

**CONTRA COSTA MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 24, 2007**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Kathi McLaughlin.

Commissioners Present:

Bobbie J. Arnold  
Geet Gobind  
Dave Kahler  
Judy McCahon  
Kathi McLaughlin  
Teresa Pasquini  
Bettye J. Randle  
Daniel L. Ruxin  
Scott Singley

Commissioners Excused:

Cynthia Miller  
Lisa Ronan  
Karen Sloma  
Barbara Whittingham

Staff Present:

Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant

Attendees:

John Allen, MH Administration  
Gretchen Burt, MH Vocational Services  
Kim Gillette, Community Clinic Consortium  
John Gragnani, Local 1  
Linda Davis, MH Vocational Services  
Elena Egan, MH Vocational Services  
John Hollender, MH Vocational Services  
Barb Johnson, Congressman George Miller's Office  
Fran Kelly, Supv. Susan Bonilla's Office  
Kimberly Mayer, Mental Health Administration  
Tom McAninley, MH Vocational Services  
Chuck Murphy, California Dept. of Rehabilitation  
Jacklyn Ocanas, MH Vocational Services  
Shanda Schmitz, MH Vocational Services  
Candace Toyoda, MH Vocational Services  
Leticia Wiesner, MH Vocational Services  
Donna Wigand, MH Director  
David Woodland, MH Vocational Services

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

None.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- District V MH Commissioner Diane Soto announced her resignation from the Commission effective June 1, 2007, citing health problems within her family and personally. She expressed regret at not having been able to

achieve all her goals. Kathi expressed appreciation and acknowledged Diane's efforts with the transitional age youth population. Donna echoed Kathi's comments. Bettye added that she enjoyed working with Diane and would miss her.

- The resignation of District IV MH Commissioner Lisa Ronan was also announced. Her new job prevents her from being able to attend any Commission meetings.
- District V MH Commissioner Daniel Ruxin announced he is not seeking reappointment as he now lives out of District V and feels he can no longer adequately represent that District.
- The status of Commission vacancies was briefly discussed (3 in District V, 1 in District IV).
- Harold Parsley made an announcement about upcoming training. He also spoke of the recent collaborative efforts between the Alcohol & Other Drugs Advisory Board and the Commission's Older Adult Committee.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.**

Approval of the Minutes from May 24, 2007 were approved as presented.

**M-McCahon; S-Soto. Carried 6-0-3.**

**5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT. – Co-Chair Kathi McLaughlin**

1. Recognize the supportive employment staff for the highest placement rate in California.

Kathi presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Commission to John Hollender of Contra Costa Mental Health Vocational Services. John introduced Chuck Murphy from the CA Dept. of Rehabilitation. He also thanked Diane for her support of his program while she served as Chair of the Transitional Age Youth Committee. John acknowledged the members of his staff who were present as well as all staff and line staff who were not present. He explained how clients are progressing through the system and recovering. Scott said MH Vocational Services is the most remarkable achievement he has seen. John also acknowledged Erika Hyland and Vic Montoya. He summed things up by stating there are a lot of people with mental health problems who are now happily employed.

2. Mental Health Commission Annual Awards.  
Kathi announced the Mental Health Awards will be presented the first week in October to coincide with October 1-6 being proclaimed "Mental Illness Awareness Week." The deadline for accepting nominations is August 16.
3. Kathi mentioned that following the recent site visit to CCRMC, the need had been expressed for more decks of cards, books, and DVD's for the Critical Care Unit, both for children and adults who are awaiting placement and/or assessment. Items were delivered on behalf of the Commission.

**6. REPORT: Donna Wigand, LCSW, Mental Health Director**

- Mental Health Administration staff assignments to Commission committees.

- Donna said Suzanne Tavano will attend the Older Adult Committee; Vic Montoya will attend the Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee; Vern Wallace will attend the Children’s Committee; and either John Allen or Miles Kramer will attend the Justice System Committee.
- Discussion of the process the County uses to monitor Contracts and Programs.
  - They go through many steps in reviewing each contract. We do not have any County staff who go out and monitor community based organization (CBO’s) programs. Mental Health Services Act monies will us to do program reviews and monitoring of new services. Mental Health Program Managers make it their business to find out how their programs are doing. When problems are reported, we are willing to work with the program to find solutions. Diane mentioned that programs have requested training.
- Update on Mental Health Services Act Implementation.—Kimberly Mayer
  - Kimberly announced we are now implementing the 1<sup>st</sup> component of MHSA: Community Services and Support. There are 4 new programs: children’s full service partnerships in far east county; transitional age youth in west county; and adult in west county. Because they were not able to follow-through on the initial older adult program, they have reconvened the older adult stakeholders, but still plan to roll out a program at the end of the year. They are developing strategies for housing and working on transportation issues. People with co-occurring illness remain a problem. Next from MHSA is Workforce Education and Training. The housing program is also coming. Non-profit developers will be involved. Kimberly distributed information on Prevention and Early Intervention, Capital facilities and Information Technology, and a progress report.
  - Diane asked about the School Street property in Pittsburg. Donna said the focus was on seniors first and low income second, but we were not given dedicated slots. Overall positive news is that there will be more money from MHSA than originally thought (twice as much).
- Update on the 2007 Budget – Local and State.
  - Local: Budget is done.
  - State: The preliminary budget was released in January, followed by the May Revise.
    - It eliminates AB2034 – seed program that started Prop 63 (we used a majority of AB2034 for housing). The Senate opted to put it back in, but Assembly did not.
    - State prisons are “stealing” physicians. Bump for all state psychiatrists so we can’t compete with their salaries. The only way to recruit new psychiatrists into our county is by contract.

**7. REPORT: Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers, Jeffrey V. Smith, MD, JD**

No report. Dr. Smith was unable to attend.

- Welcome New Chief Operations Officer
- Update on protocol changes for Crisis Stabilization Unit.
  - Program management
  - Process for evaluating changes.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- **Children's Committee.**  
Did not meet.
  - Entertain a motion to send a letter/resolution in support of SB849, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act. It was suggested that if passed, copies should be sent to the Board of Supervisors, the Governor and local legislative representatives.  
**M-Gobind; S-Randle. Carried 8-0-1.**
- **Justice System Committee.**  
Did not meet.
  - Judy shared an e-mail from Vic telling of the starting of the Behavioral Health Court. Martin Wilson will give a powerpoint presentation about the Behavioral Health Court at the next committee meeting.
- **Older Adult Committee.**
  - There was continued discussion about how to raise awareness and get treatment for seniors who have AOD abuse issues.
- **Retreat**
  - Discuss Proposed Retreat Agenda items.
    - i. Held over to next meeting.
- **Adult & Transitional Age Youth Committee.**
  - There was a positive report from Vic Montoya regarding MHSA funds being used for housing in West County. The committee also received suggestions about how to gather information from line staff.

## **9. REPORTS FROM ANCILLARY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/ COMMITTEES.**

- CALMHB/C meets June 21-23.

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

Continue items not discussed today.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Shuler, Executive Assistant  
Mental Health Commission