

# Summary

## Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Ongoing Planning Council

January 18, 2018  
9:00am  
Mental Health Facility  
1137 B Street, Merced

### Present:

Andrea Tovar, Nancy Reding, Andrea Cruthird-Mays, Brenda Geary, Griselda Vazquez, Brenda Reyes, Timothy Pilkington, Amy Hang, Cindy Mattox, Alfred Rivera, Anna Santos, Alice Liang, Sandra Sandoval, Vong Chang, Paul Thao, Rebeca Wood, Irvin Guzman Gutierrez, Rhonda Prater, Ashley Anthony, Ruben Chavez, Ka Her, Taylor Frost, Chris Bobbitt, Toni Mittnacht, Lucy Chavez, Robert Chavez, Gloria Nunn, Jaclyn Kotulik, Danielle Mumford, Ruby Awesome, Fernando Granados, Caitlin Haygood

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

#### I. Call to Order / Roll Call

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for January 18, 2018 was motioned/seconded (Fernando Granados/Nancy Reding) and carried.

#### III. Update Planning Council Contact List

Sharon Jones of the Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services stated that the contact list is updated when everyone signs in.

#### IV. Notice to the Public

Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator for BHRS, informed the council that Iris Mojica de Tatum resigned from Chair as of December 2017 and that she would be facilitating today's meeting. Nancy Reding, community member, shared that on February 19, 2018, Rev. Edward Pinkly, former political prisoner, will be speaking at Merced's Multicultural Art Center per the request of Journey for Justice. No additional information was given. Ka Her stated that the Dennard Davis building dedication is scheduled for January 19, 2018, from 1pm to 3pm. Brenda Reyes, Membership Chair for the Merced Running Club, gave a brief description of the Merced Family Fitness Fair hosted by the Merced Running Club. This event is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 1pm to 4pm at McNamara Park. Flyers and sponsorship letters were distributed to the group. Nancy Reding also informed the group that an Empty Bowl Project dinner is scheduled for February 1, 2018 at the First Baptist Church on Buena Vista and M Street. All who attend will receive a hand-made bowl; Merced Community Action Agency is the sponsor. Fernando Granados announced that the Executive Director for Sierra Vista, Judy Kindle, will be retiring at the end of the fiscal year; the hiring process has already begun.

#### V. Chair's Report

No Chair Report

#### VI. Director's Report

Yvonnia Brown absent. Dr. Alice Liang, Assistant Director of BHRS, stated that the new building project is moving forward and an opening ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the first week of April. The community is invited to attend the opening ceremony; tours will be provided. Dr. Liang shared with the group who would be moving into the new building.

#### VII. Update on MHSA three-Year Program plan Approval

Sharon Jones stated that on December 19, 2017 the MHSA Three-Year Program plan went to the Board of Supervisors and it was approved. She suggested all to review the plan due to the expansions. Nancy Reding ask if the final plan was

available for review. Cindy Mattox, of BHRS, stated that the MHSA Three-Year Program plan has already been posted on the Merced County website under MHSA.

#### **VIII. Discussion on nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair**

Sharon Jones stated that Iris Monica de Tatum has resigned as Chair of Ongoing Planning Council and Monica Adrian was the Vice Chair. She stated that many received an email requesting nominations for both Chair and Vice Chair. The names that have been collected for Chair are: Fernando Granados, Ka Her, and Andrea Cruthird-May. For Vice Chair: Jeremy Brownstein, Fernando Granados and Nancy Reding. Sharon informed the council that an electronic ballot will go out to MHSA stakeholders. The voting timeframe will be for one week and by February's meeting the results will be shared with all. Nancy Reding ask if a brief description could accompany the ballots; Sharon replied with a yes. Attendee asked if all nominees could share information about themselves to the council. Attendee- Member of the Merced Wellness Center since 2014, Three-term Chair, one-term Vice-Chair and Treasurer for the Consumer Advisory Committee, Peer-Mentor in 2015. Attendee's goal is to live in a world with reduced stigma, strives to assist others and she would like to see more services provided to assist with healing. Andrea Cruthird-May is a lifelong resident of Merced County. She reported generational mental health disparities and stated she has a personal/professional investment in the resilience of Merced County residence. She also stated that the Ongoing Planning council is a great place to advocate for services within community. She currently is employed through Merced County Office of Education, Fresno Pacific University and Merced Community College. She is also the Chair for the Local Child Development Planning Council: Workforce Development Sub-Committee and on the Quality Counts! California Coaching Certification Advisory Group that is development an Early Education Coaching Certification process for the state of California. Fernando Granados is currently a Director with Sierra Vista Child and Family Services; he assists in the oversight of the Merced programs. He is an MSW graduate from Fresno State and has been in the field for 25 years. Fernando is also an LCSW contracted provider for Castle Behavioral Health and has been with them for 10 years. Fernando also serves as the Vice- Chair for the MSW Advisory Board for CSU Stanislaus. Fernando stated that his attendance in OGPC is typically as a community member and not necessarily as an agency representative; attempting his best to balance both roles. Fernando reported that he is a Mental Health First Aid facilitator; which allows for assisting in the reduction of stigma. Nancy Reding is a second generation Merced resident. She is retired, after 40 years of working with Social Services and Residential. Nancy has worked Mental Health, the Alcohol and Drug program and Head Start. Nancy was employed for 12 years at HSA as an Ombudsman, In-Home Support Service Manager and Public Authority. She has been an advocate and activist for Human Rights and Social and Environmental change. She is currently active with service groups that provide informational events and often creates linkages between entities. Nancy stated that she is honored to be present gathering and sharing information. Sharon stated that the voting for Chair and Vice-Chair will be done through an electronic ballot via email; voting timeframe will be one week. The goal is to have both Chair and Vice-Chair by February's scheduled OGPC meeting.

#### **IX. Upcoming Focus Group for Prevention and Early Intervention**

Sharon Jones informed the council that the State is currently evaluating funds for revisions. One of the requirements will be that if the County has funds that are identified for revision there must be a community planning process which will include focus groups in order to collect feedback. Sharon is in the process of setting up focus groups. Sharon informed the council that if a program is interested in hosting a PEI focus group to please contact her directly via email.

#### **X. Prevention and Early Intervention Report**

Sharon Jones stated that 2017 was the first year for the submission of the Prevention and Early Intervention Evaluation and Report, which was due December 31, 2017. The report was submitted to the State. Sharon stated that improvements were identified such as tracking demographics, which is a requirement by the State. This topic was briefly discussed at the recent PEI Quarterly meeting.

#### **XI. Innovation Update**

Sharon Jones informed the council that an Innovation report was due to State on December 30, 2017. The update on Innovation is that BHRS is in the phase of program set-up which includes hiring the Program Manager, ordering cars, etc. Sharon shared that there was an internal work group which she facilitated to establish an implementation plan for the Innovative Strategies Network. Sharon gave the council a brief overview of what consists of an innovative project. BHRS is

moving forward with ISN and there will be future updates. Fernando Granados asked if there were any updates pertaining to the Youth ISN. Ruby Awesome, Staff Service Analyst for BHRS, stated that it is on the list for the proposal to be launched but there are other proposals within the County that hold priority; she anticipates a launch some time in February. Ruby stated that if anyone is interested in that proposal to please email her in order to be added to a notification list. She will email all when Youth ISN is ready to be launched and they may submit a proposal.

## **XII. Review of MHSA Bylaws**

Sharon Jones asked all members to review the MHSA Bylaws, which were distributed to all. Sharon stated that the Bylaws were revised in 2012, with the assistance of County Council. She would like to have further discussion pertaining to the Bylaws at the next scheduled meeting. Now that elections will be held for Chair and Vice Chair, it is an appropriate time to update the Bylaws. The council was given time to review the Bylaws. Fernando Granados asked if the Recorder position was a voting position or if it was designated to the department. Sharon stated that that specific position will remain with the MHSA staff. Nancy Reding, Community Member, stated that she would add new terminology of email ballot under C. Vacancies due to this year's voting process. She also recommended email/mail ballot. Dr. Alice Liang, Assistance Director of BHRS, asked if officers' cap out after two year term or do they continue to keep serving. Sharon stated that it depends on the individual and the voices of this group. Nancy Reding asked if the wording should be change to commit to a term of two years under B. Term of Office; Sharon replied with a yes. Dr. Alice suggested the change of the Bylaw title to Behavioral Health and Recovery Services from Mental Health. Ruby Awesome asked if there was a note on how long an individual should be participating in the Ongoing Planning Council before they can run for a position or be a voting member. Sharon replied with a no, because it has never been done that way, this council is all inclusion. Sharon stated that this topic has been brought up many times ultimately resulting in inclusion. Ruby Awesome asked if that applied to the officer positions as well, Sharon replied with a yes. Sharon stated that what is needed is the core areas that are required under the statute, having individuals who can represent the community. The goal is to make sure the council is meeting all the areas in terms of stakeholders so that they can have a voice. Nancy Reding asked if a procedure was in place in regards to B. Terms of Voting Membership under 2, meetings missed. Sharon stated that occasionally programs have alternate individuals attend the meetings. Sharon stated that currently the policy for voting is all inclusive to those present. The group discussed the phrasing B. 1: Voting members of the Advisory group shall serve a two (2) year renewable term and how the description does not fit what is currently occurring. Nancy Reding suggested reviewing B. in terms of voting membership. Sharon stated as soon as the new Chair and Vice Chair accept the positions a meeting can be held to address the Bylaw; currently feedback is being collected. Fernando Granados gave the council a brief history pertaining to B.1 and how it was put into place in order to avoid swaying votes. Dr. Alice Liang asked about how the Quorum is determined. Nancy Reding suggested a review of the Quorum as well. Attendee asked for clarification as to who is a stakeholder. Sharon stated that a stakeholder is anyone who has an invested interest in MHSA, what MHSA is doing and where MHSA funding is going. Sharon thanked all for their feedback. The goal for 2018 is to update the Bylaws and to continue this working committee. Dr. Alice Liang asked for clarification pertaining to vacancies being stated twice, was one for vacancy of voting members and the other for office. Sharon stated it could be but was not sure. Sharon reminded all that the Bylaws were created in 2012 and that County Counsel approved them. Sharon stated that the reason why it was placed on the agenda was to collect feedback, record questions and try to create a document that will best meet the needs of this council. Nancy Reding stated that one more thing she would add, since it has been six years since the Bylaws have been reviewed, is to add an annual review of the Bylaws statement.

## **XIII. MHSA System Improvement**

Agenda item tabled

## **XIV. Possibilities and Success Stories**

Fernando Granados asked for an update in regards to the group vote that elected to keep PEI funding at local level. Sharon stated that during the public hearing the Behavioral Health Board agreed to accept the recommendation from the Ongoing Planning Council for the funds to be used at the local level. Sharon has no further updates, will review her notes and will place the topic as a future agenda item for the month of March. Four attendees shared their personal success story; many attributing part of their success to the Merced and Los Banos Wellness Centers. Nancy Reding shared a

family member's success story. Andrea Cruthird-Mays shared her personal story and a family member's journey towards recovery. Sharon thanked those who shared and encouraged all to attend future meetings.

**XV. Next Steps**

Voting for Chair and Vice Chair, updating the Bylaws and update on the PEI funding at the local level. Attendee shared with the group that a physician in Los Banos was unaware of BHRS services and where to refer individuals who are in need. The group discussed the continuous outreach and education needs of the County of Merced.

**XVI. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10am.