

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Gold Rush/Valley Oak Conference Rooms
1965 Live Oak Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 822-7200

MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2006
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Margery Hubbard at 5:31 p.m., and she welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the guest speaker, Rick Bingham.

2. Roll Call

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

Chairperson Margery Hubbard, Charles Clement, Laurie Dennis, Patricia Stutte, and new member, Joginder Pardesi Cheema. The following members arrived subsequent to the roll call: Teri Jackson, Keith Pinckney and Nick Sohrakoff.

The following Board Members were excused:

Sutter County Supervisor Jim Whiteaker, Yuba County Supervisor John Nicoletti, Alma Amaya and Janice DiCola.

There were no Board Members absent

Also present were the Mental Health Director Joan Hoss and the Executive Secretary Jean Stump.

3. Action Items

a. Approve November 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes - Board Member Dennis moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2005 as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Stutte and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.

b. Approve Annual CALMH/C Membership Dues for FY 2005-06 - Board Member Dennis moved to approve the CALMH/C Membership Dues for FY 2005-06 in the amount of \$300.00. The motion was seconded by Board Member Clement and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.

4. Program Presentation - ConREP, Rick Bingham

At the outset, Mr. Bingham said ConREP

was the acronym for the Conditional Release Program as funded by the State Department of Mental Health to contract with mental health facilities to provide a system of community-

based services for specified forensic patients. ConREP protects the public and provides treatment for offenders in the criminal justice system who have a mental health history.

Continuing, Mr. Bingham said there were generally three types of commitments seen in the program, the first “Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity”, which means that the individual has committed a crime, which is usually fairly violent. At trial the individual is found to be not guilty due to a mental health illness and is sentenced to a state hospital rather than a state prison. If after a period of time, treatment appears to have helped their mental condition and it is thought they could be treated on an outpatient basis under the auspices of ConREP, they are released from the hospital and fall under the supervision of the ConREP program.

The second commitment he said is called MDO (Mentally Disordered Offender). This is a person who commits a crime and is found guilty and sentenced to state prison. In the prison system they receive psychiatric treatment and if they meet certain criteria, can as a condition of parole be released to a state hospital. This person will remain in the hospital until either their parole ends or ConREP feels they are ready to be released under the supervision of ConREP. Another category of MDO is MDO Civil which means the person who finishes their parole term (either in or out of the state hospital) is found by DMH or ConREP to still meet the criteria for MDO. In doing so the court can continue to extend the individual as an MDO, but the jurisdiction is moved from the criminal court to civil court.

The third commitment, which is not seen often, is the “Incompetent to Stand Trial”. This is generally a person who commits a crime and because of a mental illness cannot face the charges and is deemed incompetent to stand trial, and is subsequently treated in a state hospital. If they are returned to competency in the state hospital, they are then returned to the judicial system.

The type of treatment involved in the ConREP program includes individual therapy, group therapy, medication monitoring by a psychiatrist, drug testing, collateral contacts and home visits.

Distributing supporting documentation regarding the program, Mr. Bingham said part the program’s success was due to the fact that the ConREP program was allowed a case load of only ten (10) clients and the cost was about 1/5 of state hospitalization. Referencing other data, Mr. Bingham said ConREP reoffenses are significantly less serious than committing offenses and after release from ConREP, approximately 80% of NGI patients remain arrest free for over four years.

In response to a question posed by Dr. Clement, Mr. Bingham said he visits ConREP clients in the State Hospital about every six months to re-evaluate mental health condition to determine their competency. At present, he noted he was following between 15 and 20 of these clients. In other comments, Board Member Dennis noted that she was most impressed with Mr. Bingham’s thoroughness and job performance.

Following other brief comments, the Board thanked Mr. Bingham for a fine presentation of the ConREP program.

5. Mental Health Director's Report

Commenting on the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) remodel, Ms. Hoss reported that the PHF was presently undergoing the "maintenance" phase of the remodeling project.

Ms. Hoss reported that Dr. John Riley had recently assumed the Medical Director's position at North Valley Behavioral Health and in doing so had submitted his resignation at Mental Health. In other personnel issues, it was reported that Dale McBride, who retired in December was presently filling in on the PHF under the terms of a contract to provide services as needed.

Ms. Hoss said that the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Support Services (CSS) Plan had been submitted on January 3, 2006. On February 28, a review team from the State will be onsite to meet with staff and focus on areas in the Plan in need of further explanation.

Ms. Hoss provided a brief overview of the Network of Care Website, which is a new public web-based site funded by the MHSA. This web-site will offer information regarding what services in the bi-county area available and how to access them.

In concluding her presentation, Ms. Hoss noted that she was hoping to locate a qualified staff member who would commit to participating in an 18-month infant and parent mental health fellowship program that was starting in February.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

7. Old Business

There was no old business brought before the Board.

7. New Business

Referring to information provided in their meeting packet, the Chair encouraged members of the Board who desired to attend a Mental Health Board Regional Training to do so.

The Executive Secretary reminded the Board to complete their Conflict of Interest Statements, Form 700 and return to her at their earliest opportunity.

Board Member Jackson reported that she had recently relocated from Sutter to Yuba County and in doing so would need to resign her seat. She subsequently presented a letter of resignation.

Laurie Dennis also announced that she would be out of the country for a period of a year or more doing missionary work in Africa. Due to the length of her mission, she announced her intention to resign from the Board effective January 20, 2006.

8.. Adjournment

There being no further business, Board Member Dennis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Stutte and at 6:40 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary