

Contra Costa Mental Health Commission  
Monthly Meeting  
10/25/10  
**Minutes – Approved 12/9/10**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Chair Mantas. Introductions were made around the room.

Commissioners Present:

Peter Bagarozzo, District V  
Evelyn Centeno District II  
Peggy Kennedy, District III  
Dave Kahler, District IV  
Peter Mantas, District III, Chair  
Carole McKindley-Alvarez, District I  
Colette O’Keeffe, MD, District IV  
Floyd Overby, MD, District II  
Teresa Pasquini, District I, Vice Chair  
Annis Pereyra, District II  
William Wong, District V

Attendees:

Peggy Harris MHCC  
Helen Geddes  
Patricia Snider  
Quentisha Davis  
Sarah Dukes former MHCC employee  
Cindy Mataraso, Crestwood  
Shanta Ramdeholl, CC Juvenile Justice Commission  
Ted Rogers OCE  
Brian Lindblom, CC Juvenile Justice Commission  
Audrey Stowell  
Kathleen Lipset, Crestwood  
Lisa Bruce, Crestwood  
Leroy Alexis, Crestwood  
Cynthia McContas, Crestwood  
Connie Steers, MHCC  
Nancy Birchland former MHCC employee  
Bob Thigpen, CCMH  
Marsha McInnis, CCMH Pittsburg Clinic  
Tomi Van de Brook, CCCD3  
Suzanne Davis-Lucey, Conservatorship

Commissioners Excused:

Sam Yoshioka, District IV

Commissioners Absent:

Supv. Gayle Uilkema, District II

Staff:

Sherry Bradley, MHA  
Linda Cipolla, Staff to MHC  
Susan Medlin, MHA  
Suzanne Tavano, MHA  
Jennifer Tuipulotu, OCE  
Dorothy Sansoe, CAO  
Donna Wigand, MHA

**2. 5:10 PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public may comment on any item of public interest within the jurisdiction of the Mental Health Commission. In the interest of time and equal opportunity, speakers are requested to observe a 3-minute maximum time limit (subject to change at the discretion of the Chair). In accordance with the Brown Act, if a member of the public addresses an item not on the posted agenda, no response, discussion, or action on the item may occur. Time will be provided for Public Comment on items on the posted Agenda as they occur during the meeting. Public Comment Cards are available on the table at the back of the room. Please turn them in to the Executive Assistant.

Chair Mantas opened for Public Comment clarifying that for those who came to speak about MHCC, it is a forum to talk, but not one in which to discuss the issues.

Quentisha Davis

She read from a document asking for help and for the Commission to take a stand on the issue of mental health consumer employee abuse in the workplace.

Though the Commission has already heard about some of the abuse, she believes they don't understand the extent of the misconduct and unethical behavior and the harmful impact that it has on Consumer's emotional and functional abilities.

She explained that many people came to her on her first day as an employee at MHCC telling her of the emotional and verbal harassment. After meeting staff at the Wellness and Recovery Centers she observed this herself and described it as "being overwhelmed in fear and terror" and under constant threat of termination. She said that "empowerment" is an often used term in her field and at MHCC it is an empty term; there is no empowerment there. She claims that Staff at MHCC terminates anyone who questions dysfunctional illegal operations and abusive practices.

Since MHCC is 100% funded by the county, she advocates questioning the funding and the supervision and if the Commission doesn't, the abuse is on their hands too.

Patricia Snider

She worked at MHCC as an employee of an outside agency as an Admin Assistant for Janet Marshall Wilson, the Patient Rights Director and also at that time, Loretta Williams, the Wellness and Recovery Director.

Soon after starting she was pulled to work on special projects for Brenda Crawford and Cindy Staton which interfered with productivity for Janet and Loretta. She was then tasked to work with Sarah Dukes, putting together the Christmas program for MHCC.

Direction was ambiguous, without a budget, guidelines or support from the agencies. At the same time she and Sarah were urged to make it the "best possible Christmas holiday party that has ever taken place before" and Brenda Crawford and Cindy Staton interfered with this task.

"In the meantime" she was released from her position and according to Brenda Crawford, there "was not enough work" and the position would be redesigned. Ms. Snider said there was plenty of work assisting Janet and Loretta and they had appreciated her work.

She claimed it was "Brenda's way of saying, 'you've outlived your usefulness to me so you are no longer needed here'." She said Brenda eliminated people who questioned her and Cindy Staton and this was typical of her treatment of employees.

Helen Geddes

She was employed at MHCC from August 17, 2009 to February 1, 2010 until she was forced to resign; prior to that she was a consumer of Mental Health Consumer Concerns. In order to help MHCC offer more services, she volunteered there, became a Spirit graduate and in future hopes to serve the community through social work with a Bachelor's degree.

She complained that staff at MHCC were non-supportive and undermining. She read examples: Her Co-coordinator was given notice and told Helen, "it was such a difficult place to work and maintain her health that she had to leave". Her supervisor, Loretta Williams was injured and ill and stayed away from the conference site, "so she could maintain her health and her job". Helen said Loretta, who is no longer with MHCC, "fought for us as Consumer and as Employee, and it was often a losing battle". They also "lost our only Wellness and Recovery Director"

She taught all 27 classes at MHCC to both centers, East County and Central County, (since they were combined) without support or delegation.

She claimed that people got fired when they helped with her broken PC. When Coordinators assisted with coordination duties, they were told not to help.

Up to 18 schedule changes per day by the Vocation and Education Coordinator made it impossible for Consumers to follow any classes and Helen fought to have this changed.

She said she was often asked to work overtime and wasn't paid, nor were her mileage reports reimbursed. She managed seventeen paid Volunteers who often "took it out on her" when they weren't paid.

Leroy Alexis

He expressed his wishes for Connie Steers to return to Crestwood Pleasant Hill. He said she has helped people, including his girlfriend find apartments and that she's good at her work and is well liked. He is concerned that Consumers won't get the help they need since she is no longer there.

Lisa Bruce

She was a former employee of MHCC from 1999 to 2006 and was forced to leave her Office Manager position assisting Janet Wilson. She also had been a secretary for a short time for the Board. She feels the Board and Board President Tom Scott are biased and unwilling to support Consumers.

While in that position she was not allowed to take breaks and was told not to help Consumers. When she did, she "got in trouble."

Her second statement was to represent her peers at Crestwood to support Connie Steers return.

She has known Connie since 1999 and during that time Connie has helped the Consumers in a variety of ways. Connie is the person they all go to for help.

Chair Mantas asked for clarification from Lisa regarding Connie's departure and Lisa replied that, "It is my understanding that MHCC is pulling her out of Crestwood."

Audrey Stowell

She is the President of Resident Counsel at Crestwood Healing Center. She explained that Connie was asked to leave her job three months ago.

She said Connie Steers covers all Contra Costa County patient rights, is well versed in her duties, and goes beyond to provide her entire attention to everyone at Crestwood. Tasks that Connie has helped Consumers with are: acquiring housing for new people, a new van, a patio door and snacks; getting money funds started, and serving as Resident Counsel. Her counsel has given Audrey the skills to advocate as President of Resident Counsel. Currently there is an issue that requires Connie's support which is the passing of a law that requires residents pay three dollars per prescription. Audrey shared that she takes nineteen medications daily and this is a concern for the Consumers and without Connie they have no instruction or support to fight it.

Commissioner Pasquini said the topic of Ms. Steers was raised at their site visit and will be discussed at the Cap/Fac Work Group meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow.

3. 5:25 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The MHC Planning Meeting for 2011 has been cancelled and will be rescheduling it in the near future.

4. 5:25 **IOC Referrals Update and Action - Consider information received from MHA, IOC and DMH in developing a recommendation to Mental Health Director and Board of Supervisors on the following subjects:**

A. Local 1 Management Assessment Referral

Chair Mantas explained that Item 4 has to do with two of the three referrals the Commission made to the IOC, the Board of Supervisors. One has to do with the Local 1 management assessment. In order to get everyone on the same page, he put together a PowerPoint presentation (which was not included in the packet or handouts).

Chair Mantas began to show a PowerPoint slide presentation reading verbatim (provided in 11.9.10 packet)

Reading slide 3 in the list of complaints, Chair Mantas said he has personally witnessed this behavior in addition to numerous accounts which claim the same.

Discussion:

Commissioner Wong suggests the complaints are a personnel issue

Chair Mantas suggests that Local 1 negotiations labeled it an HR issue in order to make the discussion confidential, and outside of public discussion.

Chair Mantas began to returned to the slideshow and read verbatim.

Discussion on slide 26:

The Deputy Mental Health Director and Mental Health Director objected and expressed concern that Chair Mantas is violating state law and HIPAA regulations and demanded he take the slide off the wall immediately. Since it contained names that are recognizable, with the combination of first names and birthdates, therefore it is in violation.

Chair Mantas advanced to the next slide but expressed that there is nothing on the slide that can identify clients and this was all theatrics to stop discussion.

After the slideshow Chair Mantas expressed concern with challenging times and budgets being cut That we should all work together and be honest with each other. He suggested that staff has been “dumped in front of the bus, and run them over because they’ve brought up an issue.” He stated that Ms. Foster was following the policy set by the same management that threw her under the bus. He further stated that the Director and Deputy Director did not disclose the Policy to MHC, BBS and DMH. He believes policies and procedures have not been followed and that quality of care has suffered. Per Deputy Mental Health Director’s memo a co-signature from a licensed practitioner was no longer needed because quality was good. Chair Mantas supports Linda Foster’s claim. Her further believes that she went through the proper channels to complain at the county for months if not years and she finally had to reach outside the Division. He further believes that our County has lost many of our best doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists for this very same reason. This punitive culture is killing our system.

Discussion to establish the issue as HR, quality of care, and whether the Commission is responsible:

Commissioner Wong asked why the agency or the county isn’t handling it as a personnel issue.

Chair Mantas called it a quality of care issue and said the Mental Health Administration did not disclose the policy. That concerned him and is why he was speaking about this issue.

Deputy Mental Health Director respectfully commented that they have been concerned with the Mental Health Commission's understanding of confidentiality and therefore have been reluctant to share information. She reiterated that it needs to be noted that Chair Mantas "violated patient confidentiality which is against the law" and the person that provided the information is also "in violation of state and federal law and will have to be investigated."

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez questioned the purpose of revisiting the topic since they had already made recommendations to the IOC (by vote).

Chair Mantas responded that the IOC did not come up with a conclusion and the recommendations were sent back to the Commission.

Dorothy Sansoe expressed her understanding on the items referred to the MHC. Chair Mantas agreed with Ms. Sansoe, however, clarified that the Board of Supervisors can't direct the MHC on what we should be working on. The Board of Supervisors said they will not take any feedback on HR issues. He questioned whether it is an HR issue or a quality of care issue.

Commissioner Wong believes it is a personnel issue, saying that there is only one person who complained about incorrect procedures. The assessment of 132 people who complained about management staff should be considered a personnel issue as well.

Commissioner Wong left at 6:47.

Commissioner O'Keeffe brought up the philosophy of internships believing it to be the issue behind the issue. Internships should be a truly learning experience with quality supervision, otherwise it is cheap labor. She recalled her own experience stating that as an intern it was difficult to get signatures but at times kept people from making mistakes.

Chair Mantas said that he believes it is an issue of policy, procedure and law. While the law is implicit, the policy is explicit and was not followed. In addition, there are 132 out of 189 individuals who reported on their assessment of management that "the results were overwhelmingly negative showing a strong indication that the line staff lacked confidence in this administration."

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez stated she has a doctorate degree in Psychology, and has supervised licensed folks. She warned the Commission to be careful not to make sweeping generalizations and take care what they put in front of the public. Incorrect information could hinder collaboration and she believes parts of the presentation based on the evaluation assessment are inaccurate. She said that complaints should be taken seriously and that quality of care for Consumers should be looked at. She suggests that the issue go to the quality of care workgroup, to discuss quality issues, possible accountability or falseness that may have occurred and provide another recommendation to IOC.

Chair Mantas stated that every item on the slideshow was 100% accurate.

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez stated that the Adult Division, and Vic Montoya received very good feedback in the assessment. Saying the whole county received negative evaluations is inaccurate.

Chair Mantas agreed and noted the point of correction.

Commissioner O'Keefe responded that John Allen had an even more positive assessment.

Commissioner Centeno thanked Chair Mantas for the presentation, the information and for organizing her thoughts. She does see a quality issue in regard to possible policy inconsistency. She requested a report and presentation to give the Commission status of the investigation, and agrees that HR issues should be handled by the department.

Chair Mantas explained that there are two policies: one policy ended in July of this year. Another policy started Aug 1, (he was not positive of the date). Both policies were signed by The Mental Health Director and only one policy is active at a time.

Deputy Mental Health Director said they would look at that again.

The Mental Health Director said she didn't want to spend time responding because in her experience her corrections are not well received by Peter Mantas. However she did want to say that not all the things on the slides were accurate and referred to another set of regulations called Title 9. She offered to give a presentation on the governing regulations.

Chair Mantas thanked The Mental Health Director and asked if we were following policy.

The Mental Health Director said, "yes" and affirmed she would not debate it in this forum.

Commissioner Kennedy states that in a letter in the packet dated September 1<sup>st</sup>, from the California Department of Mental Health, that both the Medi-Cal issue and the issue regarding lack of co-signature on intern's notes. She is wondering about the disparity.

Chair Mantas questioned whether they (DMH) got the policy and did they answer and review the policy? He believes the policy is explicit and further believes that DMH did not ask for or reviewed the policy.

Commissioner Kennedy expressed confusion.

The Mental Health Director reiterated she would like to have the compliance unit give a presentation and they could explain the difference between policies and procedures.

Commissioner Centeno said we need to know how to go forward.

Chair Mantas said Commissioner Pasquini as Acting Chair will deal with that going forward. He agreed there is a lot of information and it is confusing. He'd be happy to debate it now but Mental Health Director isn't interested.

Suzanne Davis suggested that pursuing wisdom is helpful to gain understanding and she thought that was the intent of Chair Mantas' slideshow. She said she got her license in 1995. She did her internship hours in a private setting and was paid. She had a contract agreement with her supervisor which included signing off on hours, because that was part of the Board of Behavioral Sciences requirements in order to be licensed. Other interns were not paid and had a different contract. She explains there were different policies and procedures in the county versus private sector.

When she came on board (the county) as a licensed clinician, there were interns that were seeking their “hours”. Part of the education was doing “blue-notes” and if you weren’t licensed, it clearly stated, “co-signature from a licensed person.” This was provided but not explained. She referred to misunderstanding between staff and different worksites and that a clear interpretation of the policy is needed.

She agreed with Commissioner O’Keeffe, that the Commission should look at this as a quality issue in regard to proper intern training and supervision, and whether existing policies and procedures give quality of care to the Consumers.

Chair Mantas stated the current policy doesn’t require co-signature. Prior to July it required co-signature. He will provide all of the supporting documents not shown that night to Linda Cipolla so she can share it with everybody.

He said the policy is clear and explicit and is what Linda Foster noted, and he believes that it was not followed. He also said, he stands with the 132 Local 1 members, he has “zero confidence in Mental Health Administration”. This was due to his experience of close to 4 years of dealing with the system, seeing what happened to his son, and almost 2 years as the Chair on the Commission.

He believes the issue with the MHA is not one of capability, but attitude, which prevents them from moving forward. He asked if the Commission would like to offer a motion.

Deputy Mental Health Director commented for the record that due to the disclosure, there will be a formal request of Chair Mantas to provide the name of person who provided the information, because it is a compliance and confidentiality issue and Chair Mantas agreed.

Commissioner Kennedy thanked Chair Mantas for his willingness to read between the lines to search for the truth and for his constant diligence. Although her style is not to butt heads and she may not agree; Suzanne Davis seconded.

Commissioner Centeno thanked Peter Mantas for his leadership, advocacy and dedication and acknowledged his “unique way of acting with passion”.

Commissioner Vice Chair Pasquini asked if anyone in attendance could represent Local 1 since the agenda item specifically referred to the Local 1 Management Assessment Recall. Suzanne Davis said she was from Local 1, but she couldn’t represent them.

Commissioner Pasquini expressed a desire to have representation from Local 1 for an additional perspective from the slideshow, as well as to provide an update. She has not heard from them for some time on this issue. Suzanne Davis suggested a representative would have attended had they been informed. Pasquini assured her that Local 1 knew about the agenda item. An email was received from the president that morning stating, he was unable to attend but also didn’t provide an indication of his/their stance.

Pasquini was the original receiver on the commission of this evaluation, brought it to the Commission, and had been “under siege” by various communications on the matter.

Objectively, she thought the best action for all parties was to refer the issue to the Board of Supervisor’s IOC. She has attended three IOC meetings, and will be in attendance on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Pasquini noted that she had not seen the slideshow prior and that there were definitely some inaccuracies. As the future Acting Chair, she asked the Commission to provide direction, on the message to take back to the IOC. She thought the previous motion had been clear: to get direction from the Board.

Discussion:

Commissioner Kennedy asked what the Board's response had been.

Dorothy Sansoe said the IOC referred Items 2, 3, &5 in the report: Item 1 was the Local 1 survey which was not referred back to the Commission. CPAW, CATF and training issues were referred back to the Commission. She also clarified that the IOC only takes action on items listed on their agenda, but an attendee can present an issue.

Chair Mantas said that he told the Chair of the IOC, Supervisor Piepho, that he would bring all issues back to the Commission and Supervisor Piepho agreed. He acknowledged to her that the IOC isn't required to listen to the Commission's input, but as an independent body they may make recommendations.

There was discussion about how the Commission should proceed. Kennedy said she didn't know what to do and Centeno asked if the Commission had already asked for direction. Mantas confirmed that they had provided stacks of information to the IOC, it wouldn't be on the next IOC agenda and unless they have another meeting and provide feedback to IOC there isn't anything to do. He thought the additional information provided in the slideshow and the supporting documents provided new information worthy of discussion. He stated the supporting documentation would be supplied to the Commission. Tomi Van de Brook and Commissioner Pasquini both asked for clarification: would he supply to the Commission and or the Board as an individual rather than on behalf of the Commission?

Chair Mantas asked if there was interest to proceed and there was no response.

#### **4B. Private Task Force Referral**

Chair Mantas referred the group to read page 52 re: Private Task Force Referral rather than read out loud and asked if anyone wanted to discuss further?

Commissioner Pereyra expressed concern that as the Mental Health Commission, "Childrens" is underneath their purview and at the same time the Commission is, "barred from being involved in the decision making process". She didn't want to have a "no comment" go back to the IOC.

Sansoe provided clarification: Children and Adolescent's Task Force, (CATF) is a private group to discuss and advocate on behalf of children and Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup (CPAW) is a work group reporting to the Mental Health Director that advises her on mental health services acquisitions. She provides a report to the IOC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the current changes with the CPAW.

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez inquired that the county doesn't necessarily have a children's task force, an adult task force and an older adult task force per se.

The Mental Health Director explained that CATF is a group of private citizens who advocate for children. She said there was an Older Adults Advocacy group and Chair Mantas said they are no longer in existence and believes they got folded into CPAW.

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez asked if she could join CATF as an individual or was inclusion by invitation only, to which the Mental Health Director nodded (to the latter.)



Chair Mantas responded that the Commission is welcome to participate, and the Older Adult Advocacy group is interested in engaging.

There was discussion to determine if CATF uses County resources to define if the meetings should be public. Dorothy Sansoe said she had looked into that and “could not find anywhere where the CATF actually used county resources.” She stated that county conference rooms are available for use by advisory groups, which they are doing.

Commissioner Vice Chair Pasquini recalled that the Commission had been encouraged by the Board to collaborate with CATF but didn’t recall a formal request to do so from the Commission especially since the IOC ---.

Chair Mantas said he’d sent numerous emails to Kathy with no response.

Commissioner Pasquini said she had a good working relationship with the Chair of CATF over the last couple of months and supports a motion, as a Commission, to reach out and collaborate with CATF on Children’s issues.

- **ACTION:** – Formally reach out to CATF for collaboration with Commission. (M-Commissioner Vice Chair Pasquini /S-Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez /Passed, 10-0-0, Y- Kahler, Mantas, McKindley-Alvarez, O’Keeffe, Overby, Pasquini, Pereyra)  
**Unanimous**

**Further Discussion:**

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez said she was concerned about CATF’s influencing ability since attendance is by invitation only and asked if CATF though private, influences the county’s decision making process.

The Mental Health Director confirmed CATF is not a decision making body, and they advise her when they feel strongly about an issue. They provide their opinion, but do not make decisions. They can also present to the Board.

Commissioner Pereyra spoke about the 20 Allen project when there was an issue that created hard feelings in response to lack of partnership with CATF and their lack of sharing information and procedures with the Commission. At that time, there had been a combined CPAW and MHC Work Group on the project. They had been told there was no separate children’s component of the 20 Allen Project though children would be included.

The Children’s unit went in without the Work Group’s knowledge which then brought conflict around designated areas: when the assessment and the 5150 receiving unit etc. became a major issue and the CRF got pushed to the side.

When asked if Commissioner Pereyra’s version was correct, The Mental Health Director responded that everyone experiences things differently and agreed it would have been better if those three groups, MHC, CPAW and CATF were talking to each other. She expressed hope that they will collaborate going forward.

Commissioner Centeno said that as a Commission, if the end result is good for the community then there shouldn’t be hard feelings.

Chair Mantas said that he believed Commissioner Pereyra's representation of what happened was accurate. That many hours had been spent but the proposal today was different than the original discussion and that we've come up with a better plan now.

Commissioner McKindley-Alvarez reiterated the desire to start the conversation with CATF again, especially because they are representing a group that she feels has been silenced, and are underrepresented in a lot of places that have power and voice.

Chair Mantas clarified that as a commission they had decided to participate with various groups, specifically CATF and the Older Adult Advocacy group, and that he had been given instructions by the Commission to work with CATF as the Chair. Pasquini shook her head in disagreement. Mantas said, "The Chair is responsible for talking to other groups by the direction of the commission" to which Pasquini agreed.

#### CIMH Facilitation:

Chair Mantas said he had reached out to CIMH for help in facilitating work with CATF and MHA. CIMH explained that they don't facilitate but would work with Mantas to develop a training session to work with the MHC, MHA and CATF. On July 21, 2010, the agreed date to meet to discuss issues for training, CIMH cancelled and explained they would take a different route after speaking with The Mental Health Director. He didn't know what was discussed with the Director to cause of the change.

The Mental Health Director said his account was not accurate. She didn't offer any details.

Deputy Mental Health Director reminded Chair Mantas that during a training of the Board (July 24, 2010), he called people of the state 'dummies'. CIMH also presented at the meeting and provided feedback that Chair Mantas' statement "Didn't go over very well".

Chair Mantas did not recall any such statements. He further clarified that after the cancellation of the meeting he stopped pursuing CIMH's help with training.

#### 5. 6:20 **CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS – Chair Mantas Chair Mantas**

##### A. Update on consumer concerns

Regarding MHCC Consumer concerns, Chair Mantas said he wanted to convene a Task force with people from the commission and from the MHCC Board, to have a private environment where consumers can talk about their experience at MHCC in an unthreatening environment so that whatever is provided is confidential to the person but not to the subject. He had told complainants that their director won't attend the meetings. Both Mental Health Director and the Chairman of MHCC's Board had discussed similar avenues.

Chair Mantas asked for three volunteers for the Task force to work with the MHCC Board. The goal would be to discuss whether there are occurrences that are in contract violation and if anything is occurring that might disempower or put Consumers at risk. He reminded them not to get involved in an HR discussion. With the findings, work with the MHA Staff to advise the Commission. He called for volunteers.

Commissioner O'Keeffe raised her hand.

Commissioner Vice Chair Pasquini stated that there was no agenda item to generate a Task force.

Chair Mantas agreed it was not on the agenda and that as Chair he can call a Task force.

Commissioner Overby said he'd like to participate but not as Chair.

Chair Mantas said it's up to the Task force to determine the Chair.

Commissioner Pereyra expressed interest but due to personal issues, she might not be able to follow through and hoped that someone else would attend in her absence.

Chair Mantas established the Task force: Commissioner O'Keefe, Commissioner Overby and Commissioner Pereyra. He said at the next meeting Vice Chair Pasquini will be Acting Chair and has the responsibility of making sure that we're following the process that has begun today.

Commissioner Pasquini expressed concerns for two reasons: Two of the three Commissioners on the Task force may not be able to be active and also the President of MHCC stated he will attend the next meeting. She proposed waiting until it could be an agenda item, when all issues, on both sides can be discussed publically

Vice Chair Pasquini questioned Deputy Mental Health Director who had been shaking her head and Deputy Mental Health Director explained that personnel issues for either side can't be discussed publically.

Commissioner O'Keefe said that since these issues have been going on a long time without resolution and since there is decreased patient's rights advocacy due to budget cuts that perhaps they should not ignore it and be less strenuous with due diligence. She also stated that Connie Steer's status is a current issue and can't be allowed to sit.

Commissioner Vice Chair Pasquini said they can talk about it the next day at the Work Group and take a motion then.

Commissioner Kennedy said for expediency, she prefers to start a Task force now rather than wait for another meeting which will take a month. She asked about Tom Scott Attending the next Commission meeting and Pasquini confirmed he would attend the MHC meeting on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Kennedy commented that she didn't want to wait a month (and the next meeting would be in two weeks.)

Chair Mantas reiterated that there are issues that do belong in private rather than a public meeting, and that he's made every effort possible to speak with Tom Scott and confirmed as Chair the Task force is formed. By charter, he tasked them to meet with Consumers of MHCC, whether they are employees or consumers at large, get their feedback, do nothing other than collect the feedback, take the feedback from MHCC's board, have a discussion with the MHA with the findings, and then through Acting Chair Pasquini, determine the next step. Look at quality, and what is happening to Consumers, keeping in mind the HR issues are not the responsibility of the Task force.

### **B. Departing comments**

Chair Mantas thanked everyone for their support and for the honor of leading for two years. He referred to his stubborn character and also his deep desire to listen and treat others with fairness and respect. He stated that after many attempts to resolve issues collaboratively, yielding no results; the

Spartan in him didn't not allow him to give up. He referred himself as a pit-bull with passion and conviction going after the root cause of the problems driving to the best possible solutions for the commission and all Mental Health issues. He acknowledged ruffling feathers in the process and that was the best he could do after he'd been hitting his head against the wall on issues for some time. He said he hadn't accomplished all he'd hoped for: "more peaceful and open dialog, transparency, and accountability." He encouraged the Commission to continue to "dig" and offered his help to anyone who might need him in the future.

Commissioner Overby thanked Chair Mantas for a superb job, for his knowledge and the endless hours he's given to the Commission. Overby appreciated that Chair Mantas spoke up rather than going with the consensus and is thankful that Chair Mantas will consult as needed in the future.

Tomi Van de Brook, Chief of Staff to Contra Costa Supervisor Mary Piepho, thanked Chair Mantas on behalf of Supervisor Piepho. Reading, "From one very strong personality to another, I love you." She thanked Chair Mantas for his service, and read from plaque, "In honor of his commitment and service to the Mental Health Commission, Supervisor Mary Piepho recognizes Chair Mantas for his passionate advocacy in his fight for systemic improvement, accountability, and for his dedication, leadership, and distinguished service to mental health awareness."

She apologized for Mary who was out of town and couldn't present the plaque herself.

Van de Brook said, "This is the beginning of your recognition and appreciation, not the end."

Chair Mantas closed the meeting saying, "The last time as Chair, hopefully not the last time being with you."

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*Any Commissioner or member of the public may suggest items to be placed on future agendas.*

### **A. Suggestions for November Agenda**

### **B. List of Future Agenda Items:**

1. Rose King Presentation on MHSA
2. Behavioral Court Presentation
3. Case Study
4. Presentation from The Clubhouse
5. Creative ways of utilizing MHSA funds
6. TAY and Adult's Workgroup
7. Conservatorship Issue
8. Presentation from Victor Montoya, Adult/Older Adult Program Chief
9. Presentation from Crestwood Pleasant Hill
10. Presentation on Healthcare Partnership and CCRMC Psych Leadership
11. Presentation on non-traditional mental health services under the current PEI MHSA programs

### **C. List of Future Action Items:**

1. Develop MHC Fact Book to be used in review meetings with appointing Supervisors
2. Review Meetings with appointing Supervisors

## **7. ADJOURN MEETING**

- **ACTION: Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. (M- Overby /S-Pereyra /Passed, 10-0-0, unanimous)**

The next regular scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2010 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the John Muir Behavioral Health Center, 2730 Grant Ave., Classroom A, Concord

*Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the staff to a majority of the members of the Mental Health Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1340 Arnold Drive, Ste. 200, Martinez during normal business hours*

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cipolla  
Executive Assistant