

Approved: January 21, 2010

Santa Cruz County
Mental Health Board Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2009

Facilitator: Barbara Bentley, Chairperson
Recorder: Linda Betts
Staff Ex-Officio: Leslie Tremaine, Director Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
Meeting Location: 1400 Emeline Ave. Santa Cruz, CA

Regular Business:

Meeting Commenced: Barbara Bentley called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Ann Andrews, Barbara Bentley, Denise Ostlund, Ginny Gomez, Guy Grant, John Laue, Linda Wilshusen, and Supervisor Neal Coonerty

Members Absent Excused: Joan McVay and Robert Ackerly

Members Absent Unexcused:

Minute Review: Date 12-17-09: Motion 01 - A motion was made by John Laue and seconded by Ginny Gomez to approve the October 2009 minutes. The motion passed, minutes were approved.

Guest Introduction / Announcements and Public Comment:

- Sylvia Caras requested the Mental Health Board set up a page on the County Mental Health website that would include the names of all members, agendas, and minutes.
- Ginny Gomez requested more information dissemination regarding mental health services and options for the community to access.
- Maria Gonzales requested linking up with a provider to learn about long term effects from medications
- John Laue provided packets that were offered at the high school presentation on "the general overview on mental health."
- Barbara Bentley reported back from her first meeting with Judge Morse regarding how the County will look at mental health issues and how they interface with the judicial system. (Supervisor Neal Coonerty is participating in these meetings.) The group is in the planning stages towards a national program to learn what role the courts will play in this process. Our County is making an effort to understand all the issues and is looking at a possible Mental Health Court. Currently looking at how other Counties deal with this issue. Next meeting will be January 10, 2010. Linda Wilshusen requested a written summary after each meeting.

Reports:

- Board of Supervisors: Neal Coonerty advised all that the County will be facing another year of budget cuts (20%).
- Mental Health: Leslie Tremaine discussed the budget cuts for the next fiscal year. There will be a decrease in MHSA funding for mental health supports (using a 3-yr planning cycle). The peak year was 09/10 and will see a reduction for the next three fiscal years. We also have been asked to plan for a 20% cut in County funds. The State is predicting a \$20B deficit in 2010/2011 that will impact all mental health services and quality of life.
- Public Health Facility (PHF): as context, Leslie Tremaine discussed that the County is enhancing community based services and reducing use of inpatient and other locked care beds. Some inpatient in-county beds, however, are seen as essential. Current planning for new model of inpatient services began in 2009 when the

County and Dominican as part of their contract negotiations jointly decided the unit, as currently set up was no longer financially feasible. The contract was extended through 2013 while the County plans for a new facility. There are two options, in or out of the County. Current recommendation is to have it located in the County as a freestanding psychiatric health facility. Focus now is on prep work regarding location and what type of services will be provided. Met with members of MHCAN, Mariposa, and NAMI for input. The LMHB will also play a strong role in the public discussion process. Will coordinate two Town Hall meetings in February to gather perspectives. There was extensive discussion regarding this process and need for broad public involvement.

- MHSAs: Leslie Tremaine shared that we are in the last stages of the planning process for all 6 components. Innovative Projects are now in the public review process (the public hearing will be held on 1/21/10 at the MHB meeting). Would like to begin transitioning from the Steering Committee to the MHB for oversight of the MHSAs, as they wrap up with planning and implementation of all components.
- Workforce & Education Training: Jaime Molina shared that they have implemented all action items. The Training Academy provides education to staff, contractors, interns, and the community. The team is working with schools on career pathways, and assisting with the development of entry-level positions in the County for consumers with personal experience. Will be offering "Trauma Informed Services" as part of a monthly series that will reflect the impact of trauma and services. The goal is to train others to sustain this program after funding is gone (3yrs).
- Children's Mental Health: Dane Cervine; we are preparing for budget cuts, but in the meantime the Children's Prevention & Early Intervention is unfolding in the schools. We are initiating contracts for the COE North County Schools Collaborative for a "comprehensive prevention approach." North County focus is to change the culture around negative behavior working with "peer pals" for K-3 kids. South County will work with Youth Services and PVPSA and focus on drug and alcohol prevention services and expand "7 Challenges." Will also be working with Barrios Unidos providing innovative cultural gang outreach. The parent education supportive initiative for positive parenting (PPP), created in Australia, is collaborating with First 5 (co-funding). The first training was in November. Early childhood consultation with SCCCC expanding "head start." Family day home centers can use early identification training. Funding is firm for next year.

New Business:

- Plan two Town Hall meetings in February to gather input for the new PHF
- Add MHB membership, agenda, and minutes to Santa Cruz County Mental Health website

Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.