

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

May 22, 2008

MINUTES

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS The meeting was called to order by Interim Co-Chairs Scott Singley and Judy McCahon at 4:34 p.m.</p> <p>Commissioners Present: David Evans, District V Dave Kahler, District IV Judy McCahon, District III Jacque McLaughlin, District II Kathi McLaughlin, District II Teresa Pasquini, District I Scott Singley, District III Karen Sloma, District IV</p> <p>Attendees: Suzanne Davis, Conservator, Mental Health Fran Kelly, Supv. Bonilla's Office Kristina Lonilla, Guest Virginia Lonilla, Guest Alix Mitgang, GRIP Mariana Moore, Contractor's Alliance Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant to the MHC Donna Wigand, Mental Health Director</p>	<p>Commissioners Absent: Bobbie Arnold Supv. Susan Bonilla Art Honegger Cynthia Miller Connie Tolleson</p>
<p>2. PUBLIC COMMENT None.</p>	
<p>3. ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently retired Commissioner Bettye Randle and retiring Commissioner Bobbie Arnold will be recognized by Supv. Gioia at the June 24th Board of Supervisors meeting. 	
<p>4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.</p> <p>1) Approval of the Minutes from March 27, 2008. Dave objected to a statement made by Dr. Walker when he responded to comments by inviting the Commission to come to his staff directly rather than "accepting rumors, innuendoes and anecdotal information". Dave stated the comments made were not based on rumors, innuendoes and anecdotal information but on proven fact. Staff explained that since the rebuttal to Dr. Walker's statement had not occurred at the March 27th meeting, Dave's comments refuting them could not be placed in those Minutes. He asked that his comments be included in this day's Minutes. Done. The Minutes were approved as read.</p> <p>2) Approval of the Minutes from April 24, 2008. The Minutes were approved as presented.</p>	<p>M-K. McLaughlin S-Sloma. Carried 7-0-1.</p> <p>M-K. McLaughlin S-Kahler Carried 7-0-1</p>
<p>5. REPORT: INTERIM CO-CHAIRS -- Scott Singley and Judy McCahon</p> <p>1) Welcome newly-appointed District V Commissioners David</p>	

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<p>Evans, Art Honegger and Connie Tolleson. Due to previous commitments, Art and Connie were unable to attend. David gave a brief statement of his background.</p> <p>2) Announce formation of the CCRMC Ad Hoc Committee, which will meet on a regular basis with administrative personnel at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. Membership on the Ad Hoc was announced as being David Evans, Jacque McLaughlin and Cynthia Miller. There was an attempt to explain how this Committee differs from the one currently meeting at CCRMC with Miles Kramer. This will be for Commissioners only (the Monday afternoon meetings are open to the public and all who wish to attend, including Commissioners) and will meet on an as-needed basis in response to Dr. Walker’s invitation for the Commission to set up a Committee to meet with his staff to keep the channels of communication open.</p> <p>3) Develop means by which consumers, families, staff, providers, contractors, etc. can be kept informed about the budget cuts and how it will impact them. Jacque, who originally brought this matter to the attention of the Commission, stressed the importance of communication and expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Suggestions from the Children’s Committee:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Communication (posters, flyers)➤ Mental Health Administration needs to be sensitive regarding services needs➤ Families need to know who’s available for services.➤ Resources need to be made known➤ The provider network needs to be expanded➤ There needs to be transportation support➤ Key statistics need to be identified and tracked surrounding out-of-home placement rates.➤ Suggestions from the Justice System Committee:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ As the impact hits consumers, there needs to be clarity on alternatives to services.➤ Suggestions from the Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Communication is a big issue➤ Need to pay special attention to the 38th Street clients➤ Place an announcement in the bulletins of the 43 churches GRIP is associated with. <p>It was requested that this item be placed under Donna’s report on the June Agenda.</p> <p>4) Respond to a request to add “The Clubhouse” to the Mental Health Coalition. Kathi distributed a written history of the Mental Health Coalition.</p>	<p><i>Place update on developing a means by which consumers, families, staff, providers, contractors, etc. can be kept informed about the budget cuts and how it will impact them under Donna’s Report on June MHC Agenda.</i></p>
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<p>Since NAMI is already represented on the Coalition, a question was raised regarding The Clubhouse’s association with NAMI, as both their website and NAMI’s website referred to them as being the NAMI Clubhouse, with donations and correspondence going to NAMI/Clubhouse. Dave said that was old information and they are now a non-profit corporation. Due to other concerns expressed about adding any other member to the Coalition, it was suggested that this matter be sent back to the Coalition for further discussion as to how it would affect the Coalitions policy on having 100% agreement before items are adopted and also on how many total members to add as future groups possibly apply.</p>	<p><i>Place on June MHC Agenda with information from Mental Health Coalition meeting.</i></p>
<p>6. REPORT: MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR -- Donna Wigand, LCSW Donna reported the good news that they looked at some of the vacancies and were able to restore 4-5 children’s positions from the adult side. Some adult housing contracts are being cut. They’ve started to meet and confer with the Unions. Positions will end June 30. Donna said it’s not possible to close the clinics by July 1. The 24th Street adult staff can’t move until the others move out – creating a rolling relocation problem. The Concord Children’s clinic will be the first to move, then Antioch and Richmond. Adults, children and families will be displaced. Donna said her greatest concern is the Medi-Cal kids and their families. She reported she got an opinion back from County Counsel saying we can’t order referrals to private providers, but should try to direct families to use their private insurance. As of July 1, we will have a significant loss of staff even though the clinics will remain open until they move. Also, 38th Street psychiatrists will come back under Mental Health and then move to El Portal.</p> <p>1) Update on impact to the County budget following the Governor’s May Revise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was not much of a revise for mental health. It included a 10% reduction in the maximum allowable rate for Medi-Cal and a 10% reduction in managed care. • We could also be affected by the cuts to IHSS staff reimbursement to minimum wage levels. • The Governor is proposing to reduce Medi-Cal benefits of legal immigrants to that of illegal immigrants. <p>Kathi suggested that the Committees look at this issue. Mariana asked if there is an advocacy group the Contractor’s Alliance and the Commission could participate in. Donna replied that the California Mental Health Directors Association lobbies, along with CSAC. Kathi also mentioned the League of California Cities.</p> <p>2) Report on inquiry into using some of the County reserves for Mental Health Services Act prudent reserve</p>	<p><i>Place on June Committee Agendas.</i></p>

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<p>Donna reported there has been no further discussion to offset any reduction. Dorothy Sansoe clarified that the County reserves cannot be used in this manner.</p>	
<p>7. COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Review draft of letter to the Executive Director of Contra Costa Animal Control requesting additional training of staff and administrative personnel regarding current policy on reduction of fees and waivers, and request that a mental health professional be brought in to assist in training regarding dealing in a sensitive manner toward people with disabilities. Scott and Kathi were charged with the responsibility to rewrite the letter and bring it back this month. They were unable to get it done.○ A motion was made to change a 2008 Committee Focus Goal from support of the implementation of AB1421 in CC County to support of SB1606. During discussion, Kathi stated she opposes support of this bill because she felt involuntary outpatient treatment was inappropriate. Dave disagreed, stating people can be convinced or court-ordered. Kathi expressed concern over who would make the decisions regarding involuntary treatment. Judy joined in the discussion, citing personal experiences regarding treatment of family members. Donna suggested that the ATAY Committee study the bill and also look at LPS Conservatorship, which is underutilized in the mental health court. Dave responded that SB1606 is not subject to an abuse of the system. Donna responded that this county has not yet developed LPS or mental health courts, and she would like to see other considerations looked at as well. Jacque questioned what the difference would be in supporting the bill and looking into it. She asked Teresa what the committee would be working on – study of the bill or supporting it. Teresa replied, “It would be supporting it.” Karen Sloma asked Teresa if she would be willing to change her motion to read “study” instead of “support” and she declined, withdrawing the motion. Dorothy suggested sending the matter to the Legislation Committee of the Board of Supervisors.○ Teresa requested that an Executive Committee be convened to address support of GRIP’s seeking funding for a PERT (Police Emergency Response Team) in Richmond. The funds must be applied for by June 16. Scott asked if the GRIP Board had approved seeking the funds. Alix Mitgang responded they had not, but would be meeting in 2 weeks. Scott suggested waiting to convene an Executive Committee meeting until after knowing the GRIP Board decision. The	<p><i>Place on June MHC Agenda.</i></p> <p>M-Pasquini S-Kahler Motion withdrawn.</p> <p><i>Set up Executive</i></p>

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<p>meeting would need to be held no later than Friday, June 13. Alix said she would contact MHC staff with the date of the GRIP Board meeting and their decision regarding seeking the funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justice System Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sign-up for site visit to the Behavioral Health Court<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Information has been requested regarding how many may attend, exactly where the location is, the time, etc. Staff will e-mail Commissioners when the information is received. The date is May 28.○ Update: Law Enforcement Referral Cards<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Karen and Judy met with the Antioch and Pittsburg Police Chiefs, as well as Brentwood (who is on their second round of the cards). We are waiting to print the West County cards because of changes in the programs. The next printing will be additional cards for East County to distribute to Antioch and Pittsburg and a new printing for Central County.▪ It was suggested that the text of the LERC's be put on line. Another suggestion was made to distribute the information to churches. Judy asked Dave if NAMI would like to have copies as well to distribute to families and he said no.○ A motion was made to request that the Commission send to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that they vote against the Health Services proposal that all health and mental health services at all County detention facilities be provided by private sector firm(s).<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Judy and Karen distributed information papers that had been presented at their Committee meeting:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes on the Work of the Custody Mental Health Unit and Predictable Hidden Expenses of Privatizing the Unit• Summary of Concerns re: Privatization of Detention Mental Health Services• Social Science Research Network study on "Managed Health Care in Prisons as Cruel and Unusual Punishment"• New York Times article on Prison Health Services "Private Health Care in Jails Can be a Death Sentence"• America Service Group's Response to Media Coverage of Prison Health Services▪ Karen briefly summarized some of the major concerns regarding privatization:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The quality of care deteriorates after about 2 years	<p><i>Committee meeting after hearing from Alix Mitgang.</i></p> <p><i>E-mail Commissioners Behavioral Health Court information.</i></p> <p>M-Sloma S-K. McLaughlin Vote: 6-2 Not carried. Did not achieve quorum majority. <u>Yea:</u> Evans McCahon K. McLaughlin Pasquini Singley Sloma <u>Nay:</u> Kahler J. McLaughlin</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a minimal cost savings of about 1%• There is increased liability of lawsuits to the county• There is a lack of monitoring• There is a loss of coordination of services.▪ Jacque disagreed with the statement regarding a lower level of care, and added that liability was also not an issue. She asked if everyone was against it, why is the County looking at it? Donna responded by giving a brief history about Dr. Walker’s presenting the Request for a Proposal to the Board of Supervisors. Providers may apply for one or all of the services – children’s and/or adults. Mariana Moore also spoke about caution in implying that all contractors would provide a lower level of service.▪ A majority voted for the motion to pass, but a voting quorum was not reached so the motion does not carry. This means the Commission cannot take a stand on this issue at this time. It was requested that Miles Kramer be asked to come to the Commission to address this issue in June.• Children’s Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PEI Stakeholder Planning Process Update<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A paper was distributed showing the Prevention/Early Intervention Planning Update information, including the top Stakeholder priority strategies to address the target populations. The recommendations go to the steering committee next.○ Update on Chris Adams waiver<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vern announced the good news at the Children’s Committee that the waiver had been approved.○ A motion was made that the Commission support the efforts of the Mental Health Division to coordinate with private insurers to ensure that all mental health outpatient private insurance options (excluding pharmacy) be exhausted prior to the children receiving 100%-funded County mental health services.• Older Adult Committee Did not meet.• Executive Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Status of Vacancies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District I: Consumer Representative• District II: No vacancies• District III: Consumer Representative• District IV: Consumer Representative○ Resignations/Term Expiration<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bobbie Arnold’s 3-year term expires June 30 and she has	<p><i>Place on June MHC Agenda.</i></p> <p>M-K. McLaughlin S-Sloma Vote: 7-1 Carried. <u>Yea:</u> Evans McCahon J. McLaughlin K. McLaughlin Pasquini Singley Sloma <u>Nay:</u> Kahler</p>
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<p>chosen not to apply for reappointment due to health reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scott Singley read a letter of resignation from himself, Judy McCahon, Kathi McLaughlin and Karen Sloma, effective July 1, 2008. Scott and Judy also announced their resignations as Interim Co-Chairs of the Commission effective immediately. Copies were distributed at the meeting, along with a copy of a Press Release regarding the resignations.	
<p>8. REPORTS: ANCILLARY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS</p> <p>No reports were given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractor’s Alliance – Mariana Moore• California Mental Health Boards/Commissions (CALMHB/C)• California Institute for Mental Health• Mental Health Coalition	
<p>9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respond to a request to add “The Clubhouse” to the Mental Health Coalition. D/A2. Mental Health Director’s Report:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on developing a means by which consumers, families, staff, providers, contractors, etc. can be kept informed about the budget cuts and how it will impact them• Update on Governor’s plan proposing to reduce Medi-Cal benefits of legal immigrants to that of illegal immigrants.3. ATAY Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send a letter to the Executive Director of Contra Costa Animal Control commending him for his quick response and requesting information on what steps have been implemented to avoid further problems. D/A4. Executive Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address support of GRIP’s seeking funding for a PERT (Police Emergency Response Team) in Richmond. D/A5. Justice System Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on visit to Behavioral Health Court.• Invite Miles Kramer to address questions regarding the Health Services proposal that all health and mental health services at all County detention facilities be provided by private sector firm(s). Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. D/A	
<p>10. ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.</p>	

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