in July, their deadline was in Aug. but they got most of reports back from each of the sub-committees in Sep. they had a professional writer to work on the executive summary but when they got the report back there were some additional work needed to be done. Ms. Crowder stated that she is having a meeting this Friday with the group to work on the report.</i></li> <li><i>o She stated that she's really proud that Alameda County is taking efforts to address African-American utilization issue because no other counties are doing anything like what this county is doing; it's not just Alameda County issue it's a state issue, other counties like San Francisco County has larger disparity for African-American serving 42% African-American with only 10% population.</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>▪ Update on Howie the Harp (HH): Dr. Thomas provided a background on HH which was formerly known as Oakland Independent Support Center (OISC), it was the first consumer run project in the state, it was funded by federal funding and it was to focus primarily on people who are homeless with serious mental illness. When OISC Board of Directors collapse, the BHCS Dept. thought that they probably going to close the program because there was no entity to contract with, they looked around for other organizations who might be willing or able to take over the program but there was no willing participants, Traveler's Aid is the only organization who came forward to run and keep HH open for about 5 years now.</i></li> </ul>	

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<i>Director's Report (Cont.)</i>	<p><i>Next steps for HH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>Sup. Carson did convene some planning meetings and the BHCS is having conversation with Sup. Carson's office to look at what kind of options are available and</i></li> <li>▫ <i>The GSA Dept. has to look at whether or not the building is still viable to keep the program to its current location or move services to a different location; they are doing an analysis of what it would cost to bring the building up to standard, cost of lease or if there are other space available in the area.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>The BHCS Dept. is committed to services, whatever happens in regards to the building there will be a transition plan for clients who are currently utilizing services.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. Post inquired for clarification of significant reduction about Mr. Kearney's comment on reduction in support from \$900,000 to \$380,000 to HH.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Crowder responded that in addition to BHCS funding, HH also had a contract with Social Services but when the contract was not renewed they lost a substantial amount of money.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Budget Updates: Ms. Majak provided the following info:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>The BHCS Dept. still cannot determine what the county budget will be but it's not looking good; they are waiting to see what the revenue projections and the cost projections are coming out of the State and the county and still waiting for the May budget revised from the State.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Alex Briscoe (Director of HCSA) did a presentation on what the current status of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is and what the difference is between the MOE and what would be needed for next year.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>The county budget task force chaired by Sup. Carson will have 2 meetings next week: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to look at the deficit and options and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to determine what option they will select in making deficit assignments to various departments.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Presentation:</b>  <i>Criminal Justice Mental Health (CJMH) services at Santa Rita Jail by Millie Swafford</i></p>	<p><i>Ms. Swafford provided an overview of BHCS CJMH services at Santa Rita Jail that included info e.g.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>She stated that CJMH services are extremely complicated because the services are in the jail because they don't have a lot of control in the jail system and it involves law enforcement, judges, defense and prosecuting attorneys, family members, staff, etc.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Sheriff Dept. is in charge of the jail operations; Prison Health Services manage the medical services and CJMH run the mental health services and they must work around sheriff's operations.</i></li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Presentation: CJMH Services (Cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Law requires the mental health care be delivered to inmates.</li> <li>▪ Santa Rita Jail is an accredited jail for health care, it currently has 2 accreditation: 1) American Correctional Assoc. 2) Nat'l. Commission on Correctional Health Care</li> <li>▪ CJMH provide community care (outpatient) standard not hospital care standard</li> <li>▪ Santa Rita Jail has high volume and high turnover: 50,000 bookings per year; about 85-90% have co-occurring substance abuse conditions.</li> <li>▪ CJMH staff: 10.0 FTE clinicians (Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Marriage Family Therapists) and 4.0 FTE Psychiatrists (0.7 vacant)</li> <li>▪ CJMH see many persons with mental illness who have not been able to obtain and maintain stability in the community and whose actions result in arrest.</li> <li>▪ CJMH has a lack of control over many issues e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Right to refuse treatment</li> <li>▫ Court decisions</li> <li>▫ Release dates/times</li> <li>▫ Community resources/alternatives to custody</li> <li>▫ Conservatorship, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ CJMH Services provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ MH screening of inmates: in ITR (Intake, Transfer and Release), housing units and clinic</li> <li>▫ Ongoing services: housing units, clinic, crisis intervention</li> <li>▫ 5150 to acute facilities when needed</li> <li>▫ Suicide prevention-significant decrease in suicides (only 1 suicide in the last 4 years)</li> <li>▫ Court Advocacy Project</li> <li>▫ Release planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ MHB tour at Santa Rita-what to expect: MHB will see... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ where people are brought into the jail</li> <li>▫ how they are screened in the booking section</li> <li>▫ how the Sheriff's office and nurses screen people</li> <li>▫ how people are referred to CJMH screening office</li> <li>▫ the mental health clinic</li> <li>▫ the housing unit</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ms. Jones addressed her concern re: people with serious mental illness being release at midnight, she felt that the procedure in releasing people late night should be change.</p> <p>Ms. Swafford stated that what she had done was she suggested to the Family Education Resource Center (FERC) Manager to get a group together to look at what could be done concerning release time and she also spoke to judges but was told that they don't have control about it and its illegal to hold people longer than their release time.</p>	

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<i>Presentation: CJMH Services (Cont.)</i>	<i>Sup. Steele stated that there is some effort now to look at the release time issue on the part of the Sheriff and at the BOS level; she will find out more info and will bring info back to MHB.</i>	
<b>Emergency Action Item:</b> <i>Extension of meeting time until 2:30P.M.</i>	<i>Ms. Jones made a motion to extend the meeting until 2:30P.M.</i>	<i>M/S/C Ms. Jones/ Ms. Friedrich Motion passed</i>
<b>Committee Reports:</b> <i>Adult Committee</i>	<i>Ms. Friedrich corrected the Adult Committee handouts and stated that at the last Adult Committee they had a presentation re: Service Teams.</i>	
<i>Public Awareness Committee (PAC) and</i>	<p><i>Ms. Elias stated that the PAC is trying to pursue a film project on the history of a consumer movement or the Pool of Consumer Champions (POCC), they would like to recommend to the MHB to make a recommendation to BHCS to help finance the film project.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles suggested producing a documentary film to counter society's stigmatization of mental health and to promote the inclusion of mental health consumers in the social and economic grounds and to highlight the consumer movement in Alameda County.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jones felt that it's a good idea to do something that will bring awareness of mental health issues to the public.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias stated that further discussion is needed on this topic.</i></p>	
<i>Public Forum Adhoc-Committee</i>	<i>Ms. Elias stated that the Public Forum was initially planned to be held in May but after a discussion with Dr. Thomas, it was advised that it would be better to do it next fiscal year to have staff participation.</i>	
<i>Santa Rita Adhoc-Committee</i>	<i>Mr. Greyson stated that at this month's Santa Rita Adhoc-Committee, they had a presentation from East Bay Recovery Project and their next meeting will be on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Sup. Steele's office. He mentioned that the tour to Santa Rita Jail is on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am.</i>	
<b><i>The rest of the agenda were tabled.</i></b>		
<b>Public Comments:</b>	<p><i>Mr. Brown, Ms. Jamerson, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carter addressed their concern re: HH they all felt that HH should stay open because it's a great resource for people with mental health, homelessness and dual-diagnosis issues.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Jiro addressed her concern about her son, she expressed her support to have a program like HH, she liked the idea of having a documentary to raise awareness on mental health and she felt that police officers need to have some training.</i></p>	

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm  
Minutes submitted by Agnes Catolos*