

**CONTRA COSTA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
MINUTES**

February 22, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Karen G. Sloma.

Commissioners Present:

Bobbie J. Arnold

Geet Gobind

Dave Kahler

Judy McCahon

Kathi McLaughlin

Teresa Pasquini

Bettye J. Randle

Lisa Ronan

Daniel L. Ruxin

Scott Singley

Karen G. Sloma

Barbara Whittingham

Commissioners Excused:

Cynthia Miller

Diane Soto

Staff Present:

Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant

Attendees:

John Allen, Mental Health Administration

Barb Johnson, Congressman George Miller's Office

Sandy Kleffman, Contra Costa Times

Kimberly Mayer, Mental Health Administration

Mariana Moore, Contractor's Alliance

Dorothy Sansoe, County Administrator's Office

Donna Wigand, LCSW, Mental Health Director

Pat Wright, NAMI Parent

2. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Pat Wright referred to a statement by Dr. William Walker that the transitional team is in effect. She stated that based on her experience, it is not.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Flyers for the following were distributed:

a. Crestwood's Art Show on February 27th.

b. Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board's free training, "Alcohol, Medications and Other Drugs: Their Abuse and Misuse Among Older Adults," February 27th.

c. Larry Hanover's Retirement Party, March 8th.

d. Transitional Age Youth Collaboration Conference, June 1st.

2. The deadline for Commissioners to return their Form 700's is March 22nd.

3. The upcoming Mental Health Services Act Advisory Stakeholder Meeting was announced.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.**

Approval of the Minutes from January 25, 2007 was deferred to the March meeting.

5. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT. – Kathi McLaughlin and Karen Sloma**

1. The CIMH Bay Area Region Conference sign-up deadline is today.
2. The sign-up deadline for the CMHACY Conference is March 22.
3. MHC Response to Memo from Concord Police Department concerning recent changes related to the use of medical emergency and psychiatric emergency.
 - a. Author of the memo, Sgt. Jeffrey Crump from the Concord Police Department, spoke to the Commission. He stated he had been notified that two people who had been 5150'd had walked out of CCRMC. One was a woman who had threatened her children. He stated jurisdictional issues arose. He was told that procedural changes had resulted in the walk-outs. He spoke to hospital personnel who expressed concern over the new procedure that brought 5150's through medical emergency. Upon investigating further, Sgt. Crump found there had been numerous "walk-aways." He sent an officer to follow an ambulance transporting a 5150 to stay with the patient. Before the officer arrived the patient left CCRMC, but stayed once the officer got there and stayed with him. The officer was concerned for his safety and felt there needed to be two officers there. Sgt. Crump said he observed for himself the lack of security at medical emergency. The aforementioned patient was medically and then psychiatrically cleared in about 5 minutes. Sgt. Crump said the hospital is required to notify Martinez Police when 5150 walk-aways occur. Martinez said there had been 23 walk-aways in a 2-3 week period of time since the changes had been made, averaging about 2 a day. Officers say 5150 patients can be very dangerous. Sgt. Crump stated the patients need to be protected, the public needs to be protected, and the patient needs to be treated. He also said that law enforcement was not notified of the changes in procedure. He concluded his report by stating Concord PD will continue to act as they always have – sending 5150's in the ambulance without police escort.
 - b. Kathi thanked Sgt. Crump for bringing this matter to the Commission's attention. She said that after receiving the memo, she had talked to the Martinez Chief of Police and they are very concerned. There is also concern because CCRMC is immediately adjacent to Alhambra High School. The Mayor of Martinez has received complaints and is also very concerned.
 - c. Teresa said she had brought this matter to Dr. Walker's attention at last month's Commission meeting. As a mom and a NAMI member, she expressed how it wasn't easy to get a 5150 done, and said family members wanted to work with the police.
 - d. Sgt. Crump said that when they don't have enough information for a 5150, they recommend a self-committal hold, but now the patient can

walk right out in 30 seconds. He further stated some patients are found, but some are not. When there are walk-aways, the Sheriff's Office has the Police jurisdiction do the notifications.

- e. Kathi said the Commission's Justice System Committee has worked hard to collaborate with the police and was concerned these incidents might damage the relationship.
- f. Sgt. Crump said he and other officers, including the hospital liaison, did not know about the change in procedure regarding admitting 5150's to medical emergency rather than directly to psychiatric emergency. Kathi responded that the hospital needs to notify each law enforcement agency.
- g. Donna spoke, stating that in response to the walk-aways, there has been another policy change to prevent this from happening. She suggested talking to Miles Kramer, the program chief over PES. She also apologized on behalf of health services for the police departments not being notified. Sgt. Crump replied that there needs to be a written out procedural policy. Donna said the walk-aways were an unintended consequence. The intended consequence was for all 5150's to get a medical work-up.
- h. It was mentioned that security officer positions having been cut out of the budget is a problem. It was suggested that the Commission ask about the procedural changes and also ask if it has been changed again to correct the walk-away issue. Kathi felt this was too critical an issue to wait until the next Commission meeting March 22. Karen Sloma suggested convening the Executive Committee to meet with Miles Kramer and Dr. Jeff Smith. Included in the meeting would also be Sgt. Crump, representatives from the City of Martinez, and the Sheriff's Department. She stated we need to stress the need for communication between the hospital and law enforcement.
- i. ***A motion was made to schedule a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss this issue, requesting that the aforementioned parties attend. [M-Bobbie Arnold; S-Lisa Ronan]*** In discussion, Daniel mentioned he sees security as being the problem and wonders where the money is coming from – who will provide security and how will it be paid for. Barbara asked what happens when they go in to medical emergency. Donna said a medical doctor sees them, and then a psychiatric assessment is given by a psychiatrist. Following discussion, the motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

6. UPDATE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT ROLLOUTS. Kimberly Mayer distributed copies of the MHSA Summary Work Plan, stating the Plan was approved in June.

- 1. Children's Services' Programs
 - a. Familias Unidas was chosen as the main contractor. They will be working with Asian Pacific Psychological Services. The programs will serve the far East County. Kathi asked about how the African-

American community is being addressed. Kimberly said they are working closely with the schools. Kimberly suggested inviting Cesar Court to the Children's Committee.

2. Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Services/Programs
 - a. TAY Programs will be in West County. The Contractor is Fred Finch. They are working with GRIP and the Latinos Center. It should go to the Board of Supervisors in April. There will be a separate TAY shelter at Calli House.
3. Adult Services/Programs
 - a. Rubicon will be the contractor. They will be working with Familias Unidas, APPS, Anka and Mental Health Consumer Concerns. They will use existing facilities. They are looking at an April Board date. They are working closely with the homeless program.

In response to a question from Barbara regarding what affect New Connections having pulled out had, Kimberly said that for the children's programs, they had suggested that Familias Unidas find another substance abuse program. For adults, they are checking with Rubicon to see if they will be able to help. They are looking to contract with AOD providers.

4. Older Adults Services/Programs
 - a. Donna spoke regarding the older adult portion, stating there was bad news. She explained that when we planned the older adult program a year ago, we did it with Health Services and Contra Costa Health Plan. Both divisions would contribute staff –mental health staff, licensed and unlicensed, peer counselors, gero-psychiatrists, etc. The financial picture for health services was different a year ago. Finance has said they no longer have the money, so health services withdrew. Since they're not going to be an integral part of the team, we cannot do this model. We need to re-convene the older adult stakeholders and look at other models.
 - b. Bettye remarked that the Older Adult Committee had been told it was being put off for a later roll out, then they were told it was delayed. Bettye said she felt it was a lie because Dr. Asmith had stated at an Older Adult Committee meeting that the MHSA funds were not needed for older adults. She said she plans to go to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, and asked why everything was planned when Dr. Smith had already said he felt they didn't need it. She asked where the designated funds will go. Donna said the funds are still there, and this is why they want to re-convene the original older adult stakeholders. Bettye stated she feels the stakeholders were used.
 - c. Karen Sloma asked if the money was in danger. She also expressed concern over the older adults not being served and over the stakeholders who had given so much of their time.
 - d. Barbara asked how many older adults are in our system. Donna said she will check on this.

- e. Kathi stated that the older adults were being served before. Then we lost the hospital and clinic services. She said she had heard this was not only a Jeff Smith decision, but a Pat Godley (Finance) decision. We cannot bill Medi-Cal without health services on board. She asked why a couple of consultants who have a 6-figure income preclude the establishments of programs? Why do they have so much power and control? She further stated she feels Finance does not support Mental Health, and that the older adult pull-out violates the integrity of the whole MHSA Plan.
- f. Donna said the process is that they will file an amendment at the State level. Kimberly said there will be an older adult program, but there has to be an amendment.
- g. Daniel mentioned that there are no services for them, but the older adults are the fastest growing population. This is criminal, he said.
- h. Kathi stated that the board of Supervisors has said they are the ones who made the financial decisions. She suggested that the Commission approach the Board and ask them to support the older adult program.
- i. Karen Sloma asked how someone on the financial side agreed to the money when conditions were so fragile. Donna responded that she felt Jeff Smith was sincere about partnership with mental health, but things changed, and Finance stepped in.
- j. ***A motion was made that the issue of the delayed older adult roll-out be placed on the Executive Committee Agenda and that Pat Godley from Finance be requested to attend to address it along with Dr. Jeff Smith. [M-Betty Randle; S-Barbara Whittingham].*** Approved unanimously.

Kathi mentioned the need for more Commissioners to be on the MHSA Steering Committee.

7 MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Donna Wigand, LCSW

Update on the budget process.

- Donna said she hasn't been given official information. Dr. Walker says it's looking good, but other finance people say there's a problem. We have to absorb a 2% COLA increase plus the contractors' COLA.
- Kathi mentioned there had been 3 incidents involving young people who had mental health issues. She wondered if they were related to the budget cuts. She also stated there were 20 children in out-of-home placement at the time of last year's budget cuts. There are now 86 who have been placed out-of-state.

8. REPORT ON SITE VISIT TO CRESTWOOD HEALING CENTER.

Barbara Whittingham gave a very positive report on the site visit. Copies of her written report were distributed, and is also available in the Commission office. Barbara mentioned there was concern among the residents over rumors of budget cuts. Scott also praised Crestwood. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Cindy

Mataraso, with copies going to the Pleasant Hill City Council, including comments from the adjacent community.

9. OVERVIEW OF CONTRACTOR'S ALLIANCE – Mariana Moore

Mariana distributed papers that listed the current members of the Alliance, as well as listing their mission and strategic goals. Mariana reported that each of the members of the Alliance receive funding from the County, plus local and State funding. They meet once a month and are dues-supported. The Alliance stresses collaboration. Mariana discussed the goals. Karen Sloma thanked Mariana for being willing to be open to working with the Commission.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Due to the length of the meeting, there were no reports given.

**11. REPORTS FROM ANCILLARY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/
COMMITTEES.**

Due to the length of the meeting, there were no reports given.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Address the question of how the County monitors Contracts and Programs.

13. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.