

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES FROM May 14, 2015 - FINAL**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action / Follow-Up</b>
<p><b>I. Call to Order/ Introductions</b></p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by MHC Chairperson Lauren Rettagliata.</p> <p><b><u>Commissioners Present</u></b>            Greg Beckner, District IV            Louis Buckingham, District III            Evelyn Centeno, District V            Duane Chapman, District I            Dave Kahler, District IV            Diana MaKieve, District II            Tess Paoli, District III            Teresa Pasquini, District I            Lauren Rettagliata, District II            Barbara Serwin, District II            Gina Swirsding, District I (Arrived 15 minutes late)</p> <p><b><u>Commissioners Absent</u></b>            Peggy Black, District V            Jerome Crichton, District III            Sam Yoshioka, District IV            Supv. Candace Andersen, BOS Rep.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Commissioners Present</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia Belon, Behavioral Health/Mental Health Director</li> <li>• Travis Curran, Crestwood Behavior Health</li> <li>• Douglas Dunn, NAMI-CC</li> <li>• Warren Hayes, MHSA Program Manager</li> <li>• Georgette Howington, Family Advocate</li> <li>• Melinda Meahan, MHA</li> <li>• Jill Ray, Supv. Andersen’s Office</li> <li>• Karen Shuler, MHC Executive Assistant</li> <li>• Connie Steers, CPAW-BHCP</li> <li>• Janet Marshall Wilson, Former Patients’ Rights Director</li> </ul>	<p><i>Transfer recording to computer.</i></p> <p><i>Update Commissioner Attendance Chart</i></p> <p><i>Update Data Base</i></p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>Lauren spoke about the presentation of the Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month at the Board of Supervisors meeting, which was started with an inspirational song performed by Roberto Roman from the Office of Consumer Empowerment, and included a Leadership Class from Oakley Middle School who produced a video on mental health and also raised over \$700 for mental health awareness.</p> <p>Lauren also thanked the Commissioners who attended the</p>	<p><i>Send out Retreat</i></p>

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	retreat, and added that a synopsis and report on the Retreat prepared by Dr. Ivery will be distributed.	<i>Report from Dr. Ivery to MHC.</i>
<b>II. Public Comment</b>	1) Connie Steers thanked Supv. Anderson and Jill for connecting her to resources to help with the bedbug problem at Riverhouse she spoke about last month. She also thanked NAMI Contra Costa for their help. 2) Janet Marshall Wilson talked about the need for the County to address a children’s issue, a do-not-admit policy that results in children being sent as far away as Florida for treatment. She would like to see a local children’s inpatient unit and/or crisis residential facility. She also brought a letter by a client that praised Connie for her help with a landlord who was trying to evict the client, and this letter was read to the group.	<i>Pass Janet’s comment about the children’s issue on to the Quality of Care Committee.</i>
<b>III. Commissioner Comments</b>	1) Evelyn shared that she felt the recent stabbing in East County was a failure of the mental health system -- that the professionals were probably following hospital policies and should not be held to blame, but rather that the policies they had to follow should be changed. She feels that the County has been dealing with this for many years, that there are many gaps in the system, and that there should be more accountability. She also mentioned a newspaper article describing a lawsuit in Los Angeles accusing a hospital of dumping homeless mentally ill patients back onto the streets. She feels we should have conversations with hospital policy-makers regarding how they treat patients with real or perceived mental health issues. She noted that Julie Kelly, the Mental Health Program Chief at CCRMC, will be a guest at the next Quality of Care Committee meeting and hoped that would be the start of a conversation taking a look at how the medical facilities take care of mentally ill patients and to protect the public.	
<b>IV. Approval of the Minutes from April 9, 2015</b>	➤ Evelyn made a motion, seconded by Duane, to approve the Minutes from April 9, 2015. Discussion: None. Vote: By a unanimous vote of 10-0-0, the Minutes were approved as presented. Absent at the time of the vote: Peggy, Jerome, Sam, Gina, Supv. Anderson. Gina arrived 10 minutes later.	<i>Post approved Minutes to website.</i>
<b>V. Mental Health</b>	Cynthia presented her report (included as an attachment).	

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<p><b>Director’s Report Presented and Discussed</b></p>	<p>Discussion on Item A, Kaizen Action Plan: Integrated Access Line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lauren asked about a possible typographical error on the Kaizen Action Plan (“not” versus “now” on the heading for Item #6) on the printed report, and Cynthia confirmed that it was an error.</li> <li>• Cynthia added there is a plan for a homeless bed reservation system for shelter beds throughout the county. Initially it will start with the two shelters operated by Behavioral Health in Concord and Richmond, but they are hoping to eventually add all of the shelter beds throughout the county. It is currently being tested with a goal to have it in place by the end of August.</li> <li>• Lauren asked if the Access Line was available 24/7, and Cynthia indicated that it was available during business hours and is forwarded to PES after hours. She said they were currently in the process of contracting for the Access Line to be 24/7. San Mateo County will hold the contract for this, and three or four other counties besides us will subcontract for the services.</li> <li>• Lauren asked how someone knows what number to call, and if someone could be referred there from 211. Cynthia indicated that callers to 211 will be referred to the Access Line if they need it.</li> <li>• Teresa asked if the County was “dinged” in response to the triennial audit or the EQRO audit for shortcomings of the Access Line, and Cynthia replied that it came out of the triennial audit, but it was discussed in EQRO that they were moving to a 24/7 system. Teresa said that since PES is very impacted, she is very interested in finding out when there would be 24/7 coverage, since there had been failures on the 24/7 call tests. She wanted to see the burden of the Access Line off of PES. She also wanted to know what PES personnel, if any, were participating in the multiple-county plan.</li> <li>• Cynthia was not sure if the hospital and health centers were participating. She stated that in her department, Vic Montoya and Ziba Rahimzadeh were involved with this, and added that proposals were just submitted last week that are presently in the process of being reviewed and scored. She stated that it needed to go</li> </ul>	<p><i>As a Commission, become aware of the startup date of the reservation system.</i></p> <p><i>Check with 211 on their knowledge of the Access Line.</i></p> <p><i>Are PES personnel participating in the multi-county plan?</i></p> <p><i>To inform the Mental Health Commission of the contract process and please send to the Mental Health</i></p>



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	<p>Cynthia explained that the decision was probably made for economies of scale, since there were 4 or 5 communities looking to do this in the Bay Area at the same time, so they could avoid duplicating efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn asked if the person they picked as the best agency would be serving all the counties. She agreed with Connie that they might not know our structure.</li> <li>• Cynthia suggested that this subject be discussed in a future meeting as an agenda item.</li> <li>• Duane wanted to know who had this in place already, and Cynthia replied that San Francisco had it in place. She explained that she had not been personally involved in the process and didn't have all the information but would bring a comprehensive report for the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on Item B, Mental Health Adult Services Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lauren asked if there were any plans for the \$626,000 remaining from the CalHFA checkbook and who would be deciding what would happen with that funding.</li> <li>• Warren stated that his understanding was that there was less than \$30,000 left and that total may include funds that are already committed. He informed the group that there was recent legislation passed that enabled counties to retrieve uncommitted funds from CalHFA, and they went through that process to retrieve uncommitted funds when the legislation passed.</li> <li>• Lauren stated that the last CalHFA checkbook she saw was in February 2014, and she had asked Sandra Rose to bring it up to date for the February 2015 checkbook, but at that time funds were already committed for projects and there was a pot of money. She agreed with Warren that they needed to verify what funds were uncommitted and asked Cynthia to make sure this was verified.</li> <li>• Cynthia agreed that we needed to find out exactly what money was there and whether it has already been committed and agreed to get the answer.</li> <li>• Warren stated that his information came from Sandra Rose and was fairly recent.</li> <li>• Gina asked if there was a policy decision made to pull the money from CalHFA. Cynthia stated that she was not sure if there was money available. Gina said she</li> </ul>	<p><i>and possibly others.</i></p> <p><i>Place update on future Agenda.</i></p> <p><i>Follow up on the amount of the CalHFA checkbook.</i></p>

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	<p>understood that there had not been such a decision and wondered who was involved with that?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warren said that these funds were put in play a while ago and are now finishing up, and the issue is to see what funds are left when the projects are completed, and once the amount is identified, they can discuss what to do about it.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on Item C, Color-Coded Uniforms at Orin Allen Boys Ranch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia asked if the Commission would like them to proceed with having the Data Evaluation Team create a survey to assess the issue and that they would be happy to create one if the Commission wants one.</li> <li>• Louis asked if the social psychologist was going to take the survey from the staff as well as from the youth. He felt that the color-coded uniforms were a form of segregation. He stated that the staff and youth had both had questions about the color coding when he had visited there. He felt that if the purpose of the facility is to rehabilitate the youngsters and put them back into society, there had to be an integration program so they can go back and integrate into the community, and that the color coding was similar to having gang colors and that it encouraged staff to recognize the youth by their uniform color, not by their name. When he was at the Juvenile Justice Commission meeting recently, the Chief of Probation indicated that they would change the colors to green or gold, because it was brought to his attention and he realized the significance of those colors. He felt it was important to have the survey to ask what the different colors meant to the youth but that there was no need to do a survey if the colors will be changed within a month.</li> <li>• Evelyn thought that the reason for the color coding was good, but the methodology was in question because of the psychological effect of associating the colors with gangs. She also felt it was a diversity issue, because in interviews they would get different answers from different people. She felt it was important for the social psychologist to come up with questions that would generate the answers needed to validate their position. She stated that until the survey is done, they won't know if it is a problem, and she urged the Commission to continue to find out.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Get followup from the Chief of Probation on the uniform and integration problem.</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia indicated that she would be happy to follow up on the issue.</li> <li>• Gina stated that the colors at Juvenile Hall might not be common gang colors, but that children do develop their own sets of colors within their own setting. She is working with a group of children in Richmond who have assigned a gang type of significance to a specific color that is not a gang-related color, and this was confirmed by the staff. Because of this, she feels that there could be a similar type of association in juvenile hall with different colors, and they could possibly carry it outside of their system. She felt it was an issue to be careful of that should be investigated.</li> </ul> <p>Other discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lauren pointed out that there was a general, summary type of budget for the Mental Health Division. She reminded everyone that one job they do as a Commission is to be aware of their budget. She added that this was just the money in the Mental Health Division, but they had other mental health money in other sections of the budget, such as the hospital, Homeless, and AOD. She hopes that similar statements will be presented each month to make it easier to track it. When we are talking about the mental health funds that are available, it is hard for us to track if there are other mental health funds that are being used in Alcohol and Other Drugs, at the hospital, or in the Homeless budget. We need to be able to identify if there are MHSA Realignment 1 or Realignment 2 funds or other mental health funds being used there. It is easy to track them if they are in the main mental health services, but when they move over into the other behavioral health departments, it is hard for us to track these as a commission.</li> <li>• Doug offered to make a short presentation on his visit to Homeless Court, and Lauren asked him to do so. He wanted to see if there was anything utilized in that court that could be used in the Laura's Law court for this county. The judge was familiar with mental health matters, as he has long history of dealing with them before he was in the Homeless Court. He said it was quite informal, and there was an uplifting, extemporaneous style. He felt that was a good type of atmosphere to have in an AOT Court. He emailed the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>AOT Director of San Francisco to ask her about having a closed court versus an open court. She indicated that an AOT Court would be a closed-court process, because they are dealing with sensitive mental health matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tess wanted a copy of the current MHSA Plan budget, and Karen said she would bring one for her to a meeting next week.</li> </ul>	
<b>VI. Adjourn Meeting</b>	The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.	

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Melinda Meahan, Scribe;  
 Edited by Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant  
 Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission