

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 20, 2012  
MINUTES \_ Final**

<p><b>I. Call to Order /Introductions</b></p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carole McKindley-Alvarez at 3:33 p.m.</p> <p><u>Commissioners Present:</u>  Louis Buckingham, District III  Evelyn Centeno, District V (arrived at 3:40)  Jerome Crichton, District III (arrived at 4:00)  Jack Feldman, District V  Dave Kahler, District IV  Peggy Kennedy, District II  Carole McKindley-Alvarez, District I  Colette O’Keeffe, District IV  Teresa Pasquini, District I  Annis Pereyra, District II</p> <p><u>Commissioners Absent:</u>  Supv. Karen Mitchoff, BOS Representative  Gina Swirsding, District I  Monique Tarver, District III  Sam Yoshioka, District IV</p> <p><u>Non-Commissioners Present:</u>  Stan Baraghir, MHCC  Cynthia Belon, Behavior Health Director  Lia Bristol, Supv. Mitchoff’s Office  Marvin Edwards, MHCC/SDR  John Gagnani, Local 1  Steven Grolnic-McClurg, M.H. Director  Cibarra Hansame, Local 21  Peggy Harris, Member of the Public  Lori Hefner, Gerontologist/CPAW Member  Roland Katz, Local 1  Susan Medlin, OCE/BHS  Mariana Moore, Human Services Alliance  Ziba Rahimzadeh, BHS/Local 21  Karen Shuler, MHC Executive Assistant  Jennifer Tuipulotu, OCE/BHS  Crystal Whitehead, OCE</p>	
<p><b>II. Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Gagnani referenced his hand being up for comment on an agenda item but not being called on at last the last meeting. He spoke about not being part of the MH Director choice process and said there</li> </ul>	

	<p>hadn't been public input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stan Baraghir spoke about cold weather being a problem for consumers to get to activities. He urged funding for a van for MHCC.</li> <li>• Cynthia Belon announced the Family Coordinator Position is going forward. The MH Director appointment is going to the BOS Jan. 15.</li> <li>• Lori Hefner expressed concern over a lack of cooperation and respect we at CPAW are getting.</li> </ul>	
<b>III. Approval of the Minutes from November 29, 2012</b>	<p>➤ A motion was made by Teresa and seconded by Evelyn to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. The Minutes were approved as presented.  <b>Aye 8:</b> Louis, Evelyn, Jack, Dave, Peggy, Carole, Colette, Teresa  <b>Nay 0</b>  <b>Abstain 1:</b> Annis  (Jerome arrived after this vote)</p>	<b>Vote: 8-0-1 Passed</b>
<b>IV. Election of Officers</b>	<p>➤ <u>For Commission Chair:</u>  Carole McKindley-Alvarez  <b>Aye 6:</b> Louis, Evelyn, Jack, Dave, Peggy, Carole  <b>Nay 0</b>  <b>Abstain 3:</b> Colette, Teresa, Annis</p> <p>➤ <u>For Commission Vice Chair:</u>  Peggy Kennedy  <b>Aye 4:</b> Louis, Evelyn, Peggy, Carole    Sam Yoshioka  <b>Aye 5:</b> Jack, Dave, Colette, Teresa, Annis</p> <p>➤ <u>For Executive Committee:</u>  Evelyn Centeno  <b>Aye 6:</b> Louis, Evelyn, Jack, Dave, Peggy, Carole    <u>Teresa Pasquini</u>  <b>Aye 4:</b> Louis, Peggy, Teresa, Annis    Gina Swirsding  Received no votes    Colette O'Keeffe  <b>Ayes 7:</b> Evelyn, Jack, Dave, Carole, Colette, Teresa, Annis    Sam Yoshioka (write-in)</p>	<p><b>Lacked quorum vote to pass</b></p> <p><b>Lacked quorum vote for both nominees.</b></p> <p><b>Lacked quorum vote for all nominees.</b></p>

	<p><b>Ayes 1:</b> Colette (Jerome arrived after these votes)</p> <p>The election will be placed on the January MHC Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>V. Discuss having a Public Hearing with AOD and Homeless services to provide a public forum to address AB 716 – BART Exclusion Program</b></p>	<p>➤ A motion was made by Colette and seconded by Evelyn to provide a community forum for BART representatives to discuss AB 716, the BART Exclusion Program, with members of the public. Discussion: Colette said she was a frequent BART rider and found that most of the BART police are savvy, but extra training would be good. Evelyn asked how someone could tell if there was stigma. Colette said what you can see is respect and effective response. Evelyn said she thought it would be unfair if they would cite people to stay away – she would want to make sure they look at the history of the person and follow due process. Cynthia was asked if there has been any talk at Behavior Health surrounding this new law. She responded that she thought it would be a great idea to have this discussion.</p>	<p><b>Vote 7-0-2 Lacked quorum vote to pass</b></p> <p><b>Aye 7</b> Louis Evelyn Jerome Jack Carole Peggy Colette <b>Nay 1</b> Dave <b>Abstain 2</b> Terersa Annis</p>
<p><b>VI. Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><u>Capital Facilities Committee</u> recommends that the Mental Health Commission considers the process for, and considers making, a formal request of an independent audit of MHSA.</p> <p>By way of background, Teresa said her committee had anticipated receiving some information they had not received so they made a motion to explore the process for making an independent audit of MHSA. She stated the BH Director asked us not to do that, but based on what they wanted by way of information, they went ahead. She added that more questions arose from those reports they did receive. She said there was staff presence at the meeting but they still could not answer questions about the report. Teresa mentioned that the CPAW meeting the next day was very contentious. The Minutes were sent out to the Commissioners. She emphasized this is an information request.</p> <p>➤ A motion was made by Teresa and seconded by Dave that the Mental Health Commission considers the process for, and considers making, a formal request of an independent audit of MHSA.</p>	<p><b>Vote 7-0-2 Lacked quorum vote to</b></p>

	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn clarified that recommending issues for the Grand Jury to look at does not mean finger-pointing. Secondly: We do not have everything to request an independent audit. She suggested waiting until the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, by March, and if numbers do not add up and we do not receive information, then move in this direction. She also mentioned we will be rearranging our committees.</li> <li>• Colette said that if there is not an audit, this will fester. We need to know where we've been and what has happened.</li> <li>• Peggy asked if an MHSA audit has been done.</li> <li>• Teresa replied not in CCC – She added it did not get a Budget Hearing or BOS Review, but was a Consent Item only.</li> <li>• Annis said she would like everybody to be reminded that MHSA has been an ongoing process for years. This is a government agency so we must account for every dollar – She said it is not incumbent upon the new Mental Health Director to clean it up.</li> <li>• Louis agreed with Annis that there has to be accountability. A financial statement must be prepared.</li> <li>• John stated he is in favor of an audit. CPAW voted on items that were vetted through Finance for fiscal year 2012. Decisions have been made. He feels it's questionable what's going on.</li> <li>• Lori read a statement addressed by her to the MHC:  <i>As a person who specializes in working with our elders, knowing the extent that mental health challenges are prevalent among our older adults, and as a family member of a severely paranoid schizophrenic, I am deeply committed to assuring that our elders receive adequate mental health care, particularly through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). I am a member of CPAW and have been for 2.5 years.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>We have worked in good faith to collaborate and try to transform the County's mental health system. However, since the advent of the Behavioral Health Division, I have witnessed</i></p>	<p><b>pass</b></p> <p><b>Aye 7</b>  Louis  Evelyn  Jerome  Peggy  Colette  Teresa  Annis</p> <p><b>Nay 0</b></p> <p><b>Abstain 2</b>  Jack  Carole  (Dave left the meeting prior to this vote being taken)</p>
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*attempt after attempt to blot out our involvement as stakeholders and consumers. In light of California's fifty-year history of mental health consumers' advocacy that has spread throughout this nation, this is particularly insulting, undemocratic, and highly disrespectful on the part of newly appointed leadership. The new Behavioral Health Division leadership started off with trying to limit who could be on CPAW. We revolted and pushed back.*

*Then meetings were cancelled as a matter of whim and pretense. The budget was overhauled and our votes and group decision-making were reversed without explanation. Innovation Grants that we worked on for months and were approved suddenly were reversed without explanation. There has also been a tragic blame game slurring names and reputations of "earlier leaders of the Mental Health Division" who were far better educated, trained and attuned to public mental health in this county.*

*I plead with the Mental Health Commission to stand with us, use your voices, and position to not let the new Behavioral Health Division reverse the rights, dignity, and intelligence of mental health consumers and stakeholders. We need a comprehensive audit of how this new leadership has changed the County MHSA budget and disregarded our input. Our trust in this leadership is very low and they do not recognize how they have tried to disenfranchise us and cause our mistrust.*

*Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.*

*Sincerely,  
Loretta L. Hefner*

- Ziba stated that Local 21 managers have complied with the law and spirit of MHSA— and if an independent audit will help rebuild partnership, they will support it.
- Rollie stated trust and credibility is the issue and felt an audit is the way to do help rebuild it. He

	<p>said he would not refer it to the Grand Jury. Secondly, at CPAW, there was a process to develop programs because of additional funding, but now we're being told the funds are not there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carole sated we need to have a response from Pat Godley regarding finances.</li> <li>• Cynthia responded to a statement Teresa had made about her asking that the motion not to forward. She clarified that she had asked them not to go forward until there was more information. She stated she is concerned about questions and concerns that have been voiced. Estimates are sometimes just estimates. Reports given to the Capital Facilities Committee were those reports that were requested by that committee. Reports prepared for CPAW contained additional information. She didn't see the CPAW meeting as being contentious but as a good dialogue and we are attempting to answer those questions. We are asking for the meeting to be rescheduled because of finance's schedule and so we could answer thoroughly all questions that have been posed. She added that she shares their anger that we haven't been able to provide all the information.</li> <li>• Evelyn commented that whether or not we recommend an independent audit, MHSA is supposed to seek an independent audit.</li> <li>• Carole asked who can give us that data.</li> <li>• Cynthia replied that Jana Drazich is working on gathering the data, and Pat Godley is instrumental in getting it.</li> <li>• Carole asked who can present to us 3 years' worth of data.</li> <li>• Cynthia replied Jana.</li> <li>• Carole asked if those the expenditures you were asking for?</li> <li>• Lori and John said they saw items we had never seen before.</li> <li>• Jack said it is uncertain from the revenue side how much money was going to come in. An audit would make a paper trail, but not help to get the revenue in.</li> <li>• Annis reiterated that there is a stakeholder process involved with all MHSA funds – an approval process through MHSA stakeholders</li> </ul>	
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	<p>and MHC for how money is spent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Grolnic-McClurg acknowledged that a level of mistrust is present. He requested ideas and thoughts on how to repair this. He will judge his success on the job by how this is resolved.</li> <li>• Teresa: Read a section from the W&amp;I Code. She said we don't know if this is being followed.</li> <li>• Jerome: The pushing for an audit is helpful and would be in Steven's best interest.</li> </ul>	
<b>VII. Commissioner Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teresa spoke about the IHI National Forum</li> <li>• Teresa asked that we take a moment to acknowledge the tragic events at Sandy Hook</li> <li>• Annis apologized on behalf of the Commission to John for the lack of decorum displayed by the Chair when he was cut off from speaking at the last meeting and for his comments being disrupted today.</li> </ul>	
<b>VIII. Develop an MHC Committee structure with consideration of committee structure of the Behavioral Health Division</b>	<p>Due to lack of time, this agenda item was not discussed. It will be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	
<b>IX. Adjourn Meeting</b>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant  
Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission