

MINUTES  
County of San Bernardino  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
March 6, 2014 - 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn, Monica Wilson, Akin Merino, Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti and Supervisor James Ramos, Third District

**Absent:** Jane Godager

**Guests:**

Molly Wiltshire, Communication Director, Third District; Regina W. Bell, Field Representative, First District; Adam Martinez, Arthur Galan, Maria, Smokey, Greg Vander-Haeghen, Chris Morton, Sandi Bentz, Emelia Arellano, Amazing Place; Gus Villagran Jr, Anita Hart, Faith Ikeda, Kara Meld, Pathways to Recovery; Stella Grosso, TEAM House, Elsie Barton, Steven Hale, Valley Star; Robin Freeman, Family Service Agency; Julia Harris, Johnny Gonzales, Jesus Gonzales, John Lopez Jr., Alex Gonzales, Ernestine and Salvador Arredondo, Lorraine Smith, Sammy Bentley, Joseph Arjonilla, Kai Clausell, Stacy McLemore, Michele O'Brien, Patricia Barnes, Paul Hiestand; CaSonya Thomas, Cristina Crabtree, Mariann Ruffolo, Clifford Craig, Laretta Ross, Doris Turner, Cristina Froude, Tracy Bomberger, Jon Buffong, Claudia Silva, Karen Torres-Gonzalez, Maria Coronado, Cheryl Long, Sharon Nevins, Karen Cervantes, Patricia Verduzco, Michael Oliver, Jonathan Benvenisti, David Denkers, Julie Porter, Amy Harvey, Yanira Orellana, Sherwin Farr, André Bossieux, Michelle Dusick, Erica Porteous, Nancy Olsen, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission.

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Chair McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Mondragon led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions followed.

**Tab 3:** Approve Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) minutes of 2/6/14.

Commissioner Mondragon requested his Report on page 2, second sentence be amended to read, "He announced the adoption of the first Tuesday of every May as a solidarity day for Mental Health Month."

**APPROVED WITH CHANGES**

Motion/Second: Monica Wilson/Akin Merino

AYES: Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Chris Massa, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn, Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti, Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Yanira Arellano, Clinical Therapist II, Upland Community Counseling (UCC) - Yanira is a skillful therapist, an inspiring supervisor and a genuine leader. She is actively committed to acquiring the values, knowledge, skills and attributes that will allow her to work effectively in culturally diverse situations. She also inspires those that she supervises to do the same, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect among all the staff. Yanira works hard to ensure that staff value diversity among fellow employees and the community that we serve. Yanira ensures that her staff is skilled at performing cultural assessments, that they are taught to understand each client's cultural context and are aware of community resources that are appropriate for the clients they serve. Furthermore, when developing programs Yanira is always considering the diverse needs of the individuals and communities that we serve. Finally, Yanira's competencies have allowed for UCC to recruit, hire and retain a committed, cohesive, and diverse staff. CONGRATULATIONS YANIRA!

## **CONSUMER ART RECOGNITION & SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Director CaSonya Thomas recognized the artists whose work was selected to appear in the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) 2014 Calendar and displayed in the Auditorium: Peter Miller, Garth Pezant, Mary Hayden, Maggie Cogan, Brandi Lake, Carolyn Wallen, Cindy Messer, Marisa Franklin, Maribel Guerra and Marvin Ray Toms.

Director Thomas also indicated the artwork of Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales, who recently passed. Commissioner Gonzales was an active participant and beloved member of the BHC, and was acknowledged for his contributions to promoting wellness, recovery, and resilience. Director Thomas thanked Gabriel's family members for attending today.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Karen Torres-Gonzalez, DBH Housing and Employment Services, announced the grand opening of the Magnolia @ 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Apartments, an MHSA affordable housing development, to be held on 3/19/14, from 11:30am-1:30pm.

Faith Ikeda announced that Anger Management classes are being held at Pathways to Recovery and TEAM House. A fundraising bake sale is being held today.

Sandi Bentz announced new groups held at Amazing Place Clubhouse: Evidence Based Practices, Choosing Wellness, Healthy Eating, and band practice. She has lime green ribbons available for a mental health awareness fundraiser.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel recognized Dr. Roberto Casas, former Behavioral Health Commissioner, for his many contributions to the BHC and to the residents of the Fourth District during his appointment from 2009-2014.

The BHC currently has vacancies in the following supervisory districts: First, Second and Third. To comply with Welfare & Institutions Code 5604, the BHC is recruiting candidates from the Hispanic and/or Native American community, who are also a family member of a consumer. Should you know anyone who may be interested, please contact Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission, at (909) 382-3134 or via email at [dpasco@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:dpasco@dbh.sbcounty.gov).

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

### **First District:**

Commissioner Mike Grabhorn stated that Mourning Star, Visiting Nurse Association, is a nationally-acclaimed support center for grieving children, teens and their families. Due to an increase in liver damage, the Food and Drug Administration now recommends health care professionals discontinue prescribing prescription combination drug products that contain more than 325 milligrams (mg) of acetaminophen. It is also recommended to reduce the strength of prescription opiates.

### **Second District:**

In honor of African American Mental Health Awareness Week, Commissioner May Farr attended the "Breaking the Silence" Seminar on 2/11/14. During the February District Advisory Committee meeting, Terrance Stone, Young Visionaries, presented the SMART Team program, which mentors African American youth in schools. She also attended the grand opening of the Vintage at Kendall MHSA Housing project.

Commissioner Monica Alonso announced that Upland Community Counseling and Amazing Place Clubhouse will be moving to a new site that includes more space. She also welcomed Chris Morton, new Peer & Family Advocate. The MHSA Integration plan will include real stories of clients that have utilized DBH services. Monica will share her story.

### **Third District:**

Commissioner Chris Massa acknowledged the beautiful consumer artwork in the Auditorium. Meeting objectives were discussed at the last Alcohol and Drug Taskforce. Loretta Ross is teaching Leadership classes at the Clubhouses. TEAM House has planned an outing to the Hollywood Wax Museum.

Commissioner Mondragon expressed his condolences to the family of Gabe Gonzales, and shared that Gabe had a gift of peace and a powerful spirit that drew people to him. He reminded everyone to wear lime green throughout May Mental Health as well as Mental Health Solidarity Day on the first Tuesday in May. Cal State will soon have NAMI on campus.

#### **Fourth District:**

Secretary Akin Merino attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Women conference in Rialto, hosted by Mayor Deborah Robertson; women of character, courage and commitment were celebrated. She congratulated DBH for a speedy intervention and placement of a homeless woman with addiction into the Therapeutic Alliance Program.

Commissioner Carol Grisotti will be attending the Gathering on Mental Health and the Church in Lake Forest, CA, on 3/28/14, from 8:30-9pm. This event is designed to encourage individuals living with mental illness, educate family members and equip church leaders to provide effective and compassionate care to those facing the challenges of mental illness.

#### **Fifth District:**

Treasurer Veatrice Jews attended the San Bernardino County Association of African American Employees Black History Month Scholarship Recognition Celebration on 2/27/14. She also attended the State of the County event to hear the county's message. She's been working with Covered California to help get individuals enrolled prior to the deadline of 3/31/14.

#### **Board of Supervisors:**

Molly Wiltshire, Communication Director for Supervisor James Ramos stated that Supervisor Ramos sends his condolences to Gabe's family. He's currently in Washington DC meeting with lawmakers. Molly looks forward to the planned activities for May Mental Health Month, as well as the Give BIG San Bernardino County Campaign, which is an effort to raise \$300,000 for local nonprofits in a 24-hour fundraising web-a-thon in May. Supervisor James Ramos spearheaded the effort to bring Give BIG to San Bernardino County, where nonprofits remain dramatically underserved.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Thomas announced the recent success of two of our Commissioners: Dr. Akin Merino has been appointed as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Argosy University Inland Empire Campus, and Dr. Monica Wilson will be honored at the national level with a Champion of Change Award.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the 2014-15 Goals and Objectives. Key points include: grow jobs, operate in fiscally responsible manner, and maintain public safety. The Board of Supervisors are in support of the Sheriff's Department Homeless Outreach Proactive Enforcement program, which is a proactive approach to connect members of the homeless population with resources that may help them transition from homelessness.

Director Thomas discussed the Principles for Access to Medi-Cal Mental Health Coverage as determined by the CA Mental Health Director's Association: timely access, emphasis on recovery and resiliency, health equity, parity, ongoing assessment, continuity of care, person/family centered planning, flexibility/continuous quality management.

#### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION** - Behavioral Health Overview Medi-Cal Expansion and Health Care Reform

Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, DBH Deputy Director, discussed the changes to behavioral health benefits in CA and explained the structure that these changes will take place in.

- DBH is a Medi-Cal HMO and takes clients who have Medi-Cal, Fee for Service Medicare, Medi-Cal/Medicare and those who are indigent or unfunded. Individuals/families with an annual income up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will have Medi-Cal.
- DBH does not take clients with commercial insurance, Medicare HMO, Medicare Advantage, Medicare DSNPS or Dual Choice. Individuals/families with an annual income of 139% plus FPL will have Covered California.
- Medi-Cal beneficiaries fall into 3 categories:

- ✓ Tier 1 (usually mild symptoms) Seen by either IEHP or Molina
- ✓ Tier 2 (usually mild to moderate) Seen by either IEHP or Molina
- ✓ Tier 3 (usually significant to severe) Seen by DBH
- More adults will be eligible for Medi-Cal and other insurance, and more adults will have access to behavioral health services, care will be coordinated and data will be more integral at all levels.

**NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS**

**Tab 5:** Approval to Pay CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commission Annual Membership Dues of \$300

**APPROVED**

Motion/Second: May Farr/Chris Massa

AYES: Susan McGee-Stehsel, Monica Wilson, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Troy Mondragon, Michael Grabhorn, Sr. Carol Therese Grisotti, Molly Wiltshire on behalf of Supervisor James Ramos

**OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS**

Karen Cervantes announced that the MHSA Integrated Plan stakeholder forums will be held throughout the month of March to provide feedback on existing services and a discussion regarding the future of mental health policy and program planning. Dates include:

- 3/13/14: Second/Fourth District Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting from 3-5pm - Family Resource Center, 9791 Arrow Rte, Rancho Cucamonga
- 3/18/14: Third DAC Meeting from 11am-12pm – Phoenix Community Counseling, 820 E. Gilbert St, San Bernardino
- 3/19/14: First DAC Meeting from 11-12:30pm – Victor Community Holistic Campus, 15400 Cholame Rd, Victorville
- 3/24/14:
- 3/20/14: Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC) from 9-11am – CSBHS Auditorium, 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Rialto
- 3/20/14: Cultural Competency Advisory Committee from 1-3pm – CSBHS Auditorium
- 3/24/14: Fifth DAC Meeting from 5:30-7:30am-New Hope Family Life Center Auditorium, 1505 W. Highland Ave, San Bernardino

In preparation for May Mental Health Month 2014, DBH is looking for consumer artwork to be showcased throughout the county during the month of May. Artwork will be collected through March 28. Contact Rachel Cierpich, DBH at (909) 382-3046. May Mental Health Month activities include:

- 5/1/14: May Mental Health Month Kick-off–Behavioral Health Commission meeting from noon-2pm, CSBHS Auditorium
- 5/13/14: Resource Fair, time and location to be announced
- 5/13/14: Solidarity Event, time and location to be announce
- 5/22/14: DBH Expo, CSBHS Auditorium
- 5/28/14: Evening with the Stars from 6-9pm, San Bernardino Hilton

Kristen Martinez announced that DBH is partnering with NAMI to provide Family 2 Family classes. Please contact Kristen Mungcal if you are interested in hosting the classes [kmungcal@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:kmungcal@dbh.sbcounty.gov).

**ADJOURNMENT:** Today's meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

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*Susan McGee-Stehsel*  
 Chair, Behavioral Health Commission

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*Debi Pasco*  
 Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission