

**Alameda County Mental Health Board Minutes**  
**March 8, 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, Kelly O’Lague-Dulka, Rochelle Elias, Alane Friedrich, Lisa Gifford, Samuel Greyson, Sheldon Koiles, Dr. Stephen Post, and Ravi Sodhi

**Excused:** Luvenia Jones, Sup. Gail Steele, and Laura Mason

**Absent:** Jeffrey Davidson and Patricia Sweetwine

**BHCS Staff:** Agnes Catolos, Barry Hall, Gary Spicer, Barbara Majak, Marye Thomas, MD, Lillian Schaechner, and Rosa Warder

**Liaison:** Michael Diehl (BMH) and Margot Dashiell (ACFC)

**Public:** Dennis Romano (ACCMHA), Joe Rose, Robert Farrow (MHAAC), Joan Miro and Ronald Lee

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b><u>Public Comment</u></b>	Michael Diehl addressed concerns re: General Assistance budget cuts, SSI issues and other cuts that are being implemented in Alameda County.	
<b><u>Approval of February 2010 MHB minutes</u></b>	No corrections were made to the February 2010 MHB minutes.	M/S/C Pat Buchanan/ Lisa Gifford Motion Passed
<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ NAMI Educational Meeting at Eden Hospital on Thursday @ 7:30pm... Dr. Thomas is scheduled to speak.</li> <li>▫ Info from Mr. Rose...Bank of America is looking to establish partnership grants and he felt that this could be a potential resource for mental health community.</li> <li>▫ MHAAC is co-partnering a Family Caregivers Conf. on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-4:30pm at Merritt College in Oakland, CA...PEERS and Wellness Recovery Hub will be do a presentation at the conference and Dr. Thomas is a guest speaker.</li> </ul>	

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<i>Correspondence (Cont.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>EveryOne Home completed the 2009 homeless count; Ms. Elias will be emailing the full report to the board members.</i></li> </ul>	
<b><u>Director's Report</u></b>	<p><i>Dr. Thomas provided the following info:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Homeless count-the BHCS Dept. was able to house 284 homeless individuals who are considered hard to house through MHSA housing fund.</i></li> <li>• <i>Board Training/Orientation-the BHCS Dept. has come up with 6 modules to be presented to the board on a monthly basis. Mr. Hall will be surveying the most appropriate time for the board.</i></li> <li>• <i>Budget update-the dept. is expecting to hear what the county deficit is toward the end of next week and afterward they'll know what is the assigned deficit for BHCS.</i></li> </ul>	
<b><i>Chair Report:</i></b>	<i>No report given.</i>	
<b><i>Committee Reports:</i></b> <i>Adult Committee</i>	<i>Ms. Friedrich stated that at the last Adult Committee meeting they had a presentation re: Forensic Assertive Community Treatment and had reports from various agencies e.g. Sausal Creek, Patients' Rights, etc. The Adult Committee meeting will be held in Alameda Room starting March meeting.</i>	
<i>Children's Advisory Committee (CAC)</i>	<i>Ms. Novosel stated that at the last CAC meeting they talked about Willow Rock Center two levels of care.</i>	
<i>Public Awareness Committee (PAC)</i>	<i>Ms. Elias stated that the Mental Health Matters production has been delayed because the City of Hayward contract with Comcast will not include any new programming. Additionally, Comcast will no longer be offering program production services but will continue to air the TV program. Therefore, Rev. Barbara Meyers will be looking for another production company to produce Mental Health Matters.</i>	
<i>Public Forum Adhoc-Committee</i>	<i>Mr. Koiles stated that the Public Forum Adhoc Committee is making progress with the upcoming community forum, they've developed 2 themes: 1) Overcoming obstacles as mental health consumer 2) Maintaining mental health in a difficult economic environment. Mr. Koiles expressed that the themes of the forum seems to be against the board's mission statement which limits the board to ACBHCS issues and he felt that the board might need to revisit the board's mission statement. He added that the Public Forum Adhoc Committee is now a sub-committee of PAC.</i>	
<i>Santa Rita Adhoc-Committee</i>	<i>Mr. Greyson stated that their next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Sup. Steele's Office in Oakland.</i>	
<b><i>Liaison Report:</i></b> <i>Measure A</i>	<p><i>Dr. Post is the MHB representative to the Measure A Committee and he provided updates e.g.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Measure A committee members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS)</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The committee is responsible to report back on previous years and, they will submit reports for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 to the BOS at the end of this year.</i></li> </ul>	

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<i>Measure A (Cont.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>BHCS Measure A funds for FY 09-10 is about \$10 mil and FY 10-11 is \$7.5 mil because of a \$2.5 mil reduction next budget year.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Measure A funds BHCS Sobering Detox Program and screening at Santa Rita Jail.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. Thomas clarified that the screening at Santa Rita Jail is being funded through Measure A instead of county general funds because it was an accounting decision on the part of HCSA. Dr. Thomas related that her biggest concern about this decision was it's going to appear that BHCS got the biggest share of Measure A dollars.</i></p>	
<i>Berkeley Mental Health (BMH)</i>	<i>Mr. Diehl related that BMH is doing a Crisis Intervention Training for Police Officers in Berkeley and Albany and the other thing they are focusing on is the budget.</i>	
<b>Presentation:</b> <i>Mental Health Services Eligibility Requirements and Resources Limits</i>	<p><i>Dr. Thomas did a presentation re: Who is "Eligible" for Public Mental Health (MH) Services that included info e.g.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>ACBHCS Mission Statement "Our mission is to maximize the recovery, resilience and wellness of all eligible AC residents who are developing or experiencing a serious mh, alcohol or drug concern"</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Funding Dictates: MH was never considered as an entitlement and services are to be provided to the extent resources are available.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>BHCS is essentially a public insurance company expected to manage multiple plans, each plan with defined eligibles and specific benefits and as a public sector company must operate a good solid public health values and sound business practices.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Who is "eligible for public mh services?...it really depends on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>Funding source</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Individuals diagnosis, disability and level of acuity</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Multiple mandates (from federal, state and local)</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Economic status, etc.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>Major Funding Sources for MH services:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>Realignment-a 1/2¢ state sales tax and the target population to be served are people with a serious persistent mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Federal Funding-SAMHSA</i></li> <li>▫ <i>MediCal/EPSDT (federal Medicaid)-beneficiaries are AC MediCal recipients; it only pays: covered diagnosis as defined by the state and defined level of impairment; services must be medically necessary.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>State Categorical Funds-AB 3632 includes mh treatment for children and adolescents.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>MHSA-funded by 1% tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million, it requires a county plan and it specifically targets individuals with mental illness not served or underserved by current mh system. Five components of MHSA:</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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<p><i>Mental Health Services Eligibility Requirements and Resources Limits (Cont.)</i></p>	<p><i>1) CSS 2) PEI 3) WE &amp; T 4) Capital &amp; Technology 5) Innovation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>County General Funds-local property tax dollars allocated by the BOS to BHCS</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Measure A- ½¢ sales tax for health services-75% to ACMC; 25% for other health services</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Tobacco Master Settlement-funds resulted from a lawsuit settlement against big tobacco.</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Each funding source is specific re: eligibility and array of services.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Ms. Schaechner (Program Director in Acute Crisis Care and Evaluation for System-wide Services (ACCESS) provided an overview of ACCESS program as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>ACCESS licensed clinicians have system-wide responsibility for providing telephone screening, information referral for mental health, alcohol and drug abuse services for Alameda County residents.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>ACCESS Guidelines are used by staff to determine eligibility and formulate referrals for services under the ACBHCS Plan and other aspects of the ACBHCS System of Care:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ <i>Clinical need-staff determines individuals crisis situation whether they need hospitalization or need to be evaluated for hospitalization. Staff also figures out what level of care is needed.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◊ <i>Level 1 Services are intensive, comprehensive mh services provided by an organization that has a capacity to offer case management or wrap around services both for adult and children. Adults are referred to Crisis Response Program. Examples of Level 1 services for adults: Berkeley MH, Eden Community Support, FSP's, etc. For children needing Level 1 services, clinicians determines eligibility criteria</i></li> <li>◊ <i>Level 3 Services are less intensive office-based mh services delivered by a single practitioner e.g. MFT, LCSW, PhD, etc. or as part of an organization.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▫ <i>Verification of BH Plan Eligibility-e.g. AC Medi-Cal, Healthy Families SED, Medically Indigent Children, CalWorks, etc.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Language need-ACCESS telephone menu of options is provided in 6 languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cambodian; Staff utilizes language line services for additional languages and CA. Relay as needed if a person is deaf or hard of hearing</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Legal residence-an individual must be a resident of Alameda County.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Location in Alameda County-contracted provider are located in multiple geographic locations.</i></li> <li>▫ <i>Client preferences-staff considers consumer/client choice e.g. language needs, geographic preference, etc.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>Discussion Items:</b> Public Forum Brochure/Blog</p>	<p><i>Ms. Elias stated that the board would like to move forward with the public forum but she felt that they can't move forward until some concerns are addressed e.g. staff support, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Thomas felt that it is very important that before the board embark on anything there should be some consideration and conversation on what kind of staff support will be necessary, what cost, etc. Dr. Thomas felt that the board and the dept. need to have a conversation re: the planning of the forum in May e.g., what is the cost, what kind of staff support, staff availability, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Friedrich expressed her concern about the blog and she felt that the county counsel has to approve the blog before it starts online.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles asked what would be the legal issue that the county counsel will have re: the blog.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Elias responded that the county counsel will have to look at whether or not there's any liability in having a blog; the blog's name "AC mental health blog" might imply that it is associated to county functions.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Koiles stated that the only purpose of the blog is for the MHB to reach the public.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Spicer stated that the blog is subject for some reviews e.g. how it was presented, how it represents itself, its authority and its content.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Thomas felt that anything that is done in the name of the MHB certainly has to go to some county review process because MHB is a board appointed by the BOS and it represents BHCS as well.</i></p>	
<p><b><i>The rest of the agenda were tabled.</i></b></p>		
<p><b>Public Comments:</b></p>	<p><i>Ms. Jiro addressed her concern about her son and she would like to see if there's a way for clients who are staying at home to be able to communicate to other clients through television.</i></p>	
<p><b>Board Comments:</b></p>	<p><i>None</i></p>	

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