

CONTRA COSTA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2008
MINUTES

<p>1. Call to Order</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Kathi McLaughlin at 4:35 pm.</p> <p>Commissioners Bobbie Arnold, District I Dave Kahler, District IV Judy McCahon, District III Jacque McLaughlin, District II Kathi McLaughlin, District II Cynthia Miller, District II Teresa Pasquini, District I Bettye Randle, District I Scott Singley, District III Karen Sloma, District IV (via teleconference.)</p> <p>Guests Suzanne Davis, <i>CC Conservator's Office</i>, Al Farmer, <i>NAMI President</i> Lisa Hillier, <i>NAMI & Family Member</i> Art Honegger, <i>NAMI CC Board</i> Fran Kelly, <i>Supv. Bonilla's Office</i> Peter Mantas, <i>Family Member</i> Alix Mitgang, <i>Greather Richmond Interfaith Programs</i> Vic Montoya, <i>Adult Mental Health Program Chief</i> Mariana Moore, <i>Contractor's Alliance</i> Annis Peregra, <i>Family Member</i> Dorothy Sansoe, <i>CAO's Office</i> Karen Shuler, <i>Executive Assistant</i> Eric Svenonius, <i>Recording Secretary</i> William Walker, MD, <i>Health Services Director</i> Donna Wigand, <i>Mental Health Director</i> Laretta Williams, <i>Mental Health Consumer Concerns</i></p>	<p>Commissioners Absent: Craig Fletcher</p>
<p>2. Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Farmer read a letter from NAMI regarding Dave Kahler, stating NAMI discussed the recent MHC meetings January 24. The letter said that the board is disappointed that the Commission would make difficulties for another member. Regarding the questions of violations of the Brown Act, it reads, "Does this issue have relevance or magnitude? We feel it has neither. ... Why wasn't there any effort to resolve this issue at the lowest level? ... On the verge of historic budget cuts, we need as many advocates as we can get." • Al then added, "Personally, I can emphatically say that any mental health board would be fortunate to have any person ... like Dave." • - Lisa Hillier said, "With the pending budget cuts, the Commission needs to focus on ...issues concerning the consumers. As a parent, who has felt suffering from lack of services, I beg the Commission to begin the year with a fresh start and a clean slate." 	
<p>3. Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is invited to the Mental Health Services Act training. • There are several quorums and activities coming in the future, flyers were available on the back table. • A Mental Health Consumer Concerns Activities calender was handed out. • Tonight at 7 pm. in the Alhambra High School Performing Arts Bldg, will be a public forum entitled "Cybersense: Helping your child swim through the Internet without getting caught." • A Children's Summit flier was passed out by Kathi. Jacque McLaughlin said Dr. Neal Halfon has a particularly engaging lecture with interesting 	

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	thoughts regarding how to handle health care.	
4. Approval of Minutes	A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected from December 11, 2007. (Fran Kelly's name had been left off the list of attendees.)	M- Bobbie Arnold S- Bettye Randle Carried with 1 abstention.
5. Election of Officers	<p>Teresa Pasquini said that in order for there to be peace, there needs to be an airing of certain subjects. She said the elections should be postponed. She said there were several instances where the Co-chairs chose not to disclose certain subjects discussed in e-mails and letters. She stated she feels this Commission is out of compliance with its mandated duties.</p> <p>Dave also stated he feels the elections should be postponed. There are items that have come up since the last meeting that need to be discussed.</p> <p>Judy McCahon said she has been here for 5 years and it has never been this bad. Cynthia Miller said it saddens her that the Commission can't get along and move forward to help those whom they are here to help.</p> <p>Kathi McLaughlin said the voting could not be postponed because it was an open motion from the previous meeting and it must carry through consecutive meetings until officers are elected, according to County Counsel.</p> <p>Dave nominated newly-appointed Commissioner Jacque McLaughlin for Chairperson. She responded, "Not at this time."</p> <p>A motion was made to elect Dave Kahler as chairperson. It did not pass.</p> <p>A motion was made to re-elect Karen Sloma and Kathi McLaughlin as Co-Chairpersons. It did not pass.</p>	<p>Votes for Dave Kahler: 1-4-5. Did not carry. Yes: Dave Kahler No: Judy McCahon Kathi McLaughlin Cynthia Miller Karen Sloma Abstain: Bobbie Arnold Jacque McLaughlin Teresa Pasquini Bettye Randle Scott Singley</p> <p>Votes for incumbents: 3-2-5. Did not carry. Yes: Judy McCahon Kathi McLaughlin Karen Sloma No: Dave Kahler Cynthia Miller Abstain: Bobbie Arnold Jacque McLaughlin Teresa Pasquini Bettye Randle Scott Singley</p> <p><i>Forward to the February MHC Meeting.</i></p>
6. Co-Chairs' Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Doug Stewart, Vice President of the Pacheco Town Council to give a brief overview of his outreach to the homeless. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to a mixup in communication, Doug arrived late. • Report from the January 23rd Mental Health Community Forum on Older Adults. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bettye Randle attended. Kathi McLaughlin, who was on the panel, said there were about about 60 to 75 people there and the sponsors did a nice job. • Discuss the formation of a Bylaws Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop policy regarding Special Meetings ▪ Amend Bylaws to conform to County Counsel's interpretation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification regarding committee quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A quorum is currently two people. Consult County Counsel about amending the Bylaws to 	<p><i>Forward to the February MHC Meeting.</i></p>

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	<p align="center">allow only one (as is currently allowed for County Board of Supervisor Committees). This would make it easier to conduct committee meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish the committee. Kathi asked for volunteers on the Bylaws Committee: Dave Kahler, Teresa Pasquini, Betty Randle and Karen Sloma volunteered. 	<p><i>Contact County Counsel for clarification.</i></p> <p><i>Set a date for the Bylaws Committee to meet.</i></p>
<p>7. Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Employment and Human Svcs Dept./Mental Health Admin.'s Proposal presentation regarding conservatorship to the Board of Supervisors' Family and Human Services Committee December 17. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teresa Pasquini reported regarding presentation of Commission's recommendation at December 11 meeting. Reading a prepared statement, following her statement of the Commission's position, Teresa read comments in which she urged that the staffing issues be addressed immediately. Teresa said Edna Friedman was there and made her opinions known. Susan Bonilla expressed her concerns. The staffing issues have been submitted for the agenda for the February 5 Board of Supervisors meeting. ▪ Dorothy Sansoe said a recommendation was made to move positions to help ease the situation. • Report by Adult Mental Health Program Chief Vic Montoya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vic Montoya, rather than speak to the December 11 meeting, he said he would respond to the current staffing of the Conservator's Office. They are working to have the intake process become aligned with the urban conservatorship. ... there is finally momentum that has gone through the departments that resulted in recommendations that will be brought before the Board February 5 that ... will streamline a lot of functions and provides cross-training between conservatorship, LPS and probate. It strengthens the permanent staffing and the intake staff. Regarding staffing, Vic reported, "We are fully staffed in terms of conservators and probate," he said. February 5 is when Eric Cho, the new program manager, will begin and he is very skilled. They are still looking for a Property Trust Officer and hopefully recruiting for that will begin soon. The other position they don't have is a Project Patient Financial Specialist. They are responsible for reconfirms, but there are four other people currently who can perform that function. ▪ Cynthia said there are still not enough conservators to fill the need. Donna said there have been four reductions but they did not cut this section. Teresa asked why it took so long to offer Eric the job. She said there are a lot of concerns regarding the Conservator's Office. Vic said there are certain issues that are never privy to the public, but as they went through the interviews, Eric was not qualified at the time. So they rewrote the qualifications and it was then that Eric was selected. It took from August to December to interview and offer Eric the position. ▪ Dorothy Sansoe encouraged people to attend the meeting on February 5. ▪ Kathi asked if the Commission wished to change the motion from the previous meeting. The Commissioners indicated that the previous motion should stand. 	
<p>8. CSU Staffing Report-William Walker, MD,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Crisis Stabilization Unit staffing Dr. Walker said the larger issue on his agenda is the state budget cuts facing us. "But I would remind you that is on top of whatever cuts come through the 	

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<p>Health Services Director</p>	<p>county. There is no way to go through this budget cut without reductions in programs across the board. It is going to be terrible." He also said they are using all the available resources to fill the open positions and are recruiting for both licensed and unlicensed staff. All shifts are being filled by qualified people using current staff from the clinics and elsewhere who work one or two extra shifts per week.</p>	
<p>9. Mental Health Director's Report Donna Wigand, LCSW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Services Act, Prevention and Early Intervention Planning Process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donna Wigand said that there are two groups of stakeholders made up of 20 to 25 people in each group. "We are hoping this process will be finished in five meetings." There are three different forums February 12, 13 and 20. "We'll be gathering input from each area of the county. It would be helpful to have Commissioners at each forum," she said. • Potential Impact of State budget cuts on Contra Costa Mental Health Services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donna said the governor plans a 10% reduction on every department across the board. The EPSTD will be cut by 10% (\$1.7 million). There will be a 5% reduction on medical (\$2.7 million), and CTF Supplement will be \$50,000. The total state cuts will be about \$4.8. million, not counting the county cuts. ▪ She is meeting with all her labor organizations. "Legally, the county only has to give us \$3 million. Right now, they are giving us \$12 million. So, the worse case scenario is \$14 million reduction. The best scenario is \$7 million," she said. • Anticipated county budget cuts to Mental Health Services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "With those scenarios, we will have to look for a major restructuring and consolidation of the out-patient care programs to follow the core mission of what we are required to do," Donna explained. "The other thing is that I would put some things on the table that have never been on the table before. It will be worse than two years ago, because while the current systems are being cut, there will be new systems coming on line because of the Mental Health Services Act." ▪ She also said that there is a clause in Proposition 63 that says a state cannot go below a certain level of what they were spending in 2004 and the proposed budget cuts would bring the totals below that level. 	
<p>10. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Children's Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertain a motion to oppose the proposed budget cuts and ask the State to consider revenue enhancement alternatives. <p>Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bissell Cottages Report: Teresa Pasquini expressed concerns regarding her report and did not want to offend GRIP. She recommended waiting until next meeting to give her time to meet with GRIP again to go over some of the wording and make changes, including removing the phrase 'urban jungle' and correcting Cynthia Bellows' title. • Clarify how Standing Committee or Commission participation relates to the Welfare & Institutions Code: Teresa said, "I do not feel that this commission is performing its mandated responsibilities. ... There are a list of several things I thought we would be doing as a commission." A motion was made to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the Commission's mandated responsibilities under the Welfare and Institutions Code. • Support of the Clubhouse: 	<p>M - Teresa Pasquini S - Judy McCahon Carried unanimously</p> <p><i>Forward to the February MHC meeting.</i></p> <p>M - Teresa Pasquini S - Cynthia Miller. Carried unanimously</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entertain a motion recommending that the Commission formally support the Clubhouse and its programs and recognize the efforts of Herb Putnam on behalf of the Clubhouse Program. Kathi McLaughlin had questions regarding the funding of the Clubhouse and how it affected other local facilities, so she would not support the motion until her questions were answered. • Independent evaluation of the MHC meeting of December 11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entertain a motion to recommend that the Commission ask for an independent evaluation by Supervisor Susan Bonilla’s office of the Mental Health Commission meeting of December 11, 2007 and cancellation of the November 29, 2007 Commission meeting, to be done in a timely manner. • Due to lack of time and attendant loss of quorum, the remaining reports and agenda items will be forwarded to the next meeting's agenda. 	<p>M – Judy McCahon S – Scott Singley. One abstention so it did not pass.</p> <p>M – Teresa Pasquini S – None. Failed due to lack of a second.</p>
11. Ancillary Boards/Commissions Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None due to lack of time. 	
12. Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Officers • Bissell Cottages Report and corrections made by Teresa Pasquini & GRIP. • Entertain a motion recommending that the Commission formally support the Clubhouse and its programs and recognize the efforts of Herb Putnam on behalf of the Clubhouse Program. • Entertain a motion to discuss if the large contracts granted to Traditions (\$11,100,00 for 3 years) and Dr. Kolade (\$1,230,000 for 3 years) as consent items on recent Board of Supervisors calendars may fall under the Performance Contract Review mandate of the Welfare & Institutions Code. • Entertain a motion to recommend that the Commission collaborate with the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program on the formation of a Mental Health Task Force. 	
11. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 by CoChairperson Kathi McLaughlin. 	

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant
 Contra Costa Mental Health Commission

Eric Svenonius, Recording Secretary