

**Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission Minutes
July 26, 2012_Final Draft**

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairperson Carole McKindley-Alvarez.

Commissioners Present:

Evelyn Centeno, District V	Teresa Pasquini, District I
Dave Kahler, District IV	Annis Pereyra, District II
Carole McKindley-Alvarez, District I	Gina Swirsding, District I
Karen Mitchoff, BOS Representative	Sam Yoshioka, District IV
Colette O’Keeffe, District IV	
Commissioners absent:	Peggy Kennedy, District II

Non-Commissioners Present:

Cynthia Belon, Director of Behavioral Health
 Louis Buckingham, Commission applicant
 Brenda Crawford, Mental Health Consumer Concerns
 Lara Gold, Supv. Mitchoff’s office
 John Gragnani, CCCMH / Local 1
 Doug Halpern, OCE / NAMI
 Susan Medlin, Behavioral Health
 Mariana Moore, Human Services Alliance
 Holly Page, MH Admin.
 Julia Poppi, MH
 Maria Ramirez, MHCC
 Dorothy Sansoe, Senior Deputy CAO
 Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant, CCC Mental Health Commission
 Jennifer Tuipulotu, OCE
 Luanna Waters, OCE
 Janet Marshall Wilson, MHCC

2. Public Comment

- 1) John Gragnani commented about difficult contract negotiations and discussed the need for increased public awareness of the Commission’s role as mental health advocates. Supportive bumper stickers were offered them free of charge.
- 2) Julia Poppi commented regarding her daughter’s room and board care issues (locked out, raped, etc.). She said she hopes to find a good board and care where her daughter can get the care she was promised and needs.
- 3) Janet Wilson mentioned the above issue has been investigated by community care licensing, and will be investigated by patients’ rights and by a room and board coalition where there is a problem resolution process.
- 4) Janet also addressed the \$36,000,000 that has been spent by Contra Costa County on out-of-county facilities in 3 years (according to documents received in public records request). She added there is no way to bring people home without transitional housing – which is why the room and board situation is so critical.
- 5) Maria Ramirez commented further on specific room and boards, citing accusations of assaults, food being locked up, bathing and other personal hygiene restrictions, people being prohibited from going to Mental Health Consumer Concerns, and residents being very tightly controlled.

- 6) Brenda Crawford made a public apology to staff for having erroneously made accusations against her at a meeting due to misunderstanding what had been said.
- 7) Brenda Crawford also commented on housing, saying if we are going to be able to bring people home, we need to look at the type of housing that is being provided. She said she has sent housing models information to Sandy Rose about supportive housing, but has received no response.
- 8) John Gragnani said the County has implemented EPIC in jails and hospitals. He commented that it has never been used in a detention facility before. He urged the Criminal Justice Committee to put this on their radar because it needs to be able to serve those in detention. People who need to be assessed are being dropped.

3. Announcements

- 1) MHSA Program Manager Mary Roy is stepping down from her position.
- 2) A Certificate of Appreciation from the Commission was presented to Acting Mental Health Director Suzanne Tavano at her going-away party.
- 3) A card was sent on behalf of the Commission to former Commissioner Art Honegger expressing condolences on the passing of his daughter, Laura.
- 4) Executive Assistant Karen Shuler will be away on vacation between Friday, July 27th and Tuesday, August 7th.
- 5) August Committee meeting date changes.
The Quality of Care Committee, Executive Committee and Capital Facilities Committee will meet on Monday, August 13th. The Criminal Justice Committee will not meet in August. The Nominating Committee and Commission will meet on their normal dates (4th Thursday).
- 6) Send suggestions regarding the current Bylaws to MHC staff.
This will be on next Executive Committee meeting agenda. Whether or not to set up a By Laws Task Force will be voted on by the whole Commission.

4. a. Approval of the Minutes from June 14, 2012

- M: Sam Yoshioka; S: Dave Kahler
Vote: The Minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

b. Approval of the Public Hearing Minutes from June 14, 2012

- M: Colette O’Keeffe; S: Sam Yoshioka
Discussion: Dave referred to Teresa Pasquini’s comment in Item 5, on page 12 and requested that the Minutes be changed to reflect that there was a NAMI member present. Sam said he questioned the appropriateness of targeting or focusing on a non-profit organization and accuse them about attendance – instead focusing on all that weren’t present. Carole said the statement was correct because there was a NAMI member present, but only non-Commissions can be counted. It was decided to add a note to the Minutes that there was NAMI representation. Teresa said a NAMI Board member and major NAMI donor are unethical because of having this conversation.
Vote: The Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 7-1-1. [Aye: Dave, Gina, Sam, Colette, Karen, Evelyn and Carole. Abstain: Annis. Nay: Teresa.]

5. Discuss Current Status of Filling Director of Mental Health Position

- Director of Behavioral Health Cynthia Belon reported there was an initial announcement made for recruitment statewide and not nationally because the State of California has specific ways of doing things legislatively related to mental health. The first recruitment was extended to July 22 and closed with 5-6 applications, which were vetted by personnel and met minimum qualifications. Recruitment opened again through August 10. Although looking for expertise in California, the search was widened and the position was posted on national websites.
- No decision has been made regarding the interview process, but she does want the Commission to be included. She mentioned she has not received any recommendations from Commissioners.
- Cynthia spoke about the Executive Team and their part in the process. In response to a question as to whether or not there are any consumers on the Behavioral Health Executive Team, Cynthia replied they are not. Supv. Mitchoff explained that we can't ask employees their mental health status because they are county employees. Carole asked that it be connected to the relevance of looking for a Mental Health Director. Cynthia explained that the Executive Team is made up of herself and management from all 3 systems looking at integration of services: Alcohol & Other Drugs, Mental Health, and the Homeless System of Care. Brenda Crawford said the structure unless legally mandated should be changed to allow consumers to have a voice.
- Regarding the role of the Mental Health Commission once applicants are chosen, Cynthia said she will ask for participation from the Commission – and the Commission will decide how they wish to participate. The Mental Health Director qualifications are posted on the County website.
- Teresa said she appreciates the period for applications has been extended as it's an important position, and is grateful the Commission will be participating. She added she is frightened for the members of the public and the current problems that are ongoing and would like to see more family representation.
- John Gragnani asked that there be a fairly broad-based stakeholder process, and Cynthia replied that's what she wants.
- Sam requested updates on the process as we go along, and for transparency. He asked who is represented at the Executive Team and who are the Program Managers.
- Mariana Moore echoed John's statement regarding inclusiveness. She also asked the Commission to look for a high level of skill and commitment and a history of working collaboratively with consumers and stakeholders when looking at applicants.

6. Report from Director of Behavioral Health Services Cynthia Belon

1) Update on Integration Process

a. Steering Committee

They meet monthly and the next meeting is tomorrow. The Steering Committee has a wide representation from inside and outside the department. They are trying to fill gaps that are apparent to people at the table, and will be articulating a vision for the division. They will have change agents to help people in the system. For the last 12 weeks there have been a series of Design Teams meeting to focus on development of infrastructure for daily operation – to try to get centralized functions. 8 teams were formed originally, but 4 or 5 have joined together. Beginning year two, we will kick off Design Teams for programs and services, starting in Behavior Health and

extending to participation for consumers and families. It's expected to be a 4-6 months process.

- 2) Status of hiring Family Coordinator, Behavior Health Integration Coordinator, MHSA Program Manager positions

Behavior Health Integration Coordinator: Cynthia said we initially asked for people in our system of care to submit a resume, but it was difficult to ask people to leave their jobs for 3 years and then go back. So we advertised outside our system. She added that she, Ross Andelman, Haven Fearn, Jana Drazich, and Lavonna Martin volunteered to do the interviews. An offer was made, but that candidate declined.

Family Coordinator: Carole asked who we speak to about the Family Coordinator position and Cynthia referred her to Lavonna Martin.

MHSA Program Manager: No discussion.

In response to a question from Sam, Cynthia explained there are 8 Design Teams, determined by functions. Design Teams going forward for programs and services will be identified by age. Special populations will be identified as well, along with families. Having a Design Team look at the integration of OD, MH, and the Homeless System of Care will be discussed and seems a natural progression of things. Sam said he would like to receive a report from other Behavior Health Systems in the state, especially where there is an integrated board/commission.

- 3) Update on current legislating changes and the impact on our system of care
Teresa stated she's concerned about not having legislative updates that are important (eg AB1467). She asked how we can move forward with integration without knowing what the laws and regulations are. Carole said we do need to keep abreast of these issues, and asked who will take these issues on and keep the Commission updated? Cynthia said she will be making assignments and will not let things fall through the cracks.

Mariana Moore asked if the Mental Health Director position is required by law and Cynthia responded that it is.

7. Committee Reports

A. Quality of Care Committee

- 1) The Quality of Care Committee recommends that the Commission request that consumers placed in Jackie Brown's homes are immediately removed and placed in safer housing.

It was suggested this item be referred back to the Committee for rewording (County does not place consumers there – it's a tenant-leasing arrangement so it needs to more accurately reflect the proper stance.)

Comments:

- It needs to be clarified that her home is a room and board. The tenant should be free to decide on leaving or staying.
- There still needs to be serious conversation around how people are referred and whether or not consumers are having a voice – there is perceived neglect of the consumers.
- There are problems in West County also, and they have a place to go to with their complaints.

- We can't hide behind words and be alleviated of responsibility. People who are gravely disabled and have limited choices.
- They need to be stopped; charges should be brought.
- Health professionals who are referring them are required to report the abuse to the state. When things are reported, people who are mentally ill are not taken seriously.
- Issues: 1) Need to take legal steps; 2) we have a responsibility – why would county personnel continue to refer consumers to this room and board with what's going on; county should stop making referrals.
- There is no mistake that there are grave ethical concerns here and were clearly vetted at the Q of C meeting. We have to be clear that county clients are being placed – our hardest to place clients – there. This will be a liability issue.

Evelyn stated she does not support returning this to the Quality of Care Committee. She said she doesn't see where the liability exposure is. Evelyn made a motion to accept the recommendation that all consumers placed in Jackie Brown's home be removed. {There was no second.} Carole said she supported having this go back to Committee to be re-worded. John Gragnani said he will alert staff in East County Adult regarding Jackie Brown's houses.

Supv. Mitchoff said that we need to get is better response to the Commission's concerns. It is a consumer's choice. We need a report back. There is a county perspective. We need a staff report and then the Board of Supervisors can move forward. We need to protect the consumers and not leave the county open to liability. Carole noted that the issue is expediency.

Supv. Mitchoff responded that she will get on this tomorrow morning and address this and get back.

- Evelyn made a motion to send a strong message to Mental Health Administration that Jackie Brown's homes are not suitable for our consumers and to remove that business from the list of referrals. Annis seconded the motion.

Discussion: Gina said without going before an attorney it isn't legal. Teresa said we can make a motion as we are supposed to advocate on behalf of the consumers. She added she has a problem with the motion as she is appalled by the allegations. The focus on Jackie Brown's is one of many egregious situations. Maybe we should step back and take a higher look at this – where are we going to put them? Targeting one house makes it look like we're ignoring others.

Vote: By a vote of 1 Aye (Evelyn); 8 Abstentions; and 0 Nays, the motion did not pass.

The issue will be referred back to the Quality of Care Committee for rewording.

- 2) Update on proposed site visit to Napa State Hospital.
Progressing forward.

B. Capital Facilities Committee

1) The Capital Facilities Committee makes the following recommendations and requests for clarification and information:

i. Recommend that Annis be appointed as a liaison to the Housing Consortium and report through the Capital Facilities Committee.

➤ M: Teresa made the motion and Karen Mitchoff seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Teresa said she'd like to invite Vic to the next Capital Facilities Committee to address items ii-vi below.

- ii. Get a clarification of "FSP only" -- Is it CCC policy or law?
- iii. Maintain the current policy of serving CCC Medi-Cal clients only for placement in housing.
- iv. Get a specific definition of "most vulnerable."
- v. What is the definition of a "successful placement."
- vi. Be given data showing tracking of housing placement failures and their causative agents.
- vii. Refer to and follow the Mental Health Commission MHPA Guiding Principles and Mechanisms.

Sam referred to a document from the Department of Mental Health regarding their guiding principles. He suggested consulting this document. Teresa responded that she has sent them to the Commission before. The action of AB1467 was to transfer oversight to the local level, so we can make our own guiding principles.

2) The Capital Facilities Committee requests that a letter of concern be written to the Mental Health Planning Council w/copies to the members of the California Stakeholder Process Coalition expressing the desire for more timely notices and information.

It was explained this is being brought to the Commission because Teresa came across the CA Stakeholder Process Coalition meeting materials without any notification. There was no reach out to local commissions/boards. State partners such as NAMI CA was in attendance, but there were no local voices.

➤ Teresa made a motion requesting that a letter of concern be written to the Mental Health Planning Council w/copies to the members of the California Stakeholder Process Coalition expressing the desire for more timely notices and information. Annis seconded the motion.

Discussion: See above.

Vote: By a vote of 8 Ayes; 1 abstention (Sam); 0 Nays the motion passed.

C. Criminal Justice Committee

1) Recommendation for collaborative advocacy with the Contra Costa County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

➤ A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Gina to forward to the Board of Supervisors the report and subsequent recommendations from the Contra Costa County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission,

indicating that the Mental Health Commission is joining them in their advocacy.

Discussion: Gina reiterated that this is a very crucial thing. There needs to be a thorough assessment

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Recommends that the Commission go on record strongly supporting the Behavioral Health Court and its continued funding.

A motion was made by Dave and Seconded by Sam that the Commission go on record strongly supporting the Behavioral Health Court and its continued funding.

Discussion: Questions were asked...

- What is meant by strongly supporting?
- What is the amount of funding?
- What does that support include?
- What is the funding?
- How much is the funding?
- How many consumers are involved?
- Grant money funded it initially – where did financing come from before and has it gone away?

Dave and Sam withdrew the motion and will bring it back to the Commission next month with the information requested.

D. Nominating Committee

- 1) Status of applicants

District III Family Member Juliet Scott resigned from the Commission. Her seat will be filled by Louis Buckingham, who will be appointed in August. Jerome Crichton will also be appointed in August to the District III Member-at-Large seat.

- 2) Recommendation to forward Hiram “Jack” Feldman’s application to Supv. Federal Glover for the District V Consumer Representative seat.

- Colette made the motion and Gina seconded to forward Hiram “Jack” Feldman’s application to Supv. Federal Glover for the District V Consumer Representative seat.

Discussion: Colette spoke favorably of having worked with Jack in the past and of his work on behalf of consumers as a volunteer.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Note: Monique Tarver was dropped from the Mental Health Commission per the Bylaws statute regarding excessive absences. She will be reappointed by Supv. Piepho in August.

[Supv. Mitchoff left the meeting at 6:35.]

- 3) Discuss revisiting the structure of the Nominating Committee.

Colette strongly expressed concern about this Agenda Item, stating it should have been brought to the Nominating Committee prior to being placed on the Commission Agenda. Carole responded that it will be discussed further at the Executive Committee.

8. MHC Representative's Reports

- 1) CPAW Housing Committee Report – Annis Pereyra
The meeting was cancelled again – she would like to request the status of Sandy Rose and asked if we have an MHA representative on the CPAW Housing Committee.
- 2) MHSA Social Inclusion Committee Report – Carole McKindley-Alvarez
They did not meet.
Susan Medlin reported the Family Conference and Photo Committee continue to meet.
- 3) Behavioral Health Integration Steering Committee – Sam Yoshioka
Behavioral Health is immerging gradually and slowly – he will make available to staff the notes from the Steering Committees and the Change Agent meetings for distribution to the Commission.

9. Commissioner Announcements

- Gina announced Richmond Housing is meeting July 31st. She said Disabled housing is not available for the mentally disabled. She expressed concern because they say Contra Costa takes care of housing, but does not take care of the mentally disabled.
- Evelyn announced to the meeting that the Commission's staff was singling her out by writing in the Minutes when she was late but did not do that with anyone else.

Per Commission policy, no response is given to Commissioner Announcements.

10. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant
Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission