

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2007
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nick Sohrakoff as he welcomed everyone to the meeting including guest speaker Rick Bingham.

2. Roll Call

In the absence of the Board Secretary, the Executive Secretary called the roll. The following Board Members were present:

Sutter County Supervisor Jim Whiteaker, Yuba County Supervisor John Nicoletti, Chairperson Nick Sohrakoff, Dr. Charles Clement, Margery Hubbard, Patricia Stutte, Joginder Pardesi Cheema, Marc Myers, Keith Pinckney and Ardythe Price.

The following Board Members were excused:

Vice Chair David Markland, and Board Secretary Alma Amaya

Also present was Thomas Sherry, Deputy Mental Health Director and Jean Stump Executive Secretary

3. Action Items

a. Approve November 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes: *Board Member Pinckney moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2006 as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nicoletti and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.*

b. Annual CALMHB/C Membership Dues for FY 2006-07: *Supervisor Nicoletti moved to approve payment of the CALMHB/C Dues for FY 2006-07 in the amount of \$300.00. The motion was seconded by Board Member Hubbard and carried by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.*

4. Program Presentation - ConReP, Rick Bingham

The Forensic Mental Health Specialist Rick Bingham was called upon to present his report. At the outset he said the Conditional Release Program (ConReP) was funded by the State Department of Mental Health to protect the public and provide treatment for offenders in the criminal justice system that has a mental health history.

Continuing, he 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 majority of the clients come to ConReP via the State Hospital system. Mr. Bingham visits clients who are in state hospitals every six months to assess their readiness for discharge into ConReP. Once the hospital treatment team feels the client is ready for discharge, a referral is made. ConReP treatment includes individual therapy, group therapy, medication monitoring by a psychiatrist, drug testing, collateral contacts and home visits.

In response to a question posed, Mr. Bingham said if the offense is committed in this area, the offender is returned to this area following treatment.

Distributing supporting documentation regarding the program, Mr. Bingham said part the program’s success was due to the fact that the ConReP program’s case load was limited to only ten (10) clients and the cost was about 1/5 of state hospitalization. Referencing other data, Mr. Bingham said ConReP re-offenses 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 at present he was following eight clients with another two coming onboard soon. The average age of this population was between 18 and 44, although the average age of clients seen by him were in their mid-30’s.

Following other brief comments, the Board thanked Mr. Bingham for an update of the ConReP program.

4. Mental Health Director's Report

In the absence of Joan Hoss, the Deputy Mental Health Director Tom Sherry presented the Mental Health Director's Report.

Referencing a recent incident on the PHF (Psychiatric Health Facility), Mr. Sherry said staff acted decisively and appropriately which resulted in a positive outcome.

In response to a suggestion posed by the Board it was agreed that staff would develop resolutions commending the efforts of Dr. Joe Cosgrove and Janet Ritchey for their quick actions. Further, it was agreed to add this item to the February Mental Health Board Agenda and invite Dr. Cosgrove and Ms. Ritchey to the next meeting.

Continuing, Mr. Sherry reported that a 10-Year Service Award had been presented to Laura Ruble and a 30-Year Service Award was presented to Debbie Greathouse. Other presentations including "You Make a Difference" awards presented to Dr. Cosgrove, Janet Ritchey for their excellent patient care and to Jean Stump for organizing the blood drive held in December.

In other business, Mr. Sherry reported that Sutter County has started the budget process for FY 2007-08. As usual, Mental Health will balance its budget according to revenue receipts, although this year one or more programs will end or be reduced, however; staffing from these program areas will be absorbed into other programs or services where vacancies exist.

The Governor's proposed State Budget for FY 2007-08 predicts to reduce Prop 36 funding in the Alcohol & Drug Program which will result in reduced services in this area. The Governor is also proposing to eliminate funding for Adult Systems of Care which will not impact our program as SYMHS does not operate an ASOC program.

Positive news is that realignment funding will increase for the first time in many years by approximately 7% which represents an increase of approximately \$360,000 in discretionary funds; and there is anticipated growth in MHSA funding next year of approximately \$750,000. It may be necessary, he said, to reconvene the Leadership Committee to look at how to utilize these additional funds.

In concluding the report, Mr. Sherry reported that the Salvation Army Agreement to provide HMI (Homeless Mentally Ill) services; and the Del Norte Clinic agreement to provide outreach services to our underserved ethnic populations, have both been approved by the Board of Supervisors. In response to a question posed, Mr. Sherry said outreach services will most likely start at the Richland and Lindhurst clinics.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

7. Old Business

There was no old business brought before the Board.

8. New Business

a. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Conflict of Interest Code

Mr. Sherry directed the Board's attention to the memorandum and attachments from Ms. Hoss to the Board which outlined recent actions by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FFPC). The FFPC has determined that because SYMHS met the definition of a multi-county agency, it was required to develop its own Conflict of Interest Code. As part of the process, SYMHS was required to establish a written comment period which commenced on January 2, 2007 for 45 days. During this review period, anyone, including the MHB may present written comments concerning the proposed code (copies provided under separate cover) to Joan Hoss.

Continuing, it was reported that while SYMHS and the Mental Health Board had been filing statements under the Sutter County Code, the proposed SYMHS Code would assume the same disclosure categories until a final ruling by the FFPC was received. Subsequently, Form 700's were distributed to the Board with a request they be completed and return to Jean Stump at their earliest opportunity, but no later an April 1, 2007.

9. Announcements/Correspondence

Chairperson Sohrakoff, referencing an a article printed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, said the commentary was written by his daughter Alexis to bring attention to the need for parity in insurance coverage so that mental illness can be treated like any other medical problem.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, Board Member Pinckney moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nicoletti and at 6:40 pm the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary