

Approved: October 15, 2009

Santa Cruz County
Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2009

Facilitator: Barbara Bentley, Chairperson
Recorder: Esther Phillips
Staff Ex-Officio: Leslie Tremaine, Director MH&SA
Meeting Location: 1400 Emeline Ave. Santa Cruz, CA

Regular Business:

Meeting Commenced: Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 3:05

Roll Call: A quorum was present for any action items that need Board approval.

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

**Members Absent
Excused:** Nikki Howe

**Members Absent
Unexcused:** Guy Grant

Minute Review: Date 9-17-09: Motion 01 - A motion was made by Joan McVay and seconded by Linda Wilshusen to approve the August 2009 minutes. The motion passed with the noted corrections.

Guest Introduction / Announcements and Public Comment:

- Pam Bartholomew on behalf of MHCAN expressed her concerns about the cuts that are taking place at MHCAN as a result of state budget reduction. She said many staff are losing their jobs and other staff are experiencing a decrease in hours worked. Leslie Tremaine responded that a letter to the Board of Supervisors addressing these cuts would be presented on September 29, 2009. Tremaine acknowledges the impact MHCAN is experiencing and mentioned that MHSAS did an analysis to offset the cuts and presented it to the MHCAN Director and presented alternatives to the cuts.
- Denise Ostlund asked about the Medicare Part B and Medi-Cal benefits that are changing if patients do not meet the criteria. Tremaine assured Ostlund and the Board that optional mental health services are not being affected and said there are no changes for clients or their families in how they receive services under that specialized benefit and that notices were posted everywhere advising clients and families.

Board Activity & Goal Reports:

- Members discussed rotating reports on adult system and the children system and whether members wanted general reports or topical reports. Members requested a report on the Juvenile Justice system and Wilshusen requested a report on the Medi-Cal process. The October meeting will include a presentation on Medi-Cal and McVay suggested that a flow chart of the Medi-Cal process be distributed and discussion how MHSAS makes their decision regarding budget cuts.
- Members agreed to postpone the Law Enforcement report and agreed to alternate reports on the adult system and children system and keep Standing Reports as is.
- Gomez requested that the Board hear a report on medications and the side effects. Tremaine responded that the Board could invite Dr. Charles Johnson, Program Chief of Psychiatry to the January 2010 meeting.

Standing Reports:

- Supervisor Coonerty: No report
- Mental Health Director, Leslie Tremaine reports that the Health Services Agency-MHSAS and Dominican Hospital/Catholic Health Care West have met for the last two years to discuss the future of in-patient psychiatric services in Santa Cruz. The agreement with DBHU began in the early 80's and many changes have occurred since then.

Significant time went into reviewing the current system of in-patient care at DBHU. It was agreed by December 31, 2013 DBHU would no longer provide in-patient psychiatric services and a new facility would be developed and ready to open. The facility would be a Psychiatric Hospital Facility a.k.a. PHF. The PHF will be staffed differently. There will be several ancillary professionals rather than the nursing ratio per patient.

Wilshusen who is on the Planning Committee said there are many challenges in developing the program in the next four years, four years really isn't a long time. We could get delayed with funding (even though Dominican is providing five million dollars) and with the planning process. There is no room for delays.

Tremaine asked for the Board's participation. She added that there are formal presentations planned at MHCAN, NAMI, and Mariposa; NAMI's first meeting is October 14, 2009.

It was asked if the facility will be County owned or just County operated. Tremaine said the County will be buying the land and the provider will be a private contractor and said a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be developed. McVay asked if there were any models we can look at and Andrews expressed her concern regarding who will be running the facility. Wilshusen said there are contractors that have experience in running a PHF. There are PHFs located in areas across the state. The link to this report is <http://hsa/Interland/pdf/Acute%20Psychiatric%20Services.pdf> and it is available on the Mental Health website. Andrews asked whether nursing interns could be part of the staff and Tremaine said there are staffing requirements the facility must meet but a teaching unit is a good idea in that it will encourage individuals to keep an interest in the mental health profession.

- The County must return to the Board of Supervisors on December 8, 2009 with an update on potential sites, financial planning, etc.
- Leslie asked the Mental Health Board to assure the community that the in-patient services will continue to operate at DBHU until December 31, 2013 and County Mental Health will continue its partnership with Dominican in serving the community's mental health needs.

Budget Update – Director, Leslie Tremaine:

Tremaine reported there is a September 29, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting where budget adjustments will be presented. These will reflect the Managed Care (MC) cuts via the State, plus additional SB163 expansion funding for the County Health Services Agency, and MHSA PEI funding. Tremaine noted many adult programs would be negatively affected in the budget cuts. She said that she and mental health program managers met for a Long-term Strategy Retreat, Wednesday, September 16, 2009 for budget years 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Tremaine shared that she is on two statewide task force committees that keep her updated and aware of all State decisions regarding future MediCal waiver planning.

Children's Mental Health Update – Stan Einhorn:

Einhorn reported that Children's Mental Health's goal is to keep kids at home. He shared that there are four gates to enter the mental health system: Probation, CPS, School and the community. Community providers match family services generally through the Parents Center or Child Protective Services (CPS).

He reported that the County has a low hospital rate for children placement. The adolescent age is considered from 0 – 18 years of age.

Children in need of help are brought to the Dominican or Watsonville Emergency Room. The County has a Mobile Emergency Response Team (MERT) that is staffed seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. MERT is comprised of licensed clinical supervisors and a team of licensed clinicians. If an adolescent must be placed in a out of county facility (Fremont, Creekside, St. Mary's) it is the hospitals responsibility to do so. Our clinicians will be assigned to the patient and will stay connected if county responsible.

New Business:

It was reiterated that areas of concern for agenda items is the Juvenile Justice System (gangs); Medi-Cal, and medication management.

Bentley and Supervisor Coonerty will be absent from the October meeting.

Adjourned: 4:55 p.m.