

**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2020**

Agenda Item / Discussion	Action /Follow-Up
<p>I. Call to Order / Introductions Cmsr. B. Serwin, MHC Chair, called the meeting to order @ 4:32pm</p> <p><u>Members Present:</u> Chair- Cmsr. Barbara Serwin, District II Cmsr, Douglas Dunn, District III Cmsr. Laura Griffin, District V Cmsr, John Kincaid, District II Cmsr. Katie Lewis, District I Cmsr. Leslie May, Vice-Chair, District V Cmsr. Joe Metro, District V Cmsr. Kira Monterrey, District III Cmsr. Alana Russaw, District IV Cmsr. Geri Stern, District I Cmsr. Gina Swirsding, District I (arrived after start of meeting) Cmsr. Graham Wiseman, District II</p> <p><u>Members Absent:</u> Cmsr. Diane Burgis, Supervisor, District III Cmsr. Sam Yoshioka, District IV</p> <p><u>Other Attendees:</u> Dr. Suzanne Tavano, Behavioral Health Director, Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services (CCBHS) Grita Bahramipour Jennifer Bruggeman, MHSA Program Manager Cri Campbell Jan Cobaleda-Kegler, Adult/Older Adult Program Chief Lisa Finch Carolyn Goldstein-Hidalgo Mark Goodman, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Diane Burgis Office Taun Hall Laura Halpin Colleen Isenberg Awad, Representative of Supervisor Karen Mitchoff Office Susan Kalaei Lynda Kaufman Audrey Montana, MHSA Administrative Support Dawn Morrow Margaret Netherby Carolyn Obringer Teresa Pasquini Dom Pruett, Representative of Supervisor Candace Andersen Office Laura Rettagliata Ogie Strogantz Kristine Suchan Robert Thigpen, MH Family Services Coordinator Jennifer Tuipulotu Jimi Vicencio</p>	<p>Complete Audio Recording available</p> <p>Meeting was held via Zoom platform</p>

<p>II. PUBLIC COMMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cri Campbell – Is the Co-Chair of the Mental Health Committee for Friends of Scott Alexis and Taun Hall. Goal is to establish a pilot program, to change outcomes and save lives. Request immediate attention for the dire need for all cities in Contra Costa County for non-police response program. Firmly believe if such a program had been in place June 2, 2019, Miles Hall would still be with us today. • Gig Crowder – Agree with non-police response to calls involving mental health. Request the Mental Health Commission join with the Board of Supervisors to ultimately name this new program in honor of Miles Hall as the Miles Hall Non-police Response Program. Can work on finding funding for the program and collaborate. • Taun Hall – The mother of Miles Hall. Her son was having a mental health crisis. The system should not criminalize our children. Police came with guns. If there was a different response or other criteria, Miles would be alive and today and living a thriving life. This was a tragedy that happened to Miles - who was innocent and did not deserve to die that day. Would like to partner with the Mental Health Commission to find funding in order to save other people’s lives. We need to create change and protect other families from such a tragedy. • Teresa Pasquini – Would like this topic to be further discussed. She had to call 911 forty times regarding her son and Sheriffs came into her home. Each time was a frightening experience. Can share historical information on this issue with the Commission. Need thoughtful conversation on this issue as a community. • Ogie Strogatz – Supports a non-police response for the Walnut Creek based pilot program that honors the memory of Miles Hall. 	
<p>III. COMMISSIONER COMMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Dunn – Alameda and Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services are requiring all community based organizations upon renewal of contracts to have smoking cessation programs. Recommend ask this County do the same. Recommend this topic for Mental Health Commission (MHC) Quality of Care Committee. Senate Bill 665 would permit use of Innovation MHSA funds for jail based Innovation Mental Health passed through committee. We oppose as believe this violates the intent of the MHSA. Assembly Bill 1976 which would extend assisted outpatient treatment permanently is sailing through committees. Senate Bill 803 regarding Peer support certification is sailing through the Assembly. • L. May – Recommend addressing the issue of voting by the severely mentally ill population and also the unhoused population. Should get a report out by September. I believe Commissioner John Kincaid is working on this. Need to address these issues quickly. B. Serwin - responded that we will be starting this conversation at this Commission meeting today. 	
<p>IV. CHAIR COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Serwin – The Board of Supervisors’ hearing on the 2020-2021 Budget was held yesterday. The recording of the hearing is on the Board’s website. 	
<p>V. APPROVE June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1, 2020 Minutes reviewed. Minor revisions noted. Motion: J. Kinkaid moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by L. May. Vote: 11-0-0 Ayes: B. Serwin (Chair), D. Dunn, L. Griffin, J. Kincaid, K. Lewis, L. May, J. Metro, K. Monterrey, A. Russaw, G. Stern, G. Wiseman Abstain: 0 	<p>Agendas and minutes can be found at: https://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/agendas-minutes.php</p>

VI. RECEIVE Behavioral Health Services Director's Report, Dr. Suzanne Tavano:

- **Census:** The federal census has been ordered to close over one month early. This is a great concern. The phase of the census is focused on outreach to those who are hard to reach. Want everyone in the community to count. If cannot reach, they are not counted. Representation and funding could be lost. Putnam Clubhouse and others helping in this outreach effort.
- **COVID-19 and the Prison System:** The virus is spreading throughout the State prison system. At least two thousand people tested positive. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDRC) has initiated an early release program. Estimate thirty people a month return to the County. Health Services will work with Probation and State Parole. Behavioral Health working also with Probation to ensure people returning have the housing and health care. BHS Forensics team can help. State Parole obtained hotel rooms around the state. Probation also has rooms.
- **County lease of hotel rooms:** Due to COVID-19, the shelters were closed. The County obtained a total of 500 hotel beds. Two hundred fifty people have been transferred out of shelters into private individual hotel/motels rooms. Don Brown residents including staff moved to a hotel. Staff there providing support. Those receiving services prior are still receiving services. Providing services to new residents also. Have one PUI hotel for those testing positive, or awaiting results and those released from PES at night.
- **Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT):** The MCRT resuming community based crisis intervention. Do not go into the home. Meet outside the home. The Mental Health Emergency Teams (MHET) have continued with in person contact since the pandemic began. The MCRT for youth is working remotely. Acknowledged Teresa Pasquini and advocates who work tirelessly and recommended reading of the San Francisco Chronicle article, "Backdoor to Getting Mental Health Care."
- **Testing:** COVID-19 test results are taking longer. Labs are backing up. Residents in congregate care facilities are being tested. Looks like a decline in cases, but there is an issue with the data. Ten days ago at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, a staff member Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Inpatient Unit tested positive. Appeared exposed from community spread not thru clients or patients. Patients or staff have not tested positive. Ward was closed temporarily and now reopened for admissions. PES remained open. Appears the Board of Supervisors and District Attorney supported moving forward to impose fines and sanctions to individuals and businesses not adhering to mask or to social distancing guidelines.
- **Schools:** High Schools – no current plan for in-person classes. Pres-school and Elementary Schools - the Public Health Officer is watching closely. As long as the County is on the Watch (Monitoring) List, no in-person classes.
- **Budget:**
 - ◊ Board of Supervisors completed a twelve hour hearing yesterday. Budget not passed. Budget hearing continued to next week.
 - ◊ Focus on keeping the same level of services. Anticipate a decline in funding from FY 2020 thru 2024.
 - ◊ Reduced MediCal (realignment) funds so reduced federal matching funds
 - ◊ May need to look at Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to replace loss of realignment dollars in order to keep core programs going. Cannot expand programs as had planned. But, anticipate no cuts. A priority from stakeholders is housing. Hope to enhance Board and Cares under MHSA.
 - ◊ MCRT receives funding from MHSA. Look ahead to add funding by forming partnerships (i.e. cities, commercial insurers, etc.).
 - ◊ Medical Director and staff– opened recruiting but do not have a new Director as yet. Hired two psychiatrists for west County Adult Clinic.

VII. DISCUSS Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program topics and events, including a report out of the July 24th AOT workgroup meeting, an Ohio Symposium presentation, notice of a Treatment Advocacy Center and American Psychiatric Association White Paper, and notice of an upcoming Treatment Advocacy Center consultation with the Contra Costa County AOT Program

- L. May – Provided a document of the highlights of the July 24th Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) workgroup meeting. Would like to put Teresa Pasquini’s White Paper be scheduled for presentation for the Justice Systems Committee.
- Jan Cobaleda Kegler (Adult/Older Adult Program Chief, BHS)
 - AOT Symposium Highlights (Elements and Building Blocks)
 - Provided overview of the Ohio AOT Symposium of December 2019. White Paper published October 2019 – elements to maximize results for AOT and provide nationwide best practices. Established elements for an AOT program.
 - Listed elements and building blocks of an AOT program – (i.e. Leadership buy in, Funding, Stakeholder interest, Judicial engagement, Oversight, Educate stakeholders and communities, Data tracking and program evaluation for improvement)
 - Leadership collaboration with law enforcement, consumer advocates.
 - The Contra Costa AOT Workgroup – functions as a steering committee with input from the BHS Forensic Team, MHSA Team, Treatment Team, Justice Partners, the Court, Consumer advocates and family members. Mental Health, Behavioral Health Services also involved. Is a coordinated effort. Discussed court treatment plans.
 - Summarized the Contra Costa County Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, the role of the judge in the AOT program and court treatment plans
 - Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC)
 - Working to schedule a meeting for AOT with the Treatment Advocacy Center in September. They provide technical services and assisted AOT two years ago.
- Teresa Pasquini spoke on the AOT Symposium Conference in Ohio
 - Attended and also discussed the Ohio AOT Symposium. Excellent opportunity for AOT teams from across the nation to discuss topics
 - Summarized the White Paper focused on AOT. There is a portal focused on serious mental illness with training modules available for educational credits. Provided the link.
 - Provided information and training that can benefit this local AOT program
- Discussion and Comments:
 - G. Crowder – In reference to the AOT Symposium, there is no information as to the ethnic demographics or cultural info as to those in the programs. I was not aware of the Symposium. Must ensure services provided are fair and equitable for all to benefit from these programs. Jan Cobaleda-Kegler responded that this issue could be brought before TAC. Dr. Tavano Response – We met with RDA that did the evaluation of our AOT program. Must work internally within the legal system re referrals to the AOT program. Also agree makes a difference when families can advocate for their loved ones. Important that we look at this further.
 - J. Kincaid – Need to review the White Paper on the issue of a person’s competency to vote. Pertinent issue.
 - D. Dunn – AOT should also address the issue of involuntary participation in the program and the ethnic orientation of participants going forward.

<p>VIII: CONSIDER motions proposed by the MHC Justice Committee regarding police training and use of force as they relate to police response to mental health crisis calls, Commissioners Geri Stern and Douglas Dunn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request the Board of Supervisors to recommend to the County Sheriff’s Department and the Contra Costa Police Chief’s Association to ban outside training that actively encourages police officers to treat every citizen encounter as a threat to be handled by deadly force and to implement instead community-oriented, de-escalation training such as that offered by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). b. Request the Board of Supervisors to recommend to the Sheriff’s Department and the Contra Costa Police Chief’s Association to establish Uniform Use of Force standards for all 5150 situations following the crisis de-escalation training such as that offered by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Dunn – Provided background for both motions. G. Wiseman – Suggested adding the Contra Costa Mayors Council in the motion. J. Kincaid – The motions refer to military style police training and use of military equipment. Commented the Mayors Council may not be directly involved in the law enforcement training. The Mayors Council can be addressed later by the Justice Committee for discussion. • Motion: To approve section (a) motion as written: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Request the Board of Supervisors to recommend to the County Sheriff’s Department and the Contra Costa Police Chief’s Association to ban outside training that actively encourages police officers to treat every citizen encounter as a threat to be handled by deadly force and to implement instead community-oriented, de-escalation training such as that offered by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). <p>J. Kincaid moved to accept the motion; seconded by D. Dunn Vote: 11-0-0 Ayes: B. Serwin (Chair), D. Dunn, L. Griffin, J. Kincaid, K. Lewis, L. May, J. Metro, K. Monterrey, A. Russaw, G. Stern, G. Wiseman Abstain: 0</p> • Motion: To approve section (b) motion as written: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Request the Board of Supervisors to recommend to the Sheriff’s Department and the Contra Costa Police Chief’s Association to establish Uniform Use of Force standards for all 5150 situations following the crisis de-escalation training such as that offered by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). <p>J. Kincaid moved to accept the motion; seconded by D. Dunn Vote: 11-0-0 Ayes: B. Serwin (Chair), D. Dunn, L. Griffin, J. Kincaid, K. Lewis, L. May, J. Metro, K. Monterrey, A. Russaw, G. Stern, G. Wiseman Abstain: 0</p> • These issues may be discussed at the upcoming Contra Costa Mayors Conference. Can refer to the MHC Justice Systems Committee for discussion. 	
<p>IX: DISCUSS needs that people with a serious mental illness have for voting support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Kincaid – people with disabilities, who are homeless or suffer from serious mental illness may need to vote in person as they may not get their mail in ballots or cannot get to the polls. Need research transportation. Registrar of Voters is now Debra Cooper. Number of polling sites reduced due to COVID-19. But, informed all polling sites that were open for the primary will be open for the upcoming election. Will have fifty early voting 	

<p>locations. Will also install secure drop boxes so people do not have to enter buildings. Informed Putnam Clubhouse may be assisting. Will reach out to Tamara Hunter at Putnam Clubhouse. Uber and Lyft will offer free or discounted rides to the polls. Election Department has an office of Civil Engagement that offers transportation to voters. But, Manager position is vacant. Voting will be reasonably accessible as a lot of voting locations and drop boxes will be available and there will be early voting. Need to make people aware of this and need to find ways to provide transportation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tavano – Historically had vouchers, taxis and bus tokens. Previously clinics helped people register to vote and helped with transportation. Clinics are open but the number of in-person visits now much less. Putnam Clubhouse and NAMI are collaborating. She has reached out to the Office of Consumer Empowerment. • B. Serwin – Can now register at the voting table. Perhaps consider using community centers and our clinics as poll sites. • Gigi Crowder – NAMI is working with Putnam. Putting information in various languages. • G. Serwin – Consumers can request absentee ballot. Will then get for every election. Can designate someone to deliver the ballot. 	
<p>X: Adjourned Meeting at 6:43pm</p>	