

**Mental Health Commission Minutes**  
**7.9.2015 FINAL**

| <b>Agenda Item</b>                         | <b>Discussion</b>  | <b>Action / Follow-Up</b>   |
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| <b>I. Call to Order/<br/>Introductions</b> | <p>The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by MHC Chairperson Lauren Rettagliata.</p> <p><b><u>Commissioners Present</u></b><br/>Supv. Candace Andersen, BOS Rep.<br/>Louis Buckingham, District III<br/>Duane Chapman, District I<br/>Dave Kahler, District IV<br/>Diana MaKieve, District II<br/>Tess Paoli, District III<br/>Lauren Rettagliata, District II<br/>Barbara Serwin, District II<br/>Gina Swirsding, District I<br/>Sam Yoshioka, District IV</p> <p><b><u>Commissioners Absent</u></b><br/>Greg Beckner, District IV<br/>Peggy Black, District V<br/>Evelyn Centeno, District V<br/>Jerome Crichton, District III</p> <p><b><u>Non-Commissioners Present</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guita Bahramipour, AOD Board</li> <li>• Hillary Bowers, Recovery Innovations</li> <li>• Tom Gilbert, CPAW</li> <li>• Peggy Harris, Concerned Citizen</li> <li>• Adam Hudson, Anka Behavioral Health</li> <li>• Ralph Hoffman, Concerned Citizen</li> <li>• Melinda Meahan, MHA</li> <li>• Julie Peck, Telecare Hope House</li> <li>• Jill Ray, Supv. Andersen's Office</li> <li>• Roberto Roman, Office for Consumer Empowerment</li> <li>• Karen Shuler, MHC Executive Assistant</li> <li>• Janet Marshall Wilson, former Patients' Rights Director</li> </ul> | <p><i>Transfer recording to computer.</i></p> <p><i>Update Commissioner Attendance Chart</i></p> <p><i>Update Data Base</i></p> |
| <b>II. Announcements</b>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lauren announced that Cynthia wanted to be here but was not well. Cynthia did answer one concern on the Access Line and bed reservations. Lauren read this into the record and it is included in these Minutes as part of Cynthia report.</li> <li>2) Karen received a packet of thank-you notes from clients of the Behavioral Health Court. The Commission helped provide gifts for them for Christmas, and one of the Commissioners provided a bicycle for someone whose bicycle was stolen. They have been typed and are included in the record.</li> </ol>  |   |

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|                            | <p>Lauren added she was at the Behavioral Health Court Christmas party and urged all of the Commissioners to visit them, even when court is not on. She said there is a meeting place where people are eager to inform others on how the program is changing their lives.</p> <p>Thank you notes from Behavior Health Court Clients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ <i>Thank you! For all the care and concern you give all of us! God Bless! Jacob</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Dear Mental Health Commission, Thanks for bringing cheer to my Christmas. It is a time of growth for me and you made me feel special. Have a blessed New Year. Thanks. Kim H.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Dear Mental Health Commission: Thank you for the gifts to me and my colleagues! Nick W.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Mental Health, I had a great X-Mas. Thank you. Sincerely, Kathy</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Thank you Mental Health Commission for <u>all</u> the parties and fundraisers you've done for us...Sincerely, David M.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>To: Mental Health Commission. Thank you for the Christmas gift that you've given to me. Roberto P.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>To the Mental Health Commission. Thanks so much for your caring and supportive gifts for Christmas 2014. From Nina-Rene P. of BHC</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Mental Health Commission, Thank you for all you do. Philip P.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>I wish you a happy holidays and many more.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Thank you Mental Health Commission for the gifts. Jon T.</i></li> <li>✚ <i>Thank you for all the fun and wonderful events, thank make us feel normal and valued. From BHC and Tyrone</i></li> </ul> <p>An emergency call came asking for help getting a bike for a client whose bike was stolen. He had no way to get to work. One e-mail went out to the Commissioners and a bike was immediately provided. He sent this note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ <i>I want to thank you and the Mental Health Commission for getting me a bike so quickly. I really appreciate you using your time to help me. The bike works great and the lock will prevent it from getting stolen. Also, the helmet makes me feel safe. I am working now and I can really get to work because I have a bike. Thank you, Derek M.</i></li> </ul> |                    |
| <b>III. Public Comment</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ralph Hoffman said that this year there have been many advances nationally in racial rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights, but seemingly no advances in behavioral health rights and rhetorically asked why.</li> <li>2) Janet Marshall Wilson expressed her concern about</li> </ol>   |                    |

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|   | <p>Victor Montoya “going over to the hospital side” and wondered who was going to be taking over his duties. She spoke again about her concern expressed two months ago about children being sent out-of-county and even out-of-state because of the “Do Not Admit” policy in some of the hospitals here. She stated that with a number of people who worked to start the “Bring Them Home Project” no longer involved, she is concerned about future efforts to bring people home from these far-away places, which she felt tied into the Olmstead Act. She also stated that regarding Agenda Item VII, her understanding was that the position was an Adult Family Coordinator, not Family Coordinator as stated on the agenda. She has heard many people say that this was a family advocate position but believed that there was only one advocate position in the WIC, the patient’s rights advocate, and that this job title needs to be maintained, including the word “Adult” in the title.</p>  | <p><i>Check on correct position title.</i></p> |
| <p><b>IV. Commissioner Comments</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tess thanked everybody for their understanding with what she and her husband have been going through for the last three months. She stated that some people had helped her a lot, although she is still dealing with the issues.</li> <li>2) Duane wanted everybody to save the date of Saturday, August 22, for a Safe Community event in Richmond. He would like the Mental Health Program to set up a table about services available for mental health in the community. He said he would send Warren an email with further information. He could also have a table for the Mental Health Commission.</li> <li>3) Duane also stated that there was an MOU between the Police Department and Mental Health being able to go out into the community together regarding people with mental health issues. He understood that the County was very adamant that the Police Department start doing this, but the MOU got held up. Right now there is a mental health person available, but she cannot ride with the police but has to go in her own car. He would like the MHC to find out the status of this, if it is within their purview, and see if they can help push it forward, because he feels it is a wonderful program that is much needed.</li> </ol> <p>Supv. Andersen offered to spearhead and coordinate efforts to find out about the status of this and get it moving forward. She stated that others may know more about this as well, and Jill could coordinate their efforts.</p> | <p><i>Follow-up with Jill Ray.</i></p>         |

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|  | <p>Duane also mentioned that Crime Prevention is putting together training for ministers at churches in the community in response to the South Carolina shootings, and they are opening it up to all churches in the Bay Area to teach people how to deal with people with mental health issues in a manner that will not cause their problems to escalate. This will probably be put on in September, and he will keep everybody informed about the status.</p> <p>Lauren stated there was existing information on faith and mental health in the NAMI office; also, Gigi Crowder in Alameda County volunteers with this program as well.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>V. Approval of the June 11, 2015, Minutes</b></p>  | <p>➤ Sam made a motion, seconded by Dave, to approve the Minutes from June 11, 2015.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duane asked about the Announcements section, where it said that Supv. Andersen thanked Teresa and presented her with a Certificate, and he said that it should say that the Certificate was presented by Supervisor Gioia's office. Lauren clarified that the Announcements section continued to page 2, where it did mention another Certificate was also presented by Supervisor Gioia's office.</li> </ul> <p>Vote: By a vote of 9-0-1, the Minutes were approved as presented.</p> <p>Yes: 9 – Supv. Andersen, Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Lauren, Barbara, Gina, Sam</p> <p>No: 0</p> <p>Abstain: 1 – Tess</p> <p>Absent: 4 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn, and Jerome)</p> | <p><i>Post approved Minutes to website.</i></p> |
| <p><b>VI. Election of the Vice Chair</b></p>   | <p>➤ Dave nominated Duane for Vice Chair, and Gina seconded the motion. Duane accepted the nomination.</p> <p>Vote: By a vote of 10-0-0, Duane was elected as Vice Chair of the Commission.</p> <p>Yes: 10 – Supv. Andersen, Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Gina, Sam</p> <p>No: 0</p> <p>Abstain: 0</p> <p>Absent: 4 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn, and Jerome)</p>   |   |
| <p><b>VII. Selection of the Ad Hoc Committee to advise Behavioral Health on a job description for the Family Coordinator</b></p> | <p>Lauren stated that she would need to check whether the job title was actually Adult Family Coordinator instead of just Family Coordinator, which was the title she was provided. She stated that the reason they were asked to advise Behavioral Health on this was because the last person who served in this position felt overwhelmed by the full list of responsibilities. It would probably be a 2-hour meeting to</p>   | <p><i>Follow-up with Lauren.</i></p>            |

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| <b>Position</b>    | <p>look at the current job description and make any changes needed without eliminating what was considered necessary. There is no date at present and the MHC was asked for at least one person but could take whoever would like to participate.</p> <p>Louis, Dave, and Diana offered to volunteer for the committee.</p> <p>Duane stated that he felt someone from Human Resources should attend the committee, since they were responsible for job descriptions. Lauren clarified that Stacey was the responsible person who was interfacing with the County HR department on this.</p> <p>Diana recommended that Bob Thigpen be invited to be part of the committee, as he has been getting a lot of these calls in the absence of someone in that position. Lauren agreed and said she would send him an invitation.</p> <p>Louis stated that he had attended the interview process for the last position where Vic selected the person hired and voiced his concern that there was not a database set up for that position with names of potential clients to visit and that the person has to create their own. He had thought that the person in that position would have been given a list of people they would need to contact but discovered that there was no such list. He said that one of the questions that was asked was how they were able to communicate with the people throughout the county. He felt this was not happening and that this person should have an established database of files of people they will need to follow up with. Lauren agreed with this and stated this should be brought up in the committee.</p> <p>Sam expressed his concern that the MHC was getting involved with this specific position out of hundreds of positions in behavioral health. He felt it was not the Commission's role or responsibility and read the list of the Commission's mandated responsibilities, then said that the only thing he saw related to this was reviewing and making recommendations on applicants for the local Director of Mental Health. Lauren said that from her perspective, it fell under the responsibility to advise the Mental Health Director, as they are asking the Commission to advise them as part of an ad hoc committee.</p> <p>Diana stated this was a critical position for helping families and had been vacant for years; that at this point, they should investigate what is the barrier to filling this position, as it was critical to families.</p> <p>Louis felt this position is a good resource to help families</p> |                           |

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|   | <p>tap into the system to guide them through the process of getting the help needed for a family member.</p> <p>Supv. Andersen appreciated Sam’s concerns and stated that she did not want the Commission to overstep their bounds or step on the toes of County staff regarding personnel issues, but in this case, she agreed it was appropriate for us to be on a committee to give our advice on helping create or refine a job description, which was a different issue than sitting on an interview panel.</p> <p>Duane asked if Warren could send out a job description for the position so that those interested could check out job descriptions for similar positions in other counties to compare responsibilities.</p> <p>Lauren stated that a motion needed to be made to select volunteers for the ad hoc committee, as they needed to move as quickly on this as they can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Duane made the motion to select volunteers for the ad hoc committee. Gina asked if this was because there were people interested in the position. Lauren did not know about a candidate pool, only that they were asked to be an advisory group to work with Stacey Tupper on this. Gina seconded the motion.</li> </ul> <p>Vote: By a vote of 9-0-1, Louis, Dave, and Diana were approved to serve on the ad hoc committee.<br/> Yes: 9 – Supv. Andersen, Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Gina<br/> No: 0<br/> Abstain: Sam<br/> Absent: 4 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn and Jerome)</p> <p>Lauren stated that Karen would be sending out an email on availability and that it should be a one-time meeting. She reiterated that all comments from all Commissioners were welcomed and that this was a Brown Act committee even though it was an ad hoc committee, so other commissioners would be welcome to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Hillary asked if the public could attend the meeting.</p> <p>Lauren said that they could come and that she would make sure to notify her of the time of the meeting.</p> | <p><i>Clarify if this is an MHC or MHA Ad Hoc.</i></p> |
| <p><b>VIII. Behavioral Health Director’s Report</b></p> | <p>Lauren read Cynthia Belon’s Director’s Report aloud (it has been copied into the Minutes below). Warren volunteered to answer any questions he could and get answers for the rest of them.</p> <p><u><i>Bed Reservation system – Cynthia Belon</i></u></p> <p><i>The County-operated homeless shelters program is an early adopter of the on-line reservation system offered</i></p>  |  |

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|             | <p><i>through the HMIS and we are currently the only provider within the Contra Costa homeless continuum of care taking advantage of this module. This is a Homeless Program specific activity that went live about one year ago in an effort to improve our own program's occupancy rates as it was identified that many individuals did not show up by the check-in time (7pm) after being offered a bed by hotline staff. The on-line bed reservation system is only available after 7pm to offer individuals who are sleeping on the streets/encampments a bed indoors. The Contra Costa Outreach Team, operated by Doug Stewart, is the only provider of night time outreach in Contra Costa and therefore the only provider with access to the open beds at both adult facilities after 7pm. This has allowed our shelter programs to move from a 90% and 96% occupancy rate at our Richmond and Concord site respectively to a 100% occupancy rate at both facilities.</i></p> <p><i>With the success of this implementation, we will soon add our Calli House Youth Shelter to the on-line bed reservation system in Fall 2015 (after the HMIS Administrator returns from leave and we can get set up in HMIS). Unfilled beds will be available to the outreach team to fill after 7pm.</i></p> <p><i>And as Behavioral Health continues to work towards integrating the ACCESS line to create a single point of entry for consumers to access mental health and substance abuse treatment services and emergency housing services, the shelter hotline staff is using the on-line reservation system to place individuals who are forwarded to them through a warm handoff from ACCESS line staff. The shelter hotline staff provide a welcoming, live person to assist consumers who need shelter access the County shelters and as well as provide information and referral to other homeless services the consumer may need.</i></p> <p><i>At this time, there are no other plans to expand this bed reservation system beyond the County programs although the module has been demonstrated to the shelter provider community as an option by the HMIS Administrator. However, as we move towards developing a Coordinated Entry system in Contra Costa County (a HUD requirement), we will have to begin to think about how to most efficiently understand our entire systems bed capacity and assist persons in need of shelter to get to the right place. The on-line bed reservation system may be one of the tools that is explored to help us accomplish this as a continuum.</i></p> |                    |

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|   | <p><i>There has been no date established by HUD or our Continuum of Care to have a Coordinated Entry program in place. However, as Coordinated Entry is imminent, the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Assessment subcommittee meets the 2nd Monday of every month to continue to discuss the needs and design our system that will provide a more coordinated approach to providing shelter and housing to homeless individuals.</i></p> <p><i>Cynthia Belon, L.C.S.W.<br/>Director, Behavioral Health Services</i></p> <p>Sam asked if it was reasonable to assume that a homeless person would have internet access to be able to access an online bed reservation system. Lauren, Supv. Andersen and Gina all named various ways that homeless people might have internet access or be able to access the computer system through third parties or through 211 to make a reservation.</p> <p>Duane said that he had seen Doug Stewart on the streets carrying a Taser and wearing a bulletproof jacket and questioned why a mental health person would be going into encampments with a bulletproof jacket and a Taser. Jill said that there was a recent news story about that and that the police had suggested it. Gina asked why a person would need those things to go visit homeless people and felt it was insulting to do that. She said that it could make people feel very threatened and could stir something up that might not otherwise be stirred up. Supv. Andersen said that the recommendation had not come from her office and that they should find out the answer, and Jill offered to get the full information. She noted that the vest was given to him because he encounters people with knives, and it was his choice to wear it.</p> <p>Guita asked what would prevent those with computer access from showing up at the shelter or even from getting other help. Duane answered that transportation is a big issue. Lauren said they would look into that to see if there are any recommendations they could make to make the situation better. Tom shared his experience with Doug coming to a program he runs and said he was initially surprised to see him in combat attire he felt he was very professional and helped calm a very heightened person down. Jill added that she thought that he worked alone.</p> | <p><i>Follow-up with Jill</i></p> |
| <p><b>IX. Victor Montoya's New Position</b></p> | <p>Lauren stated that the official announcement of Vic's new position was included in the packet. Dave asked who was replacing Vic, and was told no one has been appointed yet.</p>  |                                   |



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|  | <p>Lauren said she talked to Vic on the phone and expressed everybody's appreciation for what he has done and stated she was going to miss him. He assured her that his new job will involve working with bringing people placed out-of-county back into the county, and one of his main focuses will be working with people in conservatorships and in the hospital and integrating them back into the community.</p>  |                           |
| <p><b>X. David Twa's Response to the Commission</b></p>  | <p>Lauren gave a brief overview of the history of correspondence between her and David Twa and brought a printed copy of his response that his investigation had found no wrongdoing. It was available at the back table and a copy is attached.</p>  |                           |
| <p><b>XI. Update from Behavioral Health on the Request for Qualification (RFQ) for Assertive Community Treatment for Laura's Law</b></p> | <p>Warren gave an update on the current status of the implementation of Laura's Law and also said there was a group of six counties networking together and comparing notes on their process for the mutual benefit of all. Lauren added that those six counties comprised 19.8 million Californians – or the majority of the population in the state. Warren also stated David Seidner had chaired a meeting last month of legal partners, representing County Counsel, the Public Defender, Superior Court, and the Sheriff in order to get them all on the same page in terms of issues and preparation and felt it was a fruitful discussion. That group will meet again to make sure everyone is well coordinated in anticipation of the start date. He stated he has a draft of the RFP for the ACT team and anticipates posting it on July 15 with a final filing date of August 18. They are working to get this proposal in the hands of as many people as possible who could be seriously interested in bidding for the job and will include the draft program design in the RFP so bidders will have a clear idea of what is expected.</p> <p>Warren also stated they are starting to put together a panel or scoring group to review the bids and was asked by Cynthia to invite the MHC to have a representative participate in that group. Group members will need to read a packet of all proposals submitted that meet the preliminary screening qualifications before Labor Day and discuss them with the group, do the scoring, and make a recommendation for a contractor to hire. Also, Cynthia and Matthew have already met with the CCC Information Office staff to bring them up to speed on this to discuss and coordinate their needs for public information and media in anticipation of AOT.</p> <p>Warren stated that at this time they feel they are on schedule for the November start date, but he expressed his</p> |                           |

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|             | <p>concern about things that could get in the way of that, such as getting a good bid from a qualified provider and whether the Contracts and Grants people will work to get the contract in place in time.</p> <p>Gina expressed concern about a situation she knew of where it looks like a consumer is already being evaluated to be put under Laura's Law. Warren replied that to his knowledge, there is no official or unofficial Laura's Law process happening at this time, but suggested that the law enforcement agencies were concerned about the impact on their departments when the program starts, and he was not aware of what they were doing to prepare. He thought that perhaps this might be the case in this situation. He said that he would take her information back to David for him to use.</p> <p>Sam stated that he was just at a CPAW meeting where this was not called a Request for Qualification. Warren stated that this is actually a Request for Proposal. Sam asked if he knew of any contractors who currently contract with other counties, and Warren said he did. Sam asked for names of contractors, and Warren said he was aware of Turning Point, who was operating in 7 to 9 different counties. He added that there were a number of other contractors who provided full-service partnerships to many counties.</p> <p>Guita asked that, given that when police officers get a phone call for violence in a home due to alcohol or drugs, mental health issues, or domestic violence, they can go in and make an arrest, how are they going to be notified that the threshold has been lowered? She also wanted to know if there was a system in place to take those people who were arrested and get them help to eliminate further problems. Warren did not know the answer to her specific question but felt that her scenario was not one where Laura's Law would be applied. He agreed that law enforcement needs a lot of education, but this was included in SB 11, Crisis Intervention Training, and Laura's Law education. He felt it was important that when law enforcement was called to assist, they gave a humane and appropriate response.</p> <p>Julie asked if that training was specific to the ACT team. Warren stated that we have put outreach and engagement specifically into the hands of a contractor, which will make education a priority for them in order to retain their contract.</p> <p>Gina stated that at the event she discussed earlier, the police had a mental health care professional with them. Jill clarified that this could not have been a Laura's Law</p> |                    |

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|  | <p>intervention, because that will start in November. Lauren said that relative to Warren's comments about hangups in Contracts and Grants, recently the Patient's Rights Advocate contract was lost because of hangups in Contracts and Grants, and she wanted to know if they have learned anything from that experience and how they are going to avoid repeating the same mistake.</p> <p>Warren gave an example of how contracts are renewed in Mental Health Administration of a recent contract that was fast-tracked and went through in about three months. Because of this, he knows the best-case scenario and they are planning on using the same process to fast-track this.</p> <p>Duane offered to represent the Commission in the contractor selection panel. There were no other volunteers. Duane was unanimously nominated to be the MHC representative to the contractor selection panel.</p> <p>Hillary asked if she could be kept informed of the date of the bidder's conference, and Lauren said they did not know at this point but would let her know.</p>   | <p><i>Forward to Warren.</i></p> <p><i>Forward to Warren.</i></p> |
| <p><b>XII. Commission's Recommendations to the Internal Operations Committee (IOC) of the Board of Supervisors on the restructuring of CPAW to include discussion on the overlapping scope and role of the MHC and CPAW regarding all issues pertaining to the MHSA.</b></p> | <p>Lauren said they needed to give Warren their ideas on how to make the MHC and CPAW the best that they can be before the IOC meeting in July. Warren stated that the date was Monday, July 27, and he had verified that this topic will be on that agenda and that he had committed that Cynthia would have signed off on their recommendations to the County Administrator's Office by July 20. These recommendations were currently a draft and subject to input and adjustments. Lauren reminded everybody that they can attend that IOC Committee meeting.</p> <p>Karen indicated that Sam had submitted written comments to Warren and that they were included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>Gina said that she liked what CPAW had put together. She expressed her concern about limitations on committees due to the Brown Act and told about her experience with some items being addressed in CPAW committees that could not be done if they had to adhere to the Brown Act. She felt that the Brown Act puts restrictions on committees that makes it difficult for them to accomplish anything and said that there are consumers who want to express themselves and don't understand the Brown Act limitations but need to have a place to speak.</p> <p>Lauren stated that she understood that CPAW was supposed to operate under the Brown Act and the Better Government Act, which was even more strict, and she asked to verify that some committees in CPAW were not</p> |   |

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|             | <p>following the Better Government guidelines and the Brown Act. Gina replied that in some committees, the leader is dictating and there is not an opportunity for people to speak, so people feel like they have no voice there. Lauren asked if she was saying that happened at CPAW, and Gina clarified that she felt this happened more at the MHC. Lauren asked her to clarify whether the committees in CPAW were not following the Better Government guidelines and the Brown Act. Gina said she felt they were following them as far as recording the meeting and having someone typing up everything, but she thinks people have a concept of the Brown Act as something that keeps them from expressing themselves, although she has not felt that way in every committee. She just wanted to make sure that there was a place for consumers to go and speak and be heard.</p> <p>Lauren said there were many committees in the MHC and in CPAW that were discussing the same issues. She wondered whether some type of mechanism could be devised so those committees could work together and coordinate their agendas. She felt this might be possible since they were both operating under the Better Government guidelines. Barbara added that one time the Quality of Care Committee had the same experts come to their meeting as to a CPAW Children's Committee meeting and she felt badly for them that they had to come make the same presentation twice. Gina stated that she was at that meeting and the presentation at the Children's meeting was totally different. She felt there was an exchange among everyone at that meeting, but at the Quality of Care meeting no one could speak.</p> <p>Barbara reiterated that Lauren said they needed to find a way to meet together so experts only had to come and make a presentation and answer questions one time, and Lauren echoed her sentiments and said we needed to make the best use of other people's time so they can actually do their jobs.</p> <p>Supv. Andersen said that even with the Brown Act, you can have an agenda item of discussion of concerns from the public or something that allows you to have the same ability. The agenda just gives people notice of what will be discussed, and the Brown Act or Better Government ordinance should not quell that. Jill added that they just create a structure to allow questions to be heard. She suggested that perhaps CPAW is experiencing growing pains because of the change in format and felt that eventually it would settle out and people would understand how to use the Brown Act. She reiterated that anything</p> |                    |

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|  | <p>could be put on the Agenda, including an item of public comment; it just needs to be put on the agenda in advance. Gina stated that there is a lot of work done in the Children’s meeting, because they stay on the topic and talk about issues, but consumers are part of the discussion there.</p>  |                    |
| <p><b>XIII. The Executive Committee has forwarded this motion to the Commission for approval: A recommendation to the IOC to discuss a broader scope of CPAW as indicated by the draft statement: Issues for participation will be mutually agreed upon and topical to the entire Behavior Health Services System; not just issues where MHSA funding is involved. The Executive Committee requests that the IOC study the Welfare &amp; Institutions Code 5848.</b></p> | <p>Supv. Andersen asked if this motion was an attempt to broaden the scope of what CPAW is doing, because her understanding was that this broader scope covers things that the MHC should be doing, whereas CPAW was supposed to be for things covered by MHSA funding. Lauren replied that the question was to ask if CPAW was being asked to do work that is currently done by the MHC. Supv. Anderson stated she felt that had been clearly defined and sufficiently looked at, and if it was an administrative issue, it might be brought up to Cynthia. Barbara was confused with the wording of the motion compared to the current MHSA scope and the scope of the MHC. She wondered if that was what was intended. Warren replied that the actual WIC was 5848A, not 5848, and that two years ago they had added regulations, under WIC 3300 and 3200, which refers to the community planning process for MHSA plans or updates. That planning process encompasses the entire mental health system. The issue was how the County could do that, and the IOC has asked for clarification on this. He felt the previous discussions on eliminating duplication between MHC and CPAW committees was relevant to this and differentiated what he saw as the separate purpose of each group – the MHC discussing advice and recommendations regarding legal requirements and regulation compared to CPAW being about stakeholders participating in public mental health. He stated that there are people, including himself, who benefit from information gained from CPAW to help them do a better job. The recommendation on the agenda is to separate out the legal requirements of an appointed body versus having an opportunity for stakeholders providing input to help improve services. Sam expressed his concern about how the WIC code focuses on age-graded categories but that the MHC and CPAW no longer have a focus on those categories. He stated we need to make sure there is participation and focus on the problems of each age group. Warren thanked him for expressing a concern he shares, and added we need to get increased staff support for those age-related work groups and stated that the Children’s Committee was a good model for that. Sam stated there needed to be more support for the Older Adults group.</p> |                    |

| Agenda Item   | Discussion   | Action / Follow-Up  |
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|   | <p>Lauren made a motion, seconded by Duane, that the meeting minutes of this discussion be sent to the IOC for their review.</p> <p>Vote: By a vote of 10-0-0, the Commission approved that the meeting minutes of this discussion be sent to the IOC for their review.</p> <p>Yes: 10 – Supv. Andersen, Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Gina, Sam</p> <p>No: 0</p> <p>Abstain: 0</p> <p>Absent: 4 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn, and Jerome were absent)</p>   | <p><i>Send a copy of this portion of the Minutes to the IOC for review.</i></p>                   |
| <p><b>XIV. Resolution to Support Federal Legislation HR 2646 "The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015"</b></p> | <p>➤ Dave made a motion, seconded by Gina, to send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they support HR 2646.</p> <p>Discussion: Gina said that she was for the bill except where it might violate HIPAA laws. She wanted more information before voting on it.</p> <p>Lauren explained that she had recently spoken with someone who was an authority on this bill and assured her that this bill could not override or change HIPAA restrictions, although it would clarify and/or specify how HIPAA could be used.</p> <p>Jill added that there is confusion in the general public about HIPAA because people think it means that you cannot speak to a provider about your family members. Lauren agreed and clarified it just means that, while you can call a loved one's doctor and tell them anything you would like about them, the doctor cannot respond to what you say.</p> <p>Jill asked for clarification of what the motion was.</p> <p>Lauren stated that the motion was to recommend that the Legislative Committee of the Board of Supervisors support HR 2646. Supv. Andersen suggested that it should be a letter to the Legislative Committee stating, "The Mental Health Commission has reviewed this legislation, and we are asking that you also review it and send a letter of support to our Congressmen."</p> <p>Lauren agreed and said it was the same as they did for SB 11.</p> <p>Vote: By a vote of 10-0-0, the Commission voted to send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they support HR 2646.</p> <p>Yes: 10 – Supv. Andersen, Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Gina, Sam</p> <p>No: 0</p> <p>Abstain: 0</p> <p>Absent: 4 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn, and Jerome)</p> | <p><i>Send recommendation of support for HR 2646 to the Legislative Committee of the BOS.</i></p> |

| Agenda Item  | Discussion   | Action / Follow-Up |
|--|--|--------------------|
| <p><b>XV. Reports from Committees</b></p>              | <p><b><u>Quality of Care Committee</u></b><br/> Barbara reported on the Quality of Care Committee meeting due to Peggy’s absence. She said Vern spoke about his priorities for children’s systems of care. First, he talked about expanding Katie A staffing and capacity for case load. The Committee is still considering what this means for the Mental Health Commission. He also spoke about funding for a Children’s and Adolescent Inpatient Unit, which is his second priority.</p> <p>➤ Barbara made a motion, seconded by Duane, that the MHC set up an ongoing committee of 3 Commissioners to prepare information for advocating for a Children’s and Adolescent Inpatient Unit.<br/> Vote: By a vote of 8-0-0, the Commission moved to set up an ongoing committee of 3 Commissioners – Barbara, Dave, and Duane -- to prepare information for advocating for a Children’s and Adolescent Inpatient Unit.<br/> Yes: 8 –Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Sam<br/> No: 0<br/> Abstain: 0<br/> Absent: 6 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn and Jerome were absent, and Supv. Andersen and Gina were not in the room at the time of the vote.)</p> <p>Lauren reminded the Commissioners that they would all be notified when it happens, it will be an open meeting, and everybody’s ideas are always welcome. Warren suggested that Lauren put it on the agenda for CPAW members who might like to participate as well.</p> <p><b><u>MHSA Finance Committee Report</u></b><br/> ➤ Lauren moved, seconded by Duane, that Diana be appointed as a member of the MHSA Finance Committee.<br/> Vote: By a vote of 8-0-0, Diana was appointed as a member of the MHSA Finance Committee.<br/> Yes: 8 (Louis, Duane, Dave, Diana, Tess, Lauren, Barbara, Sam)<br/> No: 0<br/> Abstain: 0<br/> Absent: 6 (Greg, Peggy, Evelyn and Jerome were absent, and Supv. Andersen and Gina were not in the room at the time of the vote.)</p> <p><b><u>Criminal Justice Committee</u></b><br/> The Criminal Justice Committee did not meet in June. Their next meeting was moved to July 21.</p> |                    |
| <p><b>XVI. Report on Follow up items from June</b></p> | <p>Karen read the list of items followed up on from the June MHC meeting, a copy of which was available on the back</p>  |                    |

| <b>Agenda Item</b>           | <b>Discussion</b>   | <b>Action / Follow-Up</b>   |
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| <b>MHC Meeting</b>           | <p>table. Lauren expressed her appreciation for Karen’s work behind the scenes so that issues did not get forgotten. Warren stated that Vic has been studying the issue of the CalHFA checkbook balance and he was going to get the answer for the MHC before he leaves the department. Warren also added that Wednesday, July 29, is the bidder’s conference for the ACT team RFP. Gina mentioned that CPAW was not listed, but she wanted to have a report from the Children’s Committee added, because the Quality of Care Committee requested she do that. Lauren stated that she would add that to the next agenda. Jill stated that she could always do this in the Commissioner Comments portion of any meeting. Karen said to send her the information and she would add it to the agenda for the next Quality of Care Committee meeting.</p> | <p><i>Place report from Gina on CPAW Children’s Committee on next MHC Agenda.</i></p> |
| <b>XVII. Adjourn Meeting</b> | The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.  |   |

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melinda Meahan, Scribe and  
Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant  
Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission



**County Administrator**

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, 10th Floor  
Martinez, California 94553-1229  
(925) 335-1080  
(925) 335-1099 FAX

David J. Twa  
County Administrator

**Contra  
Costa  
County**



**Board of Supervisors**

John M. Gioia  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
Candace Andersen  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Mary N. Piepho  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Karen Mitchoff  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
Federal D. Glover  
5<sup>th</sup> District

May 18, 2015

Ms. Lauren Rettagliatta, Chair  
Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission  
1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 200  
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Ms. Rettagliatta,

Recently the Commission expressed concern about an alleged misuse of mental health dollars, by a Contra Costa County employee. The County takes allegations of this kind very seriously and, as you may know, hired a neutral, external investigator to look into the matter. On behalf of the Executive Committee you asked to be informed about the outcome of the County's investigation. Although the details of the investigation are confidential, I can report that, following an extensive and impartial examination of the facts, the investigator did not find any misuse of public funds.

I do want to note that Mental Health Awareness month is an appropriate time to acknowledge the important and positive impact that the work of the Mental Health Commission has had on the residents of Contra Costa County.

The Commission's unwavering commitment to its dual mission – to influence the County's mental health system in its delivery of quality services and to advocate on behalf of those in need of mental health services – played a significant role in Board of Supervisors' unanimous vote this past February to implement Laura's Law. The Commission is also to be commended for its many other contributions, including its continued advocacy for improved outcomes following interactions between mental health consumers and law enforcement, as well as expanded access to quality services for all those in need, including dual diagnosis consumers.

The Mental Health Commission's work to educate the community and improve the quality of life for the mental health consumers and all Contra Costa County residents is much appreciated. I would like to thank you and the entire Commission for your service.

Sincerely,

  
David J. Twa  
County Administrator

cc: William B. Walker, M.D.