

Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission Thursday, June 14, 2012 Minutes

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carole McKindley-Alvarez at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Dave Kahler, District IV
Peggy Kennedy, District II
Carole McKindley-Alvarez, District I
Floyd Overby, District II
Teresa Pasquini, District I
Gina Swirsding, District I
Sam Yoshioka, District IV

Commissioners Absent:

Evelyn Centeno, District V
Supv. Karen Mitchoff, BOS Representative
Colette O’Keeffe, District IV
Annis Pereyra, District II
Juliet Scott, District III
Monique Tarver, District III

Non-Commissioners in Attendance:

Lia Bristol, Supv. Mitchoff’s Office
Kevin Burns, MHCC
Marvin Edward, MHCC
Peggy Harris, Consumer
Ralph Hoffmann, Guest
Jesse Hurt, MHCC
Steven L. Judkins, MHCC
Susan Medlin, OCE Coordinator
Victor Montoya, MHA
Mary Roy, MHSA Program Manager
Karen Shuler, MHC Executive Assistant
Suzanne Tavano, Acting Mental Health Director

2. Public Comment

- Ralph Hoffmann updated what he’s been doing with CPAW, and how he’s been working with senior citizens. He said he speaks at NAMI and other community meetings. He asked to withdraw his application to the Commission due to his busy schedule.

3. Announcements

- Mary Roy referred to a copy of the Suicide Prevention Program Draft Plan Information included in the packet. She would like any input by the end of June.
- Floyd Overby was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation on the occasion of his retirement from the Mental Health Commission. His contributions will be missed.
- Dave Kahler announced that the annual summer picnic hosted by MHCC, NAMI and Crestwood, will be held tomorrow at Pleasant Hill Park.

4. A. Approval of the Minutes from April 26, 2012

Clarification regarding voting on Minutes when not in attendance.

At the request of the Chair, staff researched this matter and found that any person may move, second, or correct the minutes and may vote to approve them. To formally move approval of the minutes means that the maker of the motion has either reviewed the secretary's draft and feels that it is in decent form for approval or trusts the secretary's ability to draft the minutes. As for voting to approve the minutes, all members should be allowed to do so, even though they may not have attended the previous meeting.

Minutes are a legal statement of actions taken. The principle at play here is that an organization, and especially a corporation, speaks through its minutes. If your organization ever finds itself in court, the first question the judge may ask is to see a copy of the minutes. Every member should have a say so in something that important.

➤ M/S: Peggy/Floyd.

Discussion: None.

Vote: The Minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

B. Approval of the Minutes from May 24, 2012

➤ M/S: Sam/Peggy.

Discussion: Page 6 #12 - Teresa mentioned the misspelling of “Berwick”. She also asked that wording be changed to reflect that while she did make a presentation, it was not with Berwick.

Vote: The Minutes were approved as corrected by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

5. A. Recommendation from the Nominating Committee Regarding District III MHC Member-at-Large Applicant Jerome Crichton.

➤ M/S: Teresa/Peggy

Discussion: The Nominating Committee voted 3-0 to recommend Jerome Crichton’s name be forwarded to the Commission for recommendation to Supv. Piepho for appointment to the vacant District III Member-at-Large seat. Floyd said he has a very impressive resume. Gina said he will represent the faith-based community as well.

Vote: By a unanimous vote of 7-0, the Commission recommended that Jerome Crichton’s name be forwarded to Supv. Piepho to fill the District III Member-at-Large seat vacated by Peggy Kennedy.

B. Recommendation from the Nominating Committee Regarding District V MHC Consumer Representative Applicant Jack Feldman.

➤ M/S: Sam/Gina

Discussion: The Nominating Committee voted 2-0-1 to recommend Hiram “Jack” Feldman’s name be forwarded to the Commission for recommendation to Supv. Glover for appointment to the vacant District V Consumer Representative seat. Peggy asked the reason for the abstention. Floyd said it was due to trouble in communicating with him. Peggy asked if he said he would be able to attend the meetings and participate in the committee meetings. Gina said he said he could. Gina said he liked the fact that he was active at the Wellness Center. Ralph said Jack was first graduate from MHCC leadership program. He felt he would be a good contributor. Teresa mentioned that Jack participated at the Leadership Academy. Teresa said she was concerned about new members of the Commission not having participated.

Vote: The vote was 6-0-1 (Dave abstained). The motion does not pass due to lack of quorum. It will be brought back to the Commission in July when more members are present.

Staff was asked to place Nominating Committee membership on the July Executive Committee Agenda.

6. Consider expanding the Mission Statement and Goals of the Capital Facilities Committee to include MHSA Oversight and Accountability.

By way of background, Peggy explained the need for oversight and that instead of having another committee established, it was decided to have the Capital Facilities Committee handle this issue.

➤ M/S: Peggy/Teresa.

Discussion: The opinion was given that this oversight cannot be done at the MHC level because there is no technical support other than what comes from the MHA. Capital Facilities Committee Chairperson Teresa explained that statutorily we have the obligation to know things and work with MHA. We are not taking this responsibility over, but there will be some local processes changes that we already have oversight over. We are expected to have oversight, and this would give the MHC a chance to be more focused and objective than by sitting on CPAW-like committees. It would be beneficial for the MHC to have a specific committee to consider MHSA. It was suggested that look at the Bylaws as the MHC has review responsibilities and there is a difference between review and oversight and accountability. There was discussion about changing the wording to include review and to stress the need to have the data and information from MHA. Peggy said her understanding is that we would have a relationship with MHA to get the information and utilize it to do the review and recommendations. Same said we should have had the current MHSA Plan well in advance of this meeting. Teresa said the comments that had been made actually made the case for the committee, since we would work collaboratively to get this information in a timely manner. Commissioners commented about the Plan being overwhelming and they wished they had had more time to read it. Carole would like to see this be its own standing committee next year, but for now agreed with putting it under Capital Facilities Committee.

Vote: By a unanimous vote of 7-0, the Commission agreed to expand the Mission Statement and Goals of the Capital Facilities Committee to include MHSA Oversight and Accountability for the remainder of this year.

7. Discussion on Process and Status of Hiring the Mental Health Director

Receiving of applications has been extended until June 22nd. There were several questions about the posting of the announcement. Director of Behavioral Health Services Cynthia Belon will be invited to come in July to respond to the Commission's questions, including:

- 1) Where are they advertising it?
- 2) Why isn't it being posted nationally?
- 3) What will the interview process look like?
- 4) When will the interviews start?
- 5) What is the Commission's role in the process?

8. Commissioner Announcements

- Sam would like to Executive Committee review the Bylaws regarding absences at meetings.
- Sam-suggested a division of labor regarding the annual MHSA Plan update – assigning different commissioners to look at different portions of the Plan and then report in.
- Gina stated she is concerned about absence policy because her mother is ill and she may miss meetings. Carole said she will talk to her about it.
- Gina said she focuses on portions of the MHSA as she is overwhelmed.
- Teresa said Sam's suggestion is a great idea.

9. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant
 Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission