

Minutes

Present: Darrell Hall, Vice-Chair; Mary Ellis, Secretary; Iris Mojica de Tatum; Sally Ragonut; Keng Cha; Norma Cardona; Vicki Humble
Absent: Supervisor Lor; Micki Archuleta, Chair; Bruce Metcalf; Vince Ramos; Audrey Spangler

Others Present: Yvonnia Brown; Paula Mason, Chris Kraushar; Kimberlee Bledsoe; Lidia Chavez; Sharon Jones; Maria Orozco; Sharon Mendonca; Carol Hulsizer, Recorder

Call to Order / Flag Salute / Roll Call

Vice-Chair Darrell Hall 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 Darrell Hall.

Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2019 (BOARD ACTION)

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Cardona) to approve the January 8, 2019 minutes.

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

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Mojica de Tatum / Humble) to approve the February 5, 2019 minutes. Norma Cardona abstained.

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

- A member of the public commented on the poor quality of care that her family member received at the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). She has submitted some letters and filed a grievance. She was horrified at the customer service that her family member received and the denial of services. As a member of this community she wanted this brought to the Board's attention that this needs to change because it is not acceptable. She and her family had concerns that their family member could be a danger to others and possibly himself. Her family member was deemed not to be a danger and was sent home. Less than twelve hours later he was arrested for felony assault. This is a person that has never been in trouble with the legal system and never in trouble at school. Her family tried to exchange collateral information and they were not heard. Now he is in jail and he has never been in jail before. This adds to the issues he is already having. There is a stigma attached to mental illness and substance use disorders. As a community we should not be turning these people away. One issue was that he had substances in his system. Substance use increases suicidal ideations, increases symptoms of mental illness, aggression and make people more unpredictable. Why are they not being offered treatment and services sooner? He voluntarily went into the CSU to ask for help. No family should have to experience what happened to them. She gave some suggestions to improve this situation and hopes the Board will discuss this in the future. Sally Ragonut suggested to the Chair that this be put on the agenda for next month.
- The Director, Yvonnia Brown, introduced the new Assistant Director – Jacqui Coulter. She started yesterday and has hit the ground running. She is sure that Jacqui is listening to everything being said her and will continue to follow-up with these concerns. Jacqui has over 25 years of experience coming from San Joaquin County. Jacqui thanked everyone for having her here. It is an honor to be working in Merced. She has had the opportunity to watch this County grow over the last several years. Previously she

was in San Joaquin County as the Children's System of Care Deputy and prior to that she was the Adult System of Care Manager. She has also worked with several non-profit agencies in Stanislaus County.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Committee / Ad-Hoc Reports

- a. Substance Use Disorder
- b. Board Development
- c. Evaluation of Local Facilities
- d. Nominating Committee
- e. QIC
- f. Executive Committee

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Darrell did not have a report. b. Bruce was not present to give a report. c. Micki was not present today to give a report. d. Mary reported that she is an interim for the Nominating Committee. It is time to begin thinking about the positions that Board members may be interested in serving during FY19/20. She asked that everyone review the By-Laws on pages 6 and 7 to become familiar with the positions – Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. e. Mary went over the Quality Improvement Committee's (QIC) report from Feb 26, 2019. f. Yvonnia suggested this be tabled because there is a recommendation to have a discussion on the CSU. This can be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. Norma asked if this Board reviews grievances. Yvonnia stated this happens through QIC but a report can be given to this Board on the grievance process – any trends and how the grievances are being resolved; the Executive Committee will have to make the decision to add this to the agenda.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

By-Laws (Informational only)

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris stated that the By-Laws that are attached to this month's packet is the final version. They have already been reviewed by County Counsel. These copies can now be added to the member's binders.

Recommendation/Action: As noted above

Data Notebook Review

Discussion/Conclusion: Yvonnia stated that reviewing of the Data Notebook is part of the Strategic Plan. This is the Board's opportunity to review, discuss and approve the 2018 Data Notebook. Sharon Jones went over her PowerPoint presentation on the Data Notebook. This is through the CA State Planning Council and this year's is more like a survey. This is done because the Continuum of Care looks at each county and what services they are providing, evaluation of services, barriers to services and unmet needs. They look at all the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs from children to older adults. The Behavioral Health Board is required to annually review performance data for mental health services in this county and to report findings to the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC). This is to assist local Behavioral Health Boards to meet legal mandates to review performance data, look at services and report on the performance each year. Sharon encouraged feedback from the Board members.

- The first question was in regards to service areas that have been identified as having substantially underserved or experience substantial unmet behavioral health needs. In looking at the data they saw that in Merced County capacity needs to be built in many different areas. Technically there are many wonderful programs but due to the demand here, Merced is a professional-shortage area, in terms of providing healthcare providers and behavioral healthcare providers. Sharon was asked how this information is obtained and she stated that it comes in through data in QI (Quality Improvement) in terms of access to timeliness, number of staffing to do the job, and number of people on waiting lists. They also are looking at caseloads.

- Major barriers to behavioral health service access for persons who are in need of these services. This is an ongoing process to improve our access. There is talk about adding an engagement team on the front-end to debrief counseling and therapy. There would be brief therapy groups and an engagement team to meet the needs of the person while they are waiting to be assigned to a clinician.
- Any areas for which your county has implemented new programs within the last 3 years. New programs have been implemented especially in the crisis area and Crisis Residential Unit (CRU) which just opened and has 24-hour treatment. Sharon went over the new programs which opened in 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- Services that are funded with temporary funding for which we are seeking a sustainable fund source to continue services. Sharon stated that they just got an expansion for the Triage program, but this was one-time funding. Triage is like a crisis-operating program and that is why she checked this off. Yvonnia expanded on this stating that the old Triage (being co-located at Mercy Hospital) ended in June 2018. They secured another Triage grant under the stipulation that you couldn't do the same program. Thus, they are now co-located here at the Behavioral Health campus and be dispatched to the hospital. Even though they are not located at the hospital, it is their primary responsibility to respond to the hospital.
- If you could have one new program or facility or resource within the next three years, what would be your highest priority needs? After Board discussion Sharon's original answer was changed to state that "a high priority is more inpatient hospital beds across the State for children and youth and a robust Case Management Community Team".
- Is there still a need for any of these three components in your county? The three components are: Workforce Education and Training, Technological Needs and Capital Facilities. Sharon stated that "yes" these are still needed and she explained why.
- Do you have a particularly successful program funded by CSS, Innovation, or PEI funds that you would like to share with us? Sharon reported on the Strengthening Families Program and why it is so successful.
- How did your Board complete the Data Notebook? Sharon reported that the Data Notebook was placed on the agenda and discuss at a Board meeting; and, that the Board partnered with county staff or director. She also reported that there was only one change made by the Board regarding children's beds throughout the State. Norma questioned whether the Welfare & Institutions Code 5604.2 was reviewed at the last Strategic Planning meeting; Iris responded that it was discussed. Sharon stated she would change the form to reflect this. Sally questioned whether county staff and or/Director completed the majority of the Data Notebook. After some discussion, Sharon stated she would mark that also.

Recommendation/Action: M/S/C (Ragonut / Mojica de Tatum) to accept the 2018 Data Notebook with the noted changes.

Chair's Report

a. Strategic Planning Date / Month (May?)

Discussion/Conclusion: Iris stated that at the Executive Committee meeting they discussed a new annual Strategic Planning date in May. She asked that everyone think about whether they want this on a weekday or on a Saturday. How long – 2, 4 or 6 hours? Yvonnia suggested that the May meeting become the Strategic Planning meeting and possibly carve out more time. Iris suggested having just one agenda item which would be Strategic Planning. Norma stated she would like a Saturday because she works.

Recommendation/Action: This will be put on the April agenda to finalize date/time and what will be discussed.

Supervisor's Report

Discussion/Conclusion: Supervisor Lor was not present.

Recommendation/Action: None

Director's Report

a. Update on Housing and Homeless Initiatives (B Street Housing Project)

Discussion/Conclusion: a. Yvonnia reported she will be having a meeting working with community partners. The old Juvenile Hall building has now been demolished for the purpose of trying to building a conceptual Navigation Center for the community. The conceptual framework currently being proposed is the ability to house at least 200 individuals with supportive services such as computers, education and training, therapy, etc. She will know more when upcoming meeting takes place. There are three phases to this conceptual framework. The first being developing a Navigation Center; it may be temporary at first depending on the priority for the Board of Supervisors until a more permanent structure can be built. Community Action Agency's shelter is basically a pilot of the Navigation Center. Iris questioned the difference between the Navigation Center and the B Street site. Yvonnia responded that the B Street site is a temporary pilot until the city can finish getting the funding to build the 120-unit (with 30 units being for supportive housing). The purpose of the Navigation Center is having all the services at B Street (official name being New Direction) will fold into the permanent Navigation Center. The Navigation Center is a County project and will bring many partners together.

Recommendation/Action: Information only

Announcements

Discussion/Conclusion: Sally Ragonut submitted copies of an article called, "*Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence*" for the Board to review. She found it very interesting and asked that after everyone has had the chance to read it, that the Executive Committee consider having someone from Dual Diagnosis or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) come and talk to the Board about this. Secondly, she stated that an unfair, possibly grievous action happened against two of the Board members. There were three Board members due to reapply to be members of this Board last June. All three did so. And initially all three were disapproved by their Supervisor with the intent that three other people would replace them. However, one of those Board members was reapproved in September or October and the other two members received an email in January stating that they were being replaced. These two people have served on the Board loyally for many years with much time invested in learning about mental health and substance use disorder. As the By-Laws state, counties are encouraged to appoint individuals who have experience and knowledge of the Behavioral Health system. She is confused and concerned, and does not understand, how something like this can happen. In her fifteen years sitting on this Board, she has never witnessed anything like this. Could this set a precedence opening the door for more dedicated Board members losing their place on this Board because a Supervisor did not approve their request to reapply on this Behavioral Health Board.

Sharon Jones announced that May is Mental Health Awareness month. On May 15th they will be having their annual Recovery Event and they are in the process of planning it. On July 20th is the Spiritual Wellness and Recovery Conference where they highlight the importance of spirituality as a resource for healing and wellness. A flyer will be sent out soon.

Iris Mojica de Tatum announced the upcoming Youth 2 Youth Event. Board members are welcome to attend. The Quality Improvement meetings are also another place Board members would learn a lot about the nuts and bolts of how the Department operates. There is also the Planning Council which has a lot of discussion about the programs and they go into a lot more detail.

Darrell Hall stated that he was born in this hospital. He revealed sensitive information about himself and continued that the care that has evolved since then is nothing short of a miracle. Merced did not used to care about what was going on. Things are turning around in Merced.

Iris reiterated that Sally would like to have the marijuana article discussed by the Executive Committee and possibly put on a monthly agenda; Yvonnia can give direction to her staff as it relates to this article and there can be further discussion on what this Board hopes to gain from that. Sally stated that the Board needs to keep themselves aware of these things and continue to learn about mental



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Board Meeting

301 E. 13th Street

Merced, CA 95341

March 5, 2019

health and substance use disorders; this helps the Board members do their jobs. Yvonnia stated she would have the article sent to Tabatha Haywood for her review. Yvonnia reiterated about placing the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) on an upcoming agenda. Lastly, Iris stated that the April agenda will have Strategic Planning information included.

Recommendation/Action: Carol will send the marijuana article to Tabatha.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 4:48 pm.

Submitted by: _____ *Signed* _____

Carol Hulsizer
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____ *Signed* _____

Mary Ellis, Secretary
Merced County Behavioral Health Board

Date: _____ *4/2/19* _____

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