

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Four Rivers Conference Room
1965 Live Oak Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 822-7200

MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2004
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Dennis at 5:35 p.m. and she welcomed everyone to the meeting including a guest of the Chair, Ms. Nicki Tursi, an intern and the guest speaker for the evening, Paul Moua.

2. Roll Call

In the absence of Board Secretary Alma Amaya, Board Member Hubbard called the roll and the following members were present:

Chairperson Laurie Dennis, Board Members Teri Jackson, Keith Pinckney and Margery Hubbard.

The following Board Members were excused:

Sutter County Supervisor Whiteaker, Board Members Alma Amaya, Patricia Stutte, and Terry Single.

The following Board Members were absent:

Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego and Board Member Clement

3. Action Items

Because there was not a quorum present, the minutes of October 21, 2004 could not be approved.

4 Program Presentation

Hmong Outreach Efforts - Paul Moua, CSS Intervention Counselor

The Chair introduced the subject and called upon Paul Moua to present his report. Initially, Mr. Moua provided an overview of the services he provided which included translation services for clients and staff, case management services that include assisting individuals with living arrangements, medical and social security benefits, and brokering other resources and services.

Subsequently, Mr. Moua presented an overview of recent training activities held for Mental Health staff which included the presentation of a video entitled "Split Horn" about the life of a Hmong Shaman in America" which was followed by a Hmong Cultural Competency training. The purpose of this training was to help staff understand how the war affected thousands of

Hmong (PTSD); and the many cultural and spiritual differences. A Shaman, who is a spiritual leader, was also present at the training to describe the various ritual ceremonies used.

More recently, Mr. Moua said, a Hmong Outreach activity was held on November 4th at the Hmong American Association in Marysville. The purpose of this activity was to help the people of the Hmong community to access county services. Staff from Mental Health, Health Dept., Children Services, CalWORKS and Probation, were present to provide information about the programs and services available to them.

In response to a question posed, Mr. Moua said he sees between 25-35 clients weekly. Hmong clients seeking services have increased to 55 between mid 2003 to present. Commenting on a question about their spiritual beliefs, he said he encouraged his clients to see their Shaman and Mental Health jointly.

In response to a question posed regarding second and third generation Hmong children, Mr. Moua said the families will generally encounter problems as children adopt western ways. Continuing, Mr. Moua said he would like to enhance his services by developing a support group to deal with family situations in a convenient area to eliminate the need for transports.

In response to a question posed by the Chair, Mr. Moua said that approximately 3,000 Hmong were living in Yuba County. Of that number, approximately 50% of the families follow their traditional culture averaging 5 to 6 children.

Following an extended period of discussion regarding the Hmong culture, the Chair thanked Mr. Moua for a fine presentation and asked that he make a return visit next year.

5. Mental Health Director's Report

Annual Client Holiday Party - Ms. Hoss announced that the Annual Client Holiday Party would be held on Thursday, December 9th beginning at 5:00 p.m., at the Veterans Hall. She subsequently invited members of the Board to participate.

Annual Pre-Voc Christmas Craft Fair - Ms. Hoss announced that client crafts and artwork would be on display for sale at the upcoming Christmas Craft Fair on December 1, 2, 3, 2004. Location will be the Valley Oak Conference Room.

Great Performances – Ms. Hoss reported that this activity was scheduled for November 30, 2004, at the old Marysville High School and extended an invitation to the members to attend.

Proposition 63 - Ms. Hoss said that following the passage of Proposition 63, now referred to as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) a meeting with the Department of Mental Health and stakeholders in the public mental health system will convene in Sacramento on December 17, 2004 to begin the collaborative planning process. Ms. Hoss said the objectives of this meeting were to provide information and obtain input from stakeholders about initial draft strategies and timeframes to implement the MHSA. Ms. Hoss encourage members of the Board to participate in the process either through the DMH website or at the meeting in Sacramento if they wished.

Subsequently, Ms. Hoss distributed copies of the MHSA Summary and Timelines (developed in anticipation of the passage of Prop 63) and she invited the Board to review and offer feedback. She further noted that the Mental Health Board would be deeply involved in the planning process.

Reviewing the requirements (principles) for the development of county plans, Ms. Hoss said each plan must include: a program for prevention and early intervention; a program for children services based upon the CSOC model; a program for services to adults and older adults; a program for technological needs and capital facilities to support services; and transitioned aged youth among the other principles noted.

In response to a question posed, Ms. Hoss said the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission is a new state-level 16-member policy body that would monitor proposals. Additionally, she said it is the responsibility of the each county mental health board to develop plans, solicit input and to conduct a public hearing on any proposal developed. The planning process must include client and family representation.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Old Business

No old business was brought before the Board.

8. New Business

Board Training: The Chair suggested that the January Board Agenda include, under New Business, Board Trainings. Vice Chair Hubbard will have some information to report on the topic.

Recommendation to Appoint Janice DiCola to the Mental Health Board. Referencing the application received, the Chair said she would contact this candidate to determine her interest and qualifications. Subject to any negative outcomes, she said she would follow-up with a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Ms. DiCola to the vacant Family Representative seat.

9. Information & Correspondence

Chairperson Dennis reported that she had received a letter from an Orange County Supervisor requesting that the Mental Health Board urge local elected officials to support efforts to realign funding inequities and suggested that this item be placed on the January calendar for discussion. In response, Ms. Hoss said that this was a state issue, not a county one, and that this was not a mental health issue for SYMHS.

Board Member Hubbard announced that she had been invited to join the IQ Committee as a client representative.

The Chair announced there would be no meeting in December.

There being no further business brought before the Board, the Chair wished everyone a happy holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary