

**Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission
February 28, 2008
MINUTES**

<p>1. Call to Order</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Kathi McLaughlin at 4:37 pm.</p> <p>Commissioners Bobbie Arnold, District I Supervisor Susan Bonilla, District IV Dave Kahler, District IV Judy McCahon, District III Jacque McLaughlin, District II Kathi McLaughlin, District II Cynthia Miller, District II Teresa Pasquini, District I Scott Singley, District III</p> <p>Committee Members/Guests John Gragnani, <i>Local One</i> Steven Grolnic, <i>McClury Rubicon</i> Lynn Gurko, <i>Crestwood Corp. Office</i> Art Honegger, <i>NAMI CC Board</i> Jason Jackson, <i>Prospective MHC applicant</i> Fran Kelly, <i>Supv. Bonilla's Office</i> Sandy Kleffman, <i>CC Times</i> Peter Mantas, <i>Family Member</i> Cindy Mataraso, <i>Crestwood</i> Kimberly Mayer, <i>MH Program Mgr.</i> Alix Mitgang, <i>GRIP</i> Mariana Moore, <i>Contractor's Alliance</i> Susan Moore, <i>CC Crisis Center</i> Forest Rosengreen Dorothy Sansoe, <i>CAO</i> Karen Shuler, <i>MHC Executive Assistant</i> Connie Steers, <i>MHCC Pts'. Rights</i> Eric Svenonius, <i>Recording Secretary</i> Donna Wigand, <i>MH Director</i> Janet Marshall Wilson, <i>MHCC</i></p>	<p>Commissioners Absent: Karen Sloma Bettye Randle</p>
<p>2. Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>3. Announcements</p>	<p>1) There will be an open house at Rubicon in Richmond, March 3 from 11 to 1 pm celebrating the opening of the West County Adult Full Service Partnership: Bridges to Home, which supports homeless adults in their journey towards recovery.</p>	

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	<p>2) March 10 at 3:30 is a Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the conservatorship issue. If anyone is interested in being a stakeholder, they should contact Dorothy Sansoe.</p> <p>3) Janet Wilson announced that MH Consumer Concerns has hired a new interim Executive Director.</p> <p>4) District IV Mental Health Commissioner Craig Fletcher passed away Monday. Information regarding the services is in the packet of information distributed at the meeting.</p> <p>5) MHC Executive Assistant Karen Shuler has moved offices, changed phone numbers but not e-mail accounts. Please call ahead of time if you wish to see her as the building has increased security.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>A motion was made to approve the January 24, 2008 Minutes as presented.</p>	<p>M- McCahon S- Kahler. Carried</p>
<p>5. Local Budget Reductions</p>	<p>Background: Contra Costa County is anticipating there will be at least \$32 million in service cuts across all departments for Fiscal Year 2008/09. For mental health, that reduction is approximately \$3.5 million. This is in addition to the approximately \$5 million reduction from the state, making a total reduction of approximately \$8.5 million. Mental Health Director Donna Wigand and Health Services Director William Walker, MD will present any available information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How much money the division will have (in total from general fund, realignment dollars, etc.) to provide services to all age groups. 2) What programs/services are mandated to be provided (again to all age groups). 3) The impact of the state and local budget reductions on the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center Crisis Stabilization Unit and the Psychiatric In-Patient Unit. <p>The Commission will discuss development of a priority list of what programs/services it considers most critical to maintain within the constraints of available funds.</p> <p>Donna Wigand said every division in the Health Dept. will be submitting a proposal tomorrow. MH Division is looking at county run services in the regions taking a \$5 million reduction and contracting out services taking a \$3.5 million reduction. This is</p>	

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because the county reduction is \$3.5, then added to the state reduction of 5 million. The contract reduction is not as complicated administratively, it will simply be a reduction in every contract across the board. \$5 million is very significant. She said, "There is no published budget document yet, but I can tell you that I'm trying to soften the blow against County staff, by consolidating sites from our mult-site locations into a single site or reorganizing where staff is located or working from." Any time a site is closed, it is a big loss, because the staff and the consumers are used to using that specific location.

Mandated services: The county must provide acute psychiatric care, and acute inpatient care when necessary. At this time, the hospital does not plan on including either of these services as part of their reductions. The hospital and health clinics are planning on a \$9 million cut. The county also must provide for AB 3632 kids who come from the school districts. Because the county must do SB90 claiming, there is always a cash flow issue – right now they are 2 million in arrears. One of the problems is when the state has problems, they simply make changes so they do not have to pay.

The state currently has 15 years to pay the SB90 claims.

She predicted that some of the services now provided at children's clinics out of necessity, the county may not be the care providers, so other services out there will be used to meet their needs. But the county will remain the care manager. Donna continued, saying the adults who are most seriously, persistently mentally ill (SPMI) should be the ones allowed in the doors first. The medical necessity scale is a way to determine who is in most distress. The legislative analysts in Sacramento did a through job showing that the public mental health system state-wide was funded at 45% of that which is needed JUST to meet the needs of the most severely mentally ill.

The above is Phase I, and that will be presented to the Health Services Administration during the budget hearings April 22. Once the divisional plans are finished, they are sent to the CAO office. Then the CAO releases the budget document about 2 weeks before the budget hearings. Hopefully, everything in Phase I can be done in seven weeks, including consolidations and closings as necessary so the county can start the new fiscal year at the lower rates. In an ideal world, if the reduction plans go as predicted, Phase Two is looking at a \$3.5 million reduction on the county.

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The revised Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal Maximum Reimbursement Rates were released and the new rates will go into affect May 1. This is state-wide and will reduce the revenue coming into the county. Many contracts will be coming up for renewal in June. This is the mid-year reduction. The governor is asking for further cuts. Many providers staying at the same service level will be taking a 20% reduction in income and may not be able to survive. They are not going to raise taxes, so they must cut services.

Kathi McLaughlin mentioned again that there is a law requiring certain services be maintained and some of these cuts would bring some services below the mandated levels.

John Gragnani said he completely supports organizational reshuffling. The county must maintain as many services as it can to provide care for the consumers. There were no management cuts last round of major cuts. Children in out of home and state placements exploded virtually overnight, causing a huge expenditure in the future. The system has to evolve. The services are not getting bigger nor will they get bigger anytime soon but the people needing assistance are not going to go away.

Kathi said the reason the cuts are so drastic is because the county has been giving money over and above what they require. Donna said they will still be putting in three times more than what they are required to do.

Steven Grolnic asked about the 10% cuts to contractors, and Donna responded saying each contract will be negotiated separately, but if everything remains the same, the contractor will receive a 10% cut, but the contractors may also choose to improve their services by 10% to compensate.

Peter Mantas said that he hopes the Commission will be looking at what services are needed beyond what we have today. He challenged the Commission to develop new ways to provide the services.

Kathi suggested the Commission should consider what services are

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	<p>most important and any action taken by the Commission should focus on those requiring the most services, those who are most mentally ill and those who are least able to pay.</p> <p>Cynthia Miller said the reality is most often, when people petition for mental health services, they are denied.</p> <p>Teresa Pasquini said when her son's problems first arose, he was not given the care needed. She chose not to go through legal venues to attack the county.</p> <p>Jacque McLaughlin has found that if people have insurance, many times the insurance is not enough and trying to coordinate the care with the funds that are provided can be a challenge. She also said when writing letters, statistical data and personal stories would prove to be very helpful in arguing for funding.</p> <p>Teresa discussed getting together with other MH Commissions from throughout the state or throughout the Bay Area. Donna said they are simply not organized.</p> <p>John, Mariana Moore and Dorothy Sansoe discussed the budget process and both John and Mariana said procedurally, the county would be seen as more transparent if it would allow more than five days between when it releases the budget and when the Board of Supervisors meets.</p> <p>A motion was made that the Commission's official stand be to maintain services to the severely persistent mentally ill, the underinsured and the uninsured consumers.</p>	<p>M- Pasquini S- McCahon Carried unanimously</p>
<p>6. Co-Chairs' Report</p>	<p><i>Time did not allow for this report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set date for Bylaws Revision Committee to meet. • Set date for Executive Committee to meet. • Report from the Mental Health Services Act Prevention & Early Intervention Community Forums. 	
<p>7. Mental Health Director's Report</p>	<p>Mental Health Services Act, Prevention and Early Intervention planning process</p> <p>Kimberly Mayer explained some of what P&EI entails and explained they have about \$7 million for the first 2 years. 51% of their budget must be spent on people from ages 0 to</p>	

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	<p>25. They started a community mapping system to evaluate what services and needs exist. The stakeholders meet next week. cchealth.org has a lot of information and specifics. They hope to have a public hearing and send it to the state by the summer.</p>	
<p>8. Health Services Director's Report</p>	<p><i>Dr. Walker was not present, so these items could not be addressed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Stabilization Unit Staffing Update • Report on January CCRMC Visit by Federal Regulators 	
<p>9. Election of Officers</p>	<p>Karen Sloma, Kathi McLaughlin and Dave Kahler removed their names from nominations for Chair or the Commission. Nominations were received from the floor. Kathi made a motion to nominate Scott Singley. Dave Seconded the motion. Scott accepted the nomination. Cynthia Millers nominated Judy McCahon to serve as Co-Chair. Jacquie McLaughlin seconded the motion and jusy also accepted the nomination.</p> <p>A motion was made to elect Judy McCahon and Scott Singley as Interim Co-Chairs for up to six months, at which time (or before) the election issue will be revisited.</p> <p>Donna mentioned to the incoming chairs she was offering Steve Ekstrom as a mediator who can provide workshops to help resolve issues and clarify the responsibilities of the Commission. Susan Bonilla agreed and said it would help improve the effectiveness of the Commission overall.</p>	<p>M-K. McLaughlin S-Kahler Carried unanimously.</p>
<p>10. Committee Reports</p>	<p><i>Justice System Committee</i> Committee heard responses from the community to its Law Enforcement Referral Cards. Judy McCahon said CIT training will be starting in July.</p> <p><i>Children's Committee:</i> Committee discussed P&EI priorities and program priorities related to anticipated budget reductions. No specific action was taken.</p> <p><i>Executive Committee: No report due to lack of time.</i></p> <p>Recommendations for appointments Status of Vacancies: District III: Consumer Representative. District IV: Consumer Representative District V: Consumer Representative, Family Member, Member-at-Large. (Supervisor Glover interviewed one applicant</p>	

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<p>and has scheduled an interview for a second applicant. Commission has received four applications and another request for an application.)</p>	
<p><i>Older Adult Committee:</i> A motion was made to support a joint application by Mental Health (HSD) and Aging and Adult Services (EHSD) to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) for an “Older Adults Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) Grant”. Applications are due by March 28, 2008. Up to \$415,400 is available to grantees for 3 years. The purpose of the Older Adults TCE Grant Program is to help communities provide direct services and build the necessary infrastructure to support expanded services for meeting the diverse mental health needs of older persons. For the purpose of this program, older adults are defined are persons 60 years and older who are at risk for or are experiencing mental health problems.</p>	<p>M – J. McLaughlin S – Arnold Carried unanimously</p>
<p><i>Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee:</i> Develop a response from the Commission to reports of recent assaults and suicide attempts at CCRMC. An assault with intent to kill and suicide attempts that were stopped recently. There is a serious concern that the mentally ill will be arrested instead of being cared for properly.</p>	<p>M – Pasquini S – Kahler Carried unanimously</p>
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">A motion made to send an immediate response due to the recent incidents to the board of supervisors requesting a report of the recent events on 4C. Supv. Bonilla said the Internal Operations Committee of the Board of Supervisors should receive this information. The BOS is now the Trustee Board for CCRMC.</p>	<p>Place on March Agenda.</p>
<p>Entertain a motion to request Commission participation on the Family & Human Services Committee surrounding the conservatorship issue.</p>	<p>M – Pasquini S – Kahler Carried unanimously</p>
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">No action taken.</p>	
<p>A motion was made recommending that the Commission formally support the Clubhouse and its programs and recognize the efforts of Herb Putnam on behalf of the Clubhouse Program.</p>	<p>M – Pasquini S – McCahon Carried unanimously</p>
<p><i>Bissell Cottages Report:</i> A motion was made to approve the amended letter to Bissell Cottages (follow-up to the site visit). Establish a formal procedural process for following up on items brought before the Commission and its committees.</p>	

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	<p>This item was referred to the Executive Committee. 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. (Carried over from January meeting.) Supv. Susan Bonilla, Dorothy Sansoe and Donna Wigand added input regarding the contracting process and wording of the motion. A motion was made to send a request to review these two contracts and a recommendation to review other large contracts before they are placed on the BOS Agenda as Consent Items to the Board of Supervisors' Internal Operations Committee.</p>	<p>M – Pasquini S – Miller Carried unanimously</p>
<p>11. Ancillary Boards/Commissions Reports</p>	<p>Contractor's Alliance Mariana Moore gave a brief report about meetings with the Contra Costa Council. California Mental Health Planning Council California Mental Health Boards/Commissions (CALMHB/C) California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH) Mental Health Coalition John Gragnani had made comments earlier in the Agenda.</p>	
<p>12. Future Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set date for Bylaws Revision Committee to meet. • Set date for Executive Committee to meet. • Entertain a motion to nominate a Commissioner to participate on the Conservatorship/Public Guardian Stakeholder Group which will discuss issues surrounding the Conservatorship and Public Guardian programs in the County and possible service improvements • Entertain a motion to request that the Board of Supervisors release the budget information early enough for the Commission to respond to it. • MHSA P&EI Public Hearing information. 	
<p>11. Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 by Co-Chair Kathi McLaughlin in memory of Commissioner Craig Fletcher.</p>	

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

Eric Svenonius, Recording Secretary