

Mental Health Commission  
Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2009

Santa Barbara, CA

**Commission Members Present**

Louis Weider, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Manny Casas, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Jan Winter, 1<sup>st</sup> District Alternate  
Belinda Zola, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Ann Eldridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
James Rohde 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Roger Thompson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Tracey Taylor, 4<sup>th</sup> District Alternate  
Charles Huffines, 5<sup>th</sup> District

**Commission Members Absent**

Karen Kegg, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Alternate  
Chhitu Patel, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Lisa Morinini, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Margie Lopez, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Teresa Menchaca, 5<sup>th</sup> District Alternate

**ADMHS Staff**

Ann Detrick, Ph.D., Director  
Marianne Garrity, Deputy Director  
Tom Alvarez, Assistant Director, Finance  
Suzanne Grimesey-Kirk, Division Chief Adult/Children's Services  
Refugio Rodriguez, MHSA Program Manager  
Karin Metcalf, Santa Barbara Program Manager  
Marcia Carstensen, Assistant

**Guests**

John Buttny  
John Mudie  
Karolyn Renard  
Jennifer Newbold  
Catherine Birtalan  
J.T. Turner  
Maria Ross  
Leah Juniper  
Stephanie Langsdorf, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Executive Assistant

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**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS –**

Acting Chair Louis Weider called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.; welcomed all and self-introductions took place. A quorum was present with 9 members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of June 19, 2009 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRPERSON –**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT-**

Karolyn Renard stated she did not receive a response from the Commission regarding the Brown Act violation complaint she made to the Board of Supervisors regarding ADMHS contracts being presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval without approval of the Mental Health Commission. Ann Detrick stated that the complaint was made to the Supervisors and referred to County Counsel who determined there was no Brown Act violation and that she was notified of same. It was not within the Commission's responsibility to respond to Ms. Renard because she did not file the complaint with the Commission. Ms. Renard acknowledged that she did receive the response from the Board of Supervisors/County Counsel.

Maria Ross commented on her inability to receive return calls or assistance from ADMHS staff when she was in crisis. Ann Detrick asked Suzanne Grimesey-Kirk and Ms. Ross to meet in another room to gain information from Ms. Ross and to assist her in receiving services that afternoon.

Leah Juniper, a member of the Consumer Advocacy Coalition, expressed her concern regarding client under-representation on the Mental Health Commission.

**PRESENTATIONS-**

A. Santa Barbara Clinics Update –

Suzanne Grimesey-Kirk, Division Chief, Adult/Children's Services, gave an overview of the ADMHS Systems of Care. Approximately one year ago, the Department enacted service changes for clients. Three Assertive Community Training (ACT) Teams were developed to provide services for those clients with the highest level of need including supported housing in North and South County. For children wraparound services are provided to those children with high level needs and are provided by local providers and ADMHS clinic staff. With the return to their departments of co-located Probation, CWS, and PHD staff, a Community Treatment Services system (CTS) has been set up throughout our system to match the client needs with appropriate services.

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Karin Metcalf, Santa Barbara Regional Manager, reported that PathPoint, a local provider, accepted 130 ADMHS clients, and that it is working well. There is a new program for clients entitled Seeking Safety. These are clients who may have experienced trauma of some sort in association with substance use. Consumers will work with licensed staff in the delivery of services.

For the children's services, a new approach is being taken with Dr. Schornstein working one day per week in Santa Barbara providing family treatment and individual services will continue. We are working to establish a TAY program in Santa Barbara. The Department has a TAY program functioning in Lompoc and Santa Maria for clients aged 16 to 25. In response to a question concerning CTS operating in each clinic, Ms. Metcalf responded yes. There is work being done with the Sheriff's Department regarding discharge plans for the homeless. Any inmate who is an identified ADMHS client could receive assistance for housing.

Catharine Birtalan asked how does a client on parole get services. Ms. Metcalf said that type of assistance would come through the client's Parole Officer. The question was asked, "Do you do drug testing at Calle Real"? Ms. Metcalf responded yes, for a number years.

**B. Workforce Education & Training Plan (WET)**

Cuco Rodriguez, MHSA Program Manager reported there have been some delays in developing the WET plan in that the Consumer Empowerment Manager position was filled and then vacated and the Department is now in the process of hiring a new manager.

WET is unique in MHSA in that it has a 10-year reversion clause instead of a 3-year reversion clause as do other MHSA programs. The planned expenses are for a two-year period with 1.2 million dollars; 85 thousand has been spent leaving 1.17 million. WET funds will be a certain amount to use each year over four to 5 years.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT-**

Ann Detrick said the main focus for the Department remains the budget situation and the services we provide. The Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act (SACPA) funding is very much up in the air for Santa Barbara County.

The Board of Supervisors approved the budget for FY 2009/10 and will meet again on the August 18 to review budgets in light of what occurs with the State budget. ADMHS is in the same position as reported at the February special meeting held in Buellton. Core services have been reduced and we must look to preserving what we can do for our clients. PEI and CSS funds are expected to decrease in future years. The Department does not want to begin a program and then have to discontinue it. An integrated system of care is needed.

Tom Alvarez, Assistant Director, Finance presented responses to questions raised by Catharine Birtalan regarding MHSA expenditures. A copy of the material distributed by Mr. Alvarez is made a part of these minutes. With a decline in Vehicle License Fees (VLF), Medi-Cal services were reduced because the Department could not meet the matching funds requirement. Total funding was down in 2008. MHSA funds will be increasing and will continue through FY 2009/10 and in 2010 through 2012 funding will decrease. With new monies coming in, the Department must be cognizant that revenue streams will not be as high as in 2010-12. In the CSS Plan we are required to save some revenue for a

prudent reserve. The current reserve allocation is 4.6 million and this reserve will be fully established by the end of FY 2009-10.

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Ann Detrick commented that the Department is looking to maintain services and that the 2009/10 MHSA Plan hearing will be held in August after the 30 day positing period.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS-**

A. Correspondence –

The Mental Health Executive Committee recommends the posting of correspondence received on the ADMHS web site. There will be a cost saving to ADMHS and will allow quicker access to the documents for Commissioners and interested persons. It was moved and seconded (Winter/Huffines) that the recommendation be accepted. Motion carried. NOTE: All persons on the Commission distribution lists will receive a notice when items are posted on the web site.

B. Committee/Liaison Reports-

Manny Casas, Liaison to the Latino Advisory Committee (LAC) reported the LAC is interested in expanding their scope to empower the LAC to the Mental Health Commission.

Ann Eldridge said the Consumer/Family Member Advisory Committee (CFMAC) of MHSA has discussed establishing a formal liaison relationship with the Mental Health Commission. She will present a written proposal on this subject.

C. Other-

1. A comment was made of reinstating or starting a newsletter which would be of value to the public. The Director said it seems to be a good idea and that perhaps the web site could be utilized for a newsletter.
2. Catharine Birtalan asked that the Mental Health Commission be involved in the planning processes and that any changes be presented prior to their approving of MHSA plans and programs. It was suggested that perhaps a subcommittee could be formed to review MHSA plans. No action was taken on this.
3. Commissioner Weider stated his thoughts on Commission meetings being held mid-county. This will be an agenda item for the August MHC Executive Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT-** It was moved (Winter) that the meeting be adjourned at 4:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Marcia Carstensen  
Mental Health Commission Assistant