

**CONTRA COSTA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006**

<p>1. Call to Order/ Introductions</p> <p>Attendees:</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bobbie J. Arnold at 4:37 p.m.</p> <p><u>Commissioners:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bobbie J. Arnold, District I 2. Geet Gobind, District III 3. Lisa Honegger, District V 4. Dave Kahler, District IV 5. Judy McCahon, District III 6. Bettye J. Randle, District I 7. Lisa Ronan, District IV 8. Daniel L. Ruxin, District V 9. Scott Singley, District III 10. Robert Torres, District II <p><u>Staff, Members of the Public and Guests:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mariana Moore, Contractors' Alliance 2. Harold Parsley, AOD Advisory Board 3. Karen Shuler, MHC Staff 4. Suzanne Tavano, MHA 5. Jonathan Young, HS (Wraparound)/CFS 	<p><u>Commissioners Absent:</u> Supv. DeSaulnier, Exc. Supv. Glover, Exc. Kathi McLaughlin, Exc. Cynthia Miller, Exc. Karen Sloma, Exc. Diane Soto, Exc.</p>
<p>2. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Bateson, from the Contra Costa Crisis Center, mentioned that the Crisis Center's Suicide Prevention Hotline is on the list of scheduled budget cuts. • Mariana Moore introduced herself as the new Director of Contractors' Alliance, replacing Liz Callahan. • Harold Parsley, from the Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board, mentioned that the Aging Constituents gave a report regarding alcohol and other drugs use by older adults. 	
<p>3. Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A card was distributed for signature expressing sympathy to Donna Wigand on the occasion of her father's death. • A Thank You note from Dr. Walker responding to the Commission's expression of sympathy on the death of his step-son was read. 	
<p>4. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>The Minutes of February 23, 2006 were approved as presented.</p>	<p>M-Ronan; S-Sloma. Carried.</p>
<p>5. Chairperson's Report – Bobbie J. Arnold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On recommendation from County Counsel, due to the requirements listed in the Welfare & Institutions Code applying to the Commission, entertain a motion to change the quorum portion of the Bylaws to read: 	

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	<p>“A quorum shall be a majority of the number of the currently filled seats on the Commission [Last revised in 2002, it now reads: “One (1) person more than one-half (1/2) of the appointed members shall constitute a quorum.” In June of 2005, County Counsel ruled that it must state: “One (1) person more than one-half (1/2) of the authorized seats on the Commission (16) shall constitute a quorum.”] Motion carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertain a motion to recommend to Supv. Federal Glover that Daniel Ruxin be able to serve as an out-of-district representative following his move to Walnut Creek (Supv. Piepho’s district). Motion carried. • Entertain a motion to approve a letters to Kaiser and John Muir Behavioral Health Center regarding sending patients out-of-county. Scott Singley gave the background that led to this motion – stating that he had been informed Kaiser is sending patients out-of-County despite their contract with John Muir. Motion carried. • Mental Health Commission’s Annual Awards. Each Committee will choose their nominees at their April meetings. The Awards will be presented in May. 	<p>M-Singley; S-Ronan. Carried.</p> <p>M-Singley; S-Randle. Carried.</p> <p>M-Gobind; S-Ronan. Carried.</p>
<p>6. Guest Jonathan Young from Children & Family Services</p>	<p>Jonathan gave the background that led to his appearance before the Commission today. Several months ago, Shani O’Neal, School Psychologist with Mt. Diablo Unified School District Special Education, presented to the Commission a need for volunteers to participate in a mentoring program. She mentioned there was one particular family that was in need of a mentor for a teenage boy. Jonathan heard about the need, applied to be a mentor, went through the training process, and became the mentor for that boy’s brother (the other teenage boy did not feel he was in need of a mentor at the time). Jon came to the meeting to present the need for additional mentors. He explained that it was a time commitment similar to Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and that it was a voluntary position. He explained the personal satisfaction he had</p>	

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	<p>received from helping, along with the positive changes in the behavior of the teen he was mentoring. Those interested may contact him through the Mental Health Commission office.</p>	
<p>7. Mental Health Director's Report</p>	<p><i>Due to the death of her father, Mental Health Director Donna Wigand was unable to be present. Suzanne Tavano presented her report and responded to questions from the Commission.</i></p> <p>Update on the Implementation of the Mental Health Services Act</p> <p>Suzanne reported that a letter had been received from the State Department of Mental Health containing some questions on the Plan the County had submitted. She said we hope to get the programs going this Spring. A response to the letter is in the process of being formulated.</p> <p>Update on the County Budget Process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne reported that this is the 5th year of cuts due to a decrease in County General Funds. Health Services has been asked to reduce by \$3.5 million. This year the cuts will affect all programs and all our staff. She stated we are trying to come up with a reduction list, but the impact statement is not set yet. Dr. Walker should be sending out an all-staff announcement, which will be followed by an on-line announcement. Then the proposed cuts will be submitted to the CAO and on to the Board of Supervisors for the April 25 Public Hearing. • Suzanne said that for mental health, we have strong collaboratives in children's services. Summit Center for Boys will probably be cut. It is hoped that Chris Adams Center for Girls will remain intact. • Dave Kahler raised a question regarding eliminating the Contra Costa Crisis Center's Suicide Prevention Hotline. He challenged the impact statement that said the Access Line and PES will be able to replace this service. John Bateson, from the CC Crisis Center, stated that in the past this same rationale (using the Access Line) had been used. He sated Donna opposes this. The Access Line rings in to the MH 	

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	<p>Administration during regular business hours. After hours and on weekends calls are switched to PES. John further stated that the Access Line and PES are not advertised as a Suicide Prevention Line. He went on to say that in San Francisco and Alameda Counties, they contracted out the Access Line, which they found to be cost-saving. We prefer to manage it internally. The contract due to be cut represents ½ of 1% of the County budget. John distributed a sample letter containing information for the Board of Supervisors about the Suicide Prevention Line. It pays for itself in reduced hospitalization and police costs. The costs of the contract is \$108,000 for a 24/7 service. It is matched 3 to 1 by private services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was forceful discussion about the need to not cut the \$108,000 from the Crisis Center. The need for an accurate impact statement was stressed. It was decided the Commission would write a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing concern over this cut, stating it is not only cost effective and necessary, but that the Crisis Line is the gateway to the whole network of mental health services. A motion was made and carried. 	<p>M-Ronan; S-Randle. Carried.</p>
<p>8. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Justice System Committee A Commissioner sign-up for site visit to Richmond Jail facility on April 14th was distributed.</p> <p>Older Adults Committee Entertain a motion to approve a letter to Dr. William Walker asking that he aid the Commission in obtaining a report from Dr. Jeff Smith. Motion carried.</p> <p>Organizational Development Committee. 1 Member-at-Large opening in District I.</p> <p>Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee. A Commissioner sign-up sheet for a site visit to the Los Medanos Adult Mental Health Clinic was distributed.</p> <p>Children’s Committee. There was no report.</p>	<p>M-Randle; S-Singley. Carried.</p>

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9. Ancillary Committees/Boards/ Commissions Reports	Contractors' Alliance. Marianna Moore replaces Liz Callahan in representing the Contractors' Alliance. No report was given. California Institute for Mental Health. There was no report. California Mental Health Boards/ Commissions. There was no report. California Mental Health Planning Council. Bettye Randle had no report. California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth. There was no report. Mental Health Coalition. There was no report.	
10. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 6:25.	

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant
Mental Health Commission