

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

**May 20, 2010**

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Facilitator: Joan McVay, Chairperson  
Recorder: Linda Betts  
Staff Ex-Officio: Stanley Einhorn – Program Mgr., Mental Health Services  
Meeting Location: 18 West Beach Street, Room 6, Watsonville

**Regular Business**

**Meeting Began:** Joan McVay called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Ann Andrews, Barbara Bentley, Bill Lewis, Denise Ostlund, Guy Grant, Joan McVay, John Laue, Maria Corriea, and Supervisor Neal Coonerty

**Members Absent**

**Excused:** Ginny Gomez

**Members Absent**

**Unexcused:** Robert Ackerly

**Guests:**

Lynda Kaufman, Arturo Uribe, and George Carvolho

**Minute Review:**

A quorum was present. Bill Lewis motioned to approve the April 2010 meeting minutes and Ann Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**Introductions, Announcements, and Public Comment**

- Lynda Kaufman and Arturo Uribe, with Psynergy Programs, Inc. Psynergy is a new provider for Santa Cruz County. The program has been operating for five years helping clients who need the highest level of care transition to the next level. Currently operating two facilities, Psynergy in Morgan Hill deals primarily with clients working towards integration into the community. Sierra Vista, located in Monterey, work with clients transitioning into the community. 95% of patients come from locked settings, 85% are conserved. The program is dedicated to family and consumer involvement. Both facilities provide their own in-house chef using 50% organic foods.

**Standing Reports**

- Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Coonerty:
  - o Working on 20% cuts to the County budget and preparing for hearings scheduled from mid to the end of June.
- Mental Health Director Report, Stanley Einhorn, Program Mgr:
  - o Public Health Facility – continue to search for site/location
  - o Budget Status – we are now in the political arena and not planning stage (this is not the final budget). State proposing to shift \$602M realignment that was originally targeted for mental health services and give it to social services. Realignment dollars (from sales tax and Vehicle Licensing Fee) constitute a large portion of the general funds. This will leave \$435M left with which counties must provide the federally mandated in-patient, medications, and EPSDT services. All other services now funded through realignment funds and related Federal match would be unfunded. The new Medi-Cal limits for

general health care will mean only 6 prescriptions per month (excluding life saving drugs), 10 clinic physician visits per year (excluding children and pregnant women), and Drug Medi-Cal (excluding minor consent) as well as CalWorks, would be eliminated

- Information regarding how to assist in communicating with elected officials regarding the proposals for mental health related budget reductions to be forwarded to all Board members.

### **Presentation**

- Children's Mental Health and Prevention and Early Intervention Report, Stanley Einhorn:
  - o Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, in collaboration with First 5, has started a Child/Family division program called, "Side by Side." This is a free service for childcare providers and parents to help identify the early signs of mental illness in 0-5 year olds. The goal is to improve emotional functions of young children and avoid the need for higher level of treatment as the children age. Community based services are provided.

### **Data Work Book**

- Review draft responses, Karolin Schwartz:
  - o Looked at access to services and retention (days of service) for Age, Ethnicity, and Gender in Santa Cruz County. Found that certain groups have higher percentages of access based on numbers driven by referring agents (e.g. probation). There are certain barriers for some age groups and females where pathways to service may not be clear. Will be looking at more outreach and early intervention. Additions to the report as follows:
    - Yana Jacobs reminded us that 2 positions funded by PEI for the 18-60 age group have been added
    - For all categories under, "What recommendations do we have for increasing access for the identified age group," add
      - (i.e. NAMI, MHCAN, Mariposa, or other community organizations)
      - Increase/continue education and support for families trying to help with family members' needs, considering especially the differences in attitudes and perceptions regarding mental health needs.
    - Page 3, last question, efforts increasing access, include MHSA funded thru PEI, "Cara y Corazon" a Latino based program for parent involvement/support.
    - Page 4, first question. Change "age" to "ethnic."
    - Page 6, first question. Add to bulleted items, "Coordinate with schools and primary care to facilitate education of parents and teachers regarding behavioral symptoms related to mental health needs in females and in using available screening materials.
  - o Joan - motion to accept report with additions as final. Ann Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed as the report was approved with additions.

### **New Business**

- Upcoming Agenda items
  - o Due to budget cuts and strain on supportive staff, will need to consider number of annual meetings held
  - o The MHSA oversight role needs to be integrated into the Mental Health Board's work
  - o Adult mental health in June, Children's in July
  - o Report on, "Therapeutic Behavioral Services" (Karolin Schwartz and Stan Einhorn) in July
  - o Future items
    - Brown Act
    - What the future of Behavioral Health may look like with Federal Health Care Reform
    - What will be the rules for delivery of services (August?)

### **Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

- Motion to adjourn by John Laue, seconded by Barbara Bentley. Motion passed.