

Minutes

Present: Sally Ragonut, Chair; Paula Mason, Vice-Chair; Supervisor Lor; Vince Ramos; Mary Ellis; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Emil Erreca; Vicki Humble; Keng Cha; Micki Archuleta

Absent: Bruce Metcalf, Secretary; Virginia Vega; Brian Pena

Others Present: Yvonnia Brown; Kim Carter; Sharon Mendonca; Patti Kishi; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Chair Sally Ragonut called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Flag salute was done. Roll call was taken.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read by Paula Mason.

Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: Iris had one correction for the minutes. On page 5, her report under Announcements, the second to last sentence states "our counties" and that should read "their county". M/S/C (Mason / Ellis) to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes with the one correction noted.

Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Ellis / Mojica de Tatum) to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes.

Opportunity for public input. At this time any person may comment on any item which is not on the agenda.

Discussion/Conclusion: No one from the public wished to speak. Sally welcomed Kim Carter and Patti Kishi who is a NAMI Board member.

Recommendation/Action: None

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- b. Board Orientation and Development
 - (1) Review and Discuss Board Orientation and Development Plan
- c. Membership Committee
- d. Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)
- e. Annual Report
- f. Executive Committee
- g. Board Member Reports

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Paula reported that the Prevention Team is actively involved in the Strategic Plan framework. They currently meet with the programs in Los Banos on Tuesdays, Dos Palos on Wednesdays, Le Grand on Thursdays, and Delhi on Mondays. The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) programs are currently working on two Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs); this is a new State requirement for them. The Prevention Team has also been actively involved in completing the Strategic Planning framework process for the assessment phase which was reviewed and approved. Now they are in the planning phase as well. They have some upcoming events, one being the Youth-to-Youth Conference. They will be working on getting a school site for this event. It will be a change of venue from last year. The tentative date is March 7, 2020. Yvonnia stated that they have secured Merced High School for the event. Paula continued that the Prevention Team meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00-12:00 at 480 E. 13th Street, Merced. Everyone is welcome. b. Bruce was not present today. Sally stated that the Board has gone for six months without doing any true onboarding for new members. Sally would like to schedule a time this month to have new Board members come and go through the Board binder before any more changes are done with the binders. She will talk to Bruce about this when he returns. Yvonnia stated that there is a committee that has been developed regarding orientation and this is something that group needs to look at. Supervisor Lor asked Sally to email her regarding this and they could discuss further. c. Mary had nothing to report. d. Mary had nothing to report; the meeting was canceled for the holidays. e. Sally stated that the 2018/19 Annual Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on December 10, 2019 by Micki Archuleta, Mary Ellis and herself. The committee working on the Annual Report for 2019/2020 will begin meeting in early April with the hope they can be finished by June and present to the BOS in July; this committee consists of Iris, Virginia and Sally. f. Sally reported that at the last Executive Committee they discussed the lack of a quorum at the December 3, 2019 meeting in which Sharon Jones had prepared a Public Hearing for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update. Since there was not a quorum, the Behavioral Health Board was not able to approve this update. Sharon Jones will present this again at the February meeting; a quorum will once again be needed. Sally also stated that on future agenda items she would like to put the quorum issue out for Board discussion. She will discuss this more at a later date. g. No reports.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Chair's Report

- a. Calif. Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions – Discussion Regarding State Representation

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Sally stated Keng has been this Board's representative for many years; she asked that Keng give an update. Keng stated that there used to be 25 representatives attending these meetings but since Theresa Comstock became the Executive Director of the Association that number was reduced to 15 representatives. This is when Merced lost its seat. There are four meetings every year. The State is broken into five regions – Southern, Central, Northern, Bay area and Los Angeles with three representatives each. There was discussion on how much Merced paid for membership; Yvonnia stated that we paid \$1,000. Yvonnia believed there was conversation about a year ago on whether Merced County wanted to continue to pay this membership fee when we did not have a seat. Keng stated that the dues are voluntary; many counties do not pay. He continued that the role and responsibility of this Commission is to help train new board members. Supervisor Lor's recommendation for training is that we want local training because it is so broad. Any question she has asked previously, they told her to ask the county's legal counsel. She feels it is not worth our time.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Lor had nothing new to report. She recommended that going forward this item (Supervisor's Report) be taken off the agenda. If she has anything to report, she can do so under the "Board Member Reports" or one of the other committee reports that she is part of.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Director's Report

- a. Homeless & Housing Update
 - 1) Pending Projects
 - 2) B Street
 - 3) Navigation Center
- b. Behavioral Health Director's Recruitment Update
- c. Family Advocate & Peer Support Update

Discussion/Conclusion: a.1) Yvonnia reported that they are looking at a new Livingston Clinic. Last year authority was given to look for a new location. They are in negotiations for a site that was identified; they have an architect that is working on the design. One site they were looking at was right behind Popeye's. The city of Livingston identified a different property that we may be interested in instead which is right in front of the Livingston Health Clinic. The Department of Public Works (DPW) is trying to finalize plans. The current site has about 2,500 sq. ft.; the new site would have between 5-6,000 sq. ft. This project is being fund through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and has been approved through the MHSA Planning Process. Update on Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) – the adult CSU is up and running as of October and is now an 8 bed facility instead of 4 beds. Youth CSU – it is finished but they are still negotiating with the vendor. They hope it will be operational by April 2020. The youth CSU will have 4 beds. 2) New Direction campus – this is currently located on B Street and Childs and will be moving to the main campus on 13th Street where the adult CSU was temporarily located; this move will take place on January 13th. The City of Merced will then be moving forward with a 120-unit campus at the B Street location. The City paid \$1,080,000.00 for the property and this money will go back to Behavioral Health under the MHSA program Community Services and Support (CSS). 3) The Navigation Center will be located where the old Juvenile Hall used to be. The Navigation Center is a collaborative project that will have shelter, supportive services, and outreach and engagement. There will be about 100 units located there. It will help house the homeless individuals, couples as well as pets. b. The first round of interviews are scheduled for January 21st. Yvonnia is currently wearing both hats at Behavioral Health and Human Services Agency and will be doing so until a new Director is found for Behavioral Health. c. A few months ago there was conversation about having a family support person to help when someone leaves Marie Green. The Department is in the process of addressing this; it has already been added to the MHSA plan because the funding needed is part of Innovation. This will be an additional position; there is not any new funding – it is maximizing the funding that has already been advocated for. There will be two more Peer Support Specialists and one nurse for the Innovative Strategist Network (ISN) program. Staff are currently working on policies, procedures and trainings. The Peer Support Specialist explains, from their perspective, what clients should expect when someone goes in/out of Marie Green or other mental health situations. Peer Support Specialists will be located in different areas.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: Vicki commented that Delhi will be offering free prescription at the school for those with mental illness. They are working at bringing more people to the Livingston Clinic. The Livingston Clinic has been wonderful in helping her. There is also a dental office that is helping those with mental illness. Many times the medication that is taken affects their teeth.

Micki stated that this may be her last meeting. She may have to resign because she will be teaching a class on Tuesdays. She is in the process of finding out if she can take a leave of absence until she is done teaching this class. Just in case this is her last meeting she wanted to pass on two messages. First, she relayed an incident with a family member. Second, the Wellness Center's programs are Christian oriented/faith based. There are no secular programs such as SMART Recovery which allows people to work on their recovery without being faith based.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

301 E. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341

January 7, 2020

Sally reported that there will be a tour of the building at 4:45 for anyone wanting to do so. There is a Confidentiality Form that will have to be signed by everyone taking the tour. She continued that she attended the Triennial Review closing on December 5th. She pointed at five strengths of the Department: 1. Recognizing homelessness; 2. There is a high degree of collaboration; 3. Homeless outreach; 4. Innovative Strategist Network which they thought was great; and 5. They thanked the Dept. for the hard work that is done for the beneficiaries. In sixty days there should be feedback on the Triennial Review with their recommendations.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Future Agenda Items / Possible Action Items

Discussion/Conclusion: Vince stated they have come out with a new, revised Boards & Responsibilities of the Mental Health Board and there are a lot of changes. He would like to put this on the agenda to review and have it explained. Sally was not aware of what Vince was talking about. Vince stated that Carol had sent to the email out to Board members; Carol did not remember the email. Vince said he would find the email and forward it.

Iris thought the by-laws should be reviewed and that the "leave of absence" could be addressed as well as changes in the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Sally stated that the EQRO (External Quality Review Organization) is currently taking place and tomorrow there is a closing session that she cannot make. She asked if anyone else from the Board could please attend. On a future agenda Sally would like to discuss what to do when there is not a quorum and there is a Public Hearing; can the meeting be canceled. Yvonnia responded that there is still a Public Hearing and the meeting cannot be canceled. Sally would also like to have an ad-hoc committee to help her plan for a Board retreat in April.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 3:58 pm.

Submitted by: *Signed*

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: *Signed*

Bruce Metcalf, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: 3/4/20

Date: 3/3/20