

Approved: **September 17, 2009**

Santa Cruz County  
**Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 20, 2009**

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Facilitator: Joan McVay  
Recorder: Lorna Fox  
Staff Ex-Officio: Leslie Tremaine, Director MH&SA  
Meeting Location: 1400 Emeline Ave. Santa Cruz, CA

**I. Regular Business:**

**Meeting Commenced:** Joan McVay called the meeting to order at 3:04

**Members Present:** Joan McVay, Ann Andrews, Denise Ostlund, Linda Wilshusen, John Laue, Barbara Bentley, Ginny Gomez, Supv. Neal Coonerty

**Members Absent**

**Excused:** Guy Grant, Robert Ackerly

**Members Absent**

**Unexcused:** Nikki Howe

**Minute Review:**

- Date 08-20-09: Motion 01 - A motion was made by John Laue and seconded by Linda Wilshusen to approve the July minutes. The motion passed with Joan McVay and Denise Ostlund abstaining.

**Guest Introduction/Announcements:**

- Maria Correia, NAMI Family-to-Family teacher.
- Ginny Gomez brought up that there had been 2 recent cases of suicides. Discussed need to communicate regarding how people are feeling and how we care for people. Leslie Tremaine spoke about when the economy is bad, and unemployment rises, that there is an increase in the risk of suicide and depression. In our community, in general, there has been a decrease in suicides.
- Wilshusen mentioned a trial that just concluded where she had a concern that there was no discussion whether the person on trial may have had a mental illness and whether it could have been a factor. Saw it as a potential educational opportunity. There was discussion among the group regarding that the judicial definitions are out of date. Tremaine brought up the guidelines for confidentiality and that these kinds of issues are not always black and white. Supervisor Coonerty will discuss with Judge Morse regarding the possibility of speaking to the Mental Health Board at some point in time.

**Presentation:** Housing Update – Jim Straubinger, Housing Coordinator

Introduction by Leslie Tremaine: Update on the work we have been doing based on the presentation given to the Board of Supervisors at the end of fiscal year 08/09.

- Housing is an ongoing challenge in the county and in the state. It is competitive and not affordable (for Section 8 housing, there is a 4-5 year wait).
- Supported housing includes support services, subsidy, and advocacy. MHSA's goal of transforming the system emphasizes housing, while a challenging budget forces the closure of residential programs. The vision shared by Yana Jacobs and Leslie Tremaine is making this challenge an opportunity to innovate.
- The Recovery model we use is self-directed, person-centered, empowering, holistic, non-linear, strength-based, peer support, respectful, personal responsibility, and hopeful. Housing first philosophy – housing is a right, not a privilege, not a reward for recovery, but a necessary component of recovery.
- Partners: SCCC, 124 units, plus 8 transitional beds at Stanford house; Front Street, 40 units plus residential care: Front Street, Willowbrook, Wheelock; local landlords and property managers. More is needed and goal is to have more housing for adults, transition age youth, older adults, using a 'scattered site' model. The Redevelopment and Planning departments have been great planning partners. Treatment teams,

coordinators, doctors, and therapists are all working together. Support services are a multi-agency collaboration, interdisciplinary team. Want to use peer involvement and training for peer counselors at MHCAN.

- Referrals may be sent to Jim Straubinger at jim.straubinger@health.co.santa-cruz.ca.us.

**Supervisor Coonerty Comments:**

- There will be another telephone discussion group on mental health issues in corrections on September 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00. Ryan Coonerty and Barbara Bentley to attend.
- Met with interested parties regarding the Dominican and County negotiations. Leslie will report on this at the September meeting once it is public.

**Reports:**

- Board Activity and Goal Report – it was discussed that the goals would be reviewed and used as presentations for the Board's education. Due to budget restrictions, may not be able to do as much as planned. Gomez would like to see site visits restored. MH to get a list of sites with contact information to Gomez for her to contact for future visits by board members (being sensitive to where we go, how many people per visit, confidentiality, etc).
- Children's Mental Health: Stan Einhorn – Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> gate for services – the Community Gate. Children's Mental Health department has an "other Serious Emotional Disturbance" Team (SED) which is poised to serve youth experiencing mental health issues not tied to probation or education. They may be brought to the hospital, it may be their first break or a psychotic break. The team brings wraparound philosophy to help by meeting with family in the home, at any time. The team focuses on what does the family need and what does the child need to understand what is going on and to get the resources needed. This team is also available to assist with other teams. Most of the kids do stay at home and in school. SED team runs the hot line number, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Director Update - Leslie Tremaine:**

- Ron Dudley received a Social Security Administration Regional Distinguished Employee award. 08-20-09: Motion 02 – motion made by McVay to send a recognition letter from the board to Ron. Motion was seconded by Bentley, motion passed. Letter to be drafted by Fox and sent to McVay for signature.
- Linda Wilshusen has been assisting with project planning for how we provide intensive services. Trying to do long term planning with Dominican. Partnership with them began in the 1980's. Will be providing a status of planning with Dominican to the Board of Supervisors in mid September. Will be bringing forward different options to the community. We have been engaging with different groups regarding inpatient services. For example, bringing peers and consumers to important work in inpatient setting. Any comments/ideas from the Mental Health Board may be given to Tremaine or Wilshusen. Wilshusen to let the board know when this will be on the Board of Supervisors' agenda. Once it has been presented to the Supervisors, then it will be the start of the public discussion. This is estimated to be a 4-5 year planning effort. We want inpatient beds in the community, but it is a big decision and won't happen fast. Tremaine met with the Sheriff, and they wanted to make sure that drug and alcohol problems are not forgotten about (sobering center idea). Alcohol & Drug department to be brought into the Dominican discussions.
- PEI – new programming includes a veteran's liaison. There is a Steering Committee meeting on Monday – hope to complete the IT planning process. There is some education and training money left, but trying to maximize the training investment with provider education training done by consumers.
- State budget completed. County to bring forward a budget revision to the Board of Supervisors on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It was brought up that the Mental Health Board would like to put forth a letter to the staff for their work during these hard budget times.

**Continuing Discussions:**

- Future Agenda Items: 1) September – Status on Acute Care Planning; 2) Mental Health Court; 3) December – revisit Community Awareness Committee, 4) MHSA oversight may move back to Mental Health Board; 5) collaboration with law enforcement/probation/Children's MH (gangs), 6) Sheriff or DA in December (in coordination with Supervisor Coonerty).

**General:**

- 08-20-09: Motion 02 – 4:55 – Wilshusen made the motion to adjourn, Gomez seconded, motion passed.