

Solano County Local Mental Health Board

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2009

1. **Call to order**

Sam Neustadt called to order the regular meeting of the Solano County Local Mental Health Board at 4:35PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 in the multi-purpose room at 2101 Courage Drive.

In attendance:

Board Members

Heather Bautista
Joan Burnett
Michelle Chargualaf
Sabine Goerke-Schrode
Mark Higginbotham
Gene Korte
Martin Messina
Sam Neustadt
John Rayfield
Spencer Rundberg
Linda Seifert
Juanita Smith
Wanda Taylor

County Staff

Mike Opredek
Vince Burgess
Jayleen Richards
Megan Richards
Cindy Limerick

Public

Tam Stevenson
Anneke Harris
Pam Watson
Betty Warner
K. Huff

2. **Approval of agenda**

Sam Neustadt made a request to move items 5.1 (Mental Health Services Act FY 2009-10 Annual Plan) and item 11 (public hearing) up on the agenda as well as item 5.2 (Triennial Audit Update, later to be tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints). Mark Higginbotham clarified that the order of agenda items is the only change. Sam Neustadt announced the posting of the public hearing is consistent with the Brown Act. A motion to adopt the revised agenda was made and passed unanimously.

3. **New business and open public hearing (originally item 5.1 and 11)**

1. Jayleen Richards, MHSA coordinator for Solano County, presented to the Board the Mental Health Services Act fiscal year 2009-2010 annual plan with an open hearing following her presentation. Sam advised the role of the board during a public hearing is to entertain comments from the public. Jayleen distributed a revised presentation of the MHSA 2009-10 annual plan, including public comments, to the board. The annual plan was developed and posted for 30 days and presented today as part of the public hearing portion of

the Mental Health Services Act. Megan Richards gave an update and overview of the prevention and early intervention plan; including services for 0-5, school age children, young adults, and older adults; and discussed stakeholder feedback to expand PEI services. Jayleen reviewed public comments received about the reduction of the Neighborhood of Dreams contract.

2. *The Board opened the meeting to entertain comments from the public specifically regarding MHSA.*

- Question 1: Pam Watson asked if the PEI plan services the adult population. Megan advised there is a piece of the plan in 0-5 designated to adults. The PEI community planning process is to focus on the underserved population of children, older adults, and transitional youth.
- Question 2: Why is there unused money sitting in the state for MHSA? Mike gave insight into the question stating the original MHSA act passed in 04-05; the guidelines as to how to use the money and apply for funds was just recently distributed. Mike Opredek is happy to provide further information from the state office of audits and exceptions to anyone interested. Please contact cllimerick@solanocounty.com for copies of the OSAE report.
- Question 3: Regarding the budget, how did the County determine what services to reduce? Mike Opredek discussed the decision making process used to balance the budget taking into consideration the need to maintain mandated services, what would have the least impact on services, and how can we save as many jobs as possible.
- Question 4: How are the stakeholders determined? Jayleen discussed the process as well as extending an invitation to interested parties to contact her at jmrichards@solanocounty.com
- Question 5: How is Neighborhood of Dreams going to manage their cutbacks and where do people go when they cannot use Neighborhood of Dreams? Mike Opredek advised that the county has a contract with Seneca.

3. *Comments from the Board regarding the MHSA Public Hearing:*

- Linda Seifert discussed Neighborhood of Dreams and the role of the Board of Supervisors – stating that the Board will have the ultimate say as to what gets funded and cut. With that being said, Linda encourages people to come to the Board of Supervisors and present why programs should survive.
- Juanita Smith asked if there is an alternative program to Neighborhood of Dreams and questions the quality of the product. Mike discussed programs, such as Caminar, contracted with the county offering similar services and meeting county goals and standards.
- Gene Korte has concerns regarding MHSA funding and the appearance of supplantation of programs and contract providers. Sam questioned if this is the intent of the administration to supplant core services funded by other means other than the MHSA and present to the Board of Supervisors. Jayleen and Mike both answered no to this question.
- Jon would like to get more money into Caminar.
- Wanda commented, as a consumer, the Neighborhood of Dreams program could not provide the services to functioning consumers.

- Spencer suggested a quarterly report from the MH director regarding contractor programs and how they are meeting their goals in order for the board to assist the MH Director in the decision making process and support the Board of Supervisors.
 - Joan Burnett asked Mike the status of the department of rehab – and Mike said the program and venture has exceeded the goals.
 - Mark Higginbotham asked what assumption was used with respect to the fate of proposition 1E effecting the budget plan? Mike said the budget plan is based on allocated funds.
- 4. *Sam Neustadt closed the public hearing and moved into the regular business.***

4. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Mark Higginbotham made a motion to pass the minutes as submitted and seconded by Gene Korte. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **Old business: Legislative Action Process – Gina Merril**

Gina Merril, from office of the director, distributed a one page synopsis of how the legislative process works in Health and Social Services and also attached a board platform approved by the Board of Supervisors. Gina discussed the roles and responsibilities of an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors. Sam asked how to move items through the process in an appropriate and timely manner. The appropriate process is to go through Gina's office. Linda Seifert reminded the board that she is a resource, as a representative between the Local Mental Health Board and the Board of Supervisors, and can assist to move items in a timely manner.

6. **Community Input**

Betty Warner presented the April 23, 2009 letter from NAMI grading the state's mental health care system with an overall C, specifically, Betty wanted to bring to the attention of the board, the rating of D in the Consumer and Family Empowerment category.

7. **Director's Report – Mike Oprendek**

Mike reported out on the First Five 0-5 audit conclusions and a budget proposal to expand services. Mike gave a brief introduction of the triennial audit results that Vince Burgess will report out to the board in the June meeting. He advised the board of continual meetings with contractors, emergency rooms, and law enforcement on a regular basis on service efficiencies. See attached April, 2009 Mental Health Directors Report for full detail.

8. **Board members' remarks**

Gene Korte referenced an incident he experienced on April 14th and is concerned with the difficulties in receiving responses from Fairfield and Vacaville mental health county services.

John discussed the upcoming family advocate support meeting. Sam suggested giving NAMI his contact for assistance.

Mike announced that Major Le and Captain Bautista are representing Solano County Local Mental Health Board, along with Glenda Lingenfelter, Solano County Mental Health Administrator, at the special reception of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Trilogy's Network of Care celebrating the launch of Network of Care's Veterans and Service members site for the state of California.

9. **Adjournment**

Sam Neustadt adjourned the meeting at 6:15PM.

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Limerick

Minutes approved by: _____