

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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

MINUTES

Thursday, July 20, 2006
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nick Sohrakoff at 5:38 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting including the guest speaker Susan Williams, and other members of the public including Ardythe Price and Stan Cleveland.

2. Roll Call

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

Sutter County Supervisor Jim Whiteaker, Chairperson Nick Sohrakoff, Board Members, David Markland, Keith Pinckney, Joginder Pardesi Cheema and Dr. Charles Clement.. Supervisor John Nicoletti, Board Members Margery Hubbard and Patricia Stutte arrived subsequent to the roll call.

The following Board Members were absent:

Janice DiCola and Alma Amaya

3. Action Items

a. Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2006: *Board Member Pinckney moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2006 as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Whiteaker and carried by a majority voice vote of the members present.*

b. Approve FY 06-07 Draft Board Calendar: *Supervisor Whiteaker moved to approve the draft Board Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Whiteaker and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.*

c. Consider Application Received to Fill Vacancy on the Mental Health Board: *Board Member Markland moved to recommend that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors appoint Ardythe Price to the vacant "Consumer" seat on the Mental Health Board. The motion was seconded by Board Member Stutte and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.*

4. Program Presentation

Patients' Right Advocate, Susan Williams, who was representing Linda Kestermont, was called upon to present the report. As she distributed informational materials, Ms. Williams said the duties of a Patients' Right Advocate was to receive and investigate complaints from concerned recipients of mental health services residing in licensed health or community care facilities regarding abuse, unreasonable denial or punitive withholding of rights guaranteed under the provisions of applicable regulations in the Welfare & Institutes Code. Other duties included monitoring mental health facilities, services and programs to ensure compliance with regulatory statues.

Examples of services provided by the Patients' Right Advocate, Ms. Williams said included attendance at scheduled hearings, meeting with clients on the PHF, answer questions concerning patient rights and responds to any difficulties clients or family members may be having. The Patient's Right Advocate also offers patient education, resource and referral information, complaint resolution, education and in-service trainings for mental health agencies, site visits and monitoring board and care homes and chart reviews.

In response to a question posed, Ms. Williams said the Social Worker generally schedules the hearings. Ms. Williams also said two local attorneys were the hearing officers, namely: Jeff Marshall and Stephanie Hansel.

In response to another question, Ms. Williams said both she and the other Patients Right Advocate (Linda Kestermont) have been in their respective positions for at least eight years. Asking about changes that have occurred since being appointed to her position, Ms. Williams said that was difficult to define, noting the growth in the bi-county community, although she said there was a need for more trained interpreters.

Following a short period of further discussion, the Chair thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation of the Patients Right Advocate program.

5. Mental Health Director's Report

a. Presentation and Adoption of FY 2006-07 Program Goals. Ms. Hoss distributed copies of the draft FY 2006-07 Program Goals developed and suggested that due to the length of the document, that the Board review the contents and that this item be placed on the September 2006 agenda for final review and action. The Board concurred with the suggestion.

In other business, Ms. Hoss reported that Lynn Tarrant had announced her resignation, citing that she had accepted a position with Placer County as the Assistant Mental Health Director. Lynn's last day will be August 1, 2006. Ms. Hoss said staff has planned an host an ice cream social in Lynn's honor on August 1, 2006 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and in this regard invited members of the Board to attend.

Continuing, Ms. Hoss said the position of Program Manager has been re-named “Deputy Director of Mental Health”; and following an extensive recruitment process, the agency has named Thomas Sherry to that position. Mr. Sherry comes to Sutter-Yuba Mental Health with over 20 years of executive management experience in county government, is a licensed MFT, and is well qualified for the position.. Mr. Sherry’s start date is Monday, August 14, 2006.

In other personnel business, Ms. Hoss said that Mr. Douglas Bond had been appointed acting PHF/PES Program Manager replacing Dale McBride who retired in December 2005. Mr. Bond will provide administrative oversight in this key area until a permanent replacement is found, Ms. Hoss said.

Additionally, Ms. Hoss said that the services of two locum tenans (temporary physicians) will be used until permanent replacements are found for the vacancies created by the recent resignations of Dr. John Riley and Dr. Toribio.

As a result of the MHSA, SYMHS has opened recruitment for 24 new positions, which included 12-14 therapists and 4 peer counselors.

In conclusion, Ms. Hoss said that although she has not been formally notified, said there were indications that SYMHS could expect to receive as much as 30% more in funding from the MHSA. In light of this projection, Ms. Hoss said that because the Mental Health Board represented the MHSA Leadership Committee and was the principle program planner, requested permission to bring forth some specific proposals based on input received during the MHSA Program Planning process last year. Specifically, she said she would like to be able to fund enhanced services for people coming to the attention of law enforcement who have psychiatric illness and particularly those people who pose ongoing risk to the community by increasing and broadening a type of intensive case management. Another part of this proposal was to develop strategies modeled after AB2034, a homeless mentally ill program, for a specific population who did not do in well in residential housing.

Concurring with the Mental Health Directors suggestions, Supervisor Nicoletti agreed with the concepts offered. Supervisor Whiteaker suggested the Director develop a type of “wish list” to bring back to Board.

In response to a question posed by Supervisor Nicoletti, Ms. Hoss said that as a result of the MHSA, a mobile outreach had been developed specifically for seniors (over the age of 60) who are either not mobile or who are isolated.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

7. Old Business

Distributing a report he developed, Board Member Markland reviewed his participation at the Annual Meeting of the California Association of Mental Health Board and Commissions, held

June 15-17, 2006 in San Jose, in which he said there was a lot of information presented on the MHSA. Additionally, he noted that if anyone was interested, the CALMB/C has an opening on the Mental Health Planning Commission.

Following the distribution of an article presented by Board Member Markland, entitled: "Biggest challenge of mental illness is the stigmatization", Ms. Hoss, in response said there was ongoing discussion at the state level as to how best to use MHSA resources to provide professional public service announcements in an effort to reduce the stigma associated with mental health illness.

In conclusion, Mr. Markland urged other members of the Board to attend future meetings, noting the next quarterly meeting of the CAMHB/C will be held October 19 – 21, 2006 in Sacramento.

8. New Business

In response to a question posed by Supervisor Whiteaker regarding the challenges faced by the agency trying to recruit so many positions at once, Ms. Hoss said SYMHS was very comparable with other county agencies in terms of salaries and benefits and were better than most in terms of the retirement benefits offered to employees. This has helped to attract many applications, including physicians and therapists.

9 Information & Correspondence

The Chair reminded the Board there would be no Board Meeting in August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 21, 2006 and he wish everyone a good summer.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary