

Mental Health Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2009
Marriott Hotel, Buellton, CA

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Margie Lopez, Chairwoman. Commissioners present were Margie Lopez, 5th District, Chairwoman; Louis Weider, 1st District, Vice Chairman; Manny Casas, 1st District; Jan Winter, 1st District Alternate; Ann Eldridge, 3rd District; James Rohde, 3rd District; Chhitu Patel, 4th District; Patrick Bergin, 5th District; Charles Huffines, 5th District Alternate.

ADMHS Staff present were Ann Detrick, Ph.D., Director; Al Rodriguez, Assistant Director, Programs; Edwin Feliciano, Medical Director; Thomas Alvarez, Assistant Director, Finance; Suzanne Grimesey-Kirk, Division Chief, Adult and Children's Services.

The sign-in sheets are attached to the file copy of the minutes.

- II. Director's Report, Ann Detrick, Ph.D., Director
Dr. Detrick described the Department's purpose and mandates by the State and Federal governments regarding the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services and the State financial situation and impact to the Department. ADMHS staff spoke on agenda items of current services; funding sources for services and answered questions or responded to comments made by various members of the public.

Questions/Comments/Responses

1. COMMENT by George Kauffman – To receive input from family members, the time and location of meetings makes it impossible for many family members to attend. Evening meetings work best.
2. QUESTIONS by Catharine Birtalan –
 - Q1: Mental Health Commission and the Board of Supervisors meets in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, we would like the Consumer Empowerment Advisory Committee to meet with the same frequency and time.
 - Q2: What does the statement, "Encourage leveraging of the housing? capacity" mean?
 - Q2A: Dr. Detrick: MHSA funds are to help with housing development (Lompoc/ MHA, Garden Street/MHA, etc.) Our job is to make the importance known, and then support it.
 - Q3: When is the next meeting like this?
 - Q3A: The Mental Health Commission will meet and determine this.

- Q4: If the State is delaying payments that affect ADMHS will interest be reimbursed to the County?
- Q4A: Tom Alvarez: I don't know. Believe there is a sentiment to have an effect on the Department. Delays have already begun such as State tax refunds.
3. COMMENT by Sam, Independent Newspaper – Regarding the need to audit the budget because of past filing and discrepancies between services rendered and what was billed.
RESPONSE by Tom Alvarez – The purpose today is to talk about the upcoming budget. The current State audit is part of an appeal resulting from self-disclosure by ADMHS. We are waiting on outcomes. We have no time frame on knowing the State's final budget decisions.
4. Dr. Detrick reminded the group of the governor's proposal to increase the sales tax 5% on alcoholic beverages.
5. QUESTION by Suzanne Riordan of FACT – Where in the budget can we see where those with co-occurring condition are receiving services. Ms. Riordan referred to a case where the diagnosis was changed from co-occurring to alcohol/drug and he is now in prison “at risk of losing his life tonight.” FACT wants to be included in the discussions.
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – He referenced attendance at FACT and input to Co-morbid conditions. We are looking at facilities in town to provide 24/7 Services and the role of law enforcement. Over 51% of clients in the ADMHS System have co-morbid conditions.
COMMENT by Al Rodriguez – The Department is about to issue invitations for the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention planning process. At the meetings participants will be ask to help prioritize areas of need such as identifying priority populations as well as critical areas of focus.
COMMENT by Dr. Detrick – Prevention and Early Intervention services are Intended for those who are unserved and provides guidelines for the length of time services can be provided.
6. COMMENT by Brian Fraiser – There is concern over a recent jail discharge Where the client did not receive medications for up to 9 days after the discharge.
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – We spoke to the Jail Treatment Team to focus on the needs within the jail system to assure that services are best matched to the client's needs.
7. QUESTION by Roger Thompson – What would I do if I were to feel sick and wanted to voluntarily admit myself?
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – For any assessment of a crisis for intervention, The Crisis And Recovery Emergency Services (CARES) is the point of entry and determination of which facility would best serve the client's needs. One can call the Access Team, Mobile Crisis Team and can walk-in to either the CARES North or CARES South facilities.

8. QUESTION by a member of the Fellowship Club – Why is CARES always mentioned? It seems as though CARES is for substance abuse only.
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – CARES is the intake point to the spectrum of resources and services available.
9. COMMENT by an unidentified member of the audience – The Garden Street Apartments are beautiful. Residents have a real sense of home and belonging to a community. Thank you!
10. QUESTION by Cindy Burton – Has the stimulus package been factored for impact on the ADMHS budget?
RESPONSE by Tom Alvarez – There might be a 5% increase on the match. The total pocket of funds equals approximately 25 million dollars. We have many computations to factor.
11. COMMENT by Richard Mansfield – At the Fellowship Club many worry that cuts will affect employment.
RESPONSE by Jan Winter –a member of the Board of Directors for the Mental Health Association: The Association is now operating on 40% funding of program costs. We appreciate your input.
12. QUESTIONS by unidentified audience member – What the clinic days, who will it service and when will it start?
RESPONSE by Al Rodriguez – For those who do not meet criteria for Department services are currently referred to Network Providers for Medi-Cal Benefits. The Prevention and Early Intervention forums will be a good source of input.
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – CARES is also available as a point of entry and people can be connected to network services, primary care providers, etc. within the community.
QUESTION – Why is there a waiting period for assessment when one is not? in crisis?
RESPONSE by Dr. Feliciano – This is based on the level of need.
13. QUESTIONS by unidentified audience member – How will Workforce Education And Training (WET) funds be used?
RESPONSE – The money is available and we are ready to move forward. When will a Consumer Empowerment Manager be hired?
RESPONSE – There are many elements to the WET, Consumer/Family Interviewing Plan, selection, and development of a curriculum.
14. QUESTION by unidentified audience member concerning CenCal and primary health care.

15. COMMENT – considering a hiring freeze, the impact is unknown at the present. The freeze is not desired. It is currently presented as a proposal to the Board of Supervisors.
 16. QUESTIONS by George Kauffman –There are problems in execution not program development or design. Are there any measures in place designed? to assess the quality of services provided by employees/programs within the Department?
RESPONSE by Dr. Detrick – Outcome measures are now in all CBO contracts. MHSA and key quality indicators are in contracts. POQI is one outcome measure in use. We have internal tracking to assist with quality controls.
 17. QUESTION by Suzanne Riordan – Who is tracking the changes of the 300 people Who went through?
RESPONSE by Dr. Detrick – 300 refers to those affected by contract changes. We will be glad to share the form used. Dr. Feliciano will obtain the numbers of those changed to ADP diagnoses only.
 18. There was concern expressed for the loss of community with staffing and resource reduction in Lompoc.
- III. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Spanish language translation and equipment provided by Lyra Monroe, MHSA Analyst.

Marcia Carstensen
MHC Assistant