

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2005
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Dennis at 5:30 p.m. and she welcomed everyone to the meeting especially new Board Member Janice DiCola and the guest speaker for the evening, Charlie Benson.

2. Roll Call

Board Secretary Alma Amaya called the roll and the following members were present:

Chairperson Laurie Dennis, Board Members Alma Amaya, Margery Hubbard, Patricia Stutte, Teri Jackson, Janice DiCola, and Keith Pinckney. Board Members Charles Clement and Terry Single arrived subsequent to the roll call.

The following Board Members were excused:

Sutter County Supervisor Whiteaker

The following Board Members were absent:

Yuba County Supervisor Mary Jane Griego

3. Action Items

a. Board Member Amaya moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 21 and November 18, 2004 as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Pinckney and was carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.

b. Board Member Pinckney moved to recommend that the Yuba County Board of Supervisors appoint Nick P. Sohroff to the vacant seat on the Mental Health Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Hubbard and was carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.

4 Program Presentation

Child Protective Services, Charlie Benson, MFT,

The Chair called upon Charlie Benson to present his report. Mr. Benson said his position as a Mental Health Therapist was a blended funded position assigned to Sutter County Social Services (CPS). Prior to offering an overview of the services he provided, he read aloud a typical case he had been involved in that depicted the elements and issues affecting the clients he sees. Subsequently, he provided an overview of the services offered to the youth and

parent/families being served by CPS. These included: Intake assessments, short-term treatment, referrals, case planning, case management, crisis assessments and intervention, a resource to foster families, a liaison and advocate for mental health services between the Sutter-Yuba Mental Health and Social Services, the schools, alcohol and drug treatment providers, families and other agencies that support persons involved in CPS. In addition, he also provides, on a half-time basis, support to Functional Family Therapy (FFT) along with another therapist, Susan Redford.

A key strength of the program he said was that CPS was responsive in meeting the needs of their clients who have mental health needs. CPS has a centralized intake person that identifies treatment options upon contact by using a Mental Health Screening Tool (MHST) developed by CIMH that identifies which children in the system are in need of mental health attention. The therapist position stationed at CPS, he said, has become an invaluable resource for both CPS and Mental Health and has benefited both programs. In response to a question, Mr. Benson said referrals for services generally come from CPS.

In response to a question posed, Mr. Benson said that some improvements could be made with sequencing services, although he said, this was not always possible due to time constraints. Children who have been placed in multiple foster homes is a challenge and is one that CPS is attempting to address by removing the barriers and delays in providing mental health services to adolescents in need.

Continuing, Mr. Benson said that CPS is considering plans to initiate a receiving home in which Mental Health would play a role in helping to meet the needs of adolescents and to help engage the whole family in treatment. In response to a question posed, Mr. Benson said the difference between a receiving home and a foster home was that the receiving home was a place to take adolescents on an emergency basis for a period of time until crisis issues with the family could be resolved so children could be reunited with their families. Foster homes or long-time guardianship, are for adolescents who have been permanently removed from their homes but is different from adoption. Adolescents, over an extended period of time, could be placed in multiple foster homes.

In response to a question regarding foster home placement costs, Mr. Benson said county-based foster homes costs ranged between \$400 and \$600 a month. Group home placement costs were much higher, approximately \$1200 to \$1400 a month.

Following an extended period of discussion, the Chair thanked Mr. Benson for a most informative presentation.

5. Mental Health Director's Report

At the outset, Ms. Hoss reported that she was presently involved in a number of planning activities, which included:

AB-1881 - A new bill, recently approved by the legislature, will provide an opportunity for all Human Services departments, (Health, Social Services and Mental Health) to achieve a greater level of integration that will enhance service delivery. Because Mental Health is a bi-county program and is a division of a single county Human Service Department in Sutter County, the challenge will be how to enhance integration while still maintaining parity and access to all of Yuba county services.

Yuba County Children's Counsel - Ms. Hoss reported that the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Group, (which functions as a sub-group under the Yuba County Children's Counsel) was presently exploring ways to create more effective substance abuse treatment for youth and families in the community.

Wrap Around Services - Ms. Hoss said she was also involved in helping to plan for wrap-around services in Sutter County and eventually Yuba County. This activity is spearheaded by Social Services and it is a way to deliver integrated services to troubled families by creating alternative community-based services.

Dual Diagnosis Services - Continuing, Ms. Hoss said she was also looking at ways of integrating Dual Diagnosis services for clients with both mental health and substance abuse issues.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) or Prop. 63 - Ms. Hoss reported the Mental Health Board would be collectively involved in a broad-based planning activity for MHSA. She reported that since the last meeting, she had learned that any anticipated revenue would not be realized through an allocation. Also certain amounts of funding would be pooled and the state will most likely offer some state-wide prevention activities. Locally, she said, there is clear responsibility for working with a variety of groups in the community to obtain comments and suggestions and to find out what will most benefit the community with this new funding source. To develop a plan, SYMHS will need considerable resources to move forward and consideration is being given to employ a consultant to facilitate some of the processes like facilitating meetings and to gather information based on demographics and other data.

The Chair and other members of the Board expressed their willingness to be involved in the planning activity and said they would be willing to spend extra time to facilitate the processes needed. Ms. Hoss encouraged the members to talk to individuals residing in the bi-county community to find out what kind of services they think are needed at Mental Health and to keep track of who they spoke to.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

7. Old Business

No old business was brought before the Board.

8. New Business

In response to question posed by the Chair, Ms. Hoss said it was a law enforcement policy to handcuff individuals brought into Psychiatric Emergency Services or the PHF.

In response to a question posed by Board Member Teri Jackson, Ms. Hoss said that it is the role of ConREP to supervise an MDO (mentally disordered offender) when released from a state hospital, however, the processes and conditions of release were complex.

The Chair reported that she along with three other members of the Board attended the Annual Client Holiday Party and noted that it was a huge success.

The Chair, referencing information provided the Board about the Mental Health Board/Commission Regional Training scheduled for February 4-5, 2005 said this would be a good opportunity for all members to attend if at all possible.

The Chair, calling attention to the Conflict of Interest Statements provided, encouraged the members to complete them as soon as possible and return them to Jean Stump at their earliest opportunity.

9. Information & Correspondence

There was no other information brought before the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary