



Solano County Local Mental Health Board

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 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, June 16, 2009 in the multi-purpose room at 2101 Courage Drive.

In attendance:

Board Members

Heather Bautista
Michelle Chargualaf
Sabine Goerke-Schrode
Mark Higginbotham
Gene Korte
Vu Le
Sam Neustadt
John Rayfield
Linda Seifert

County Staff

Mike Opredek
Patrick Duterte
Rachel Ford
Cynthia Limerick
Megan Richards

Public

Norman Filley
Janet Wilson
E.J. Hullana
Mary Scaler
Travis Curran
Brenda Crawford
Debbie Davis
Pam Watson
Darren High
Louise Harris
Patty Blum

2. **Old Business 7.1 Triennial Audit Update – Mike Opredek**

Mike Opredek reported on the results of the state audit conducted to Solano County Mental Health from April 13-17, 2009. Mike reviewed findings of areas out of compliance and went over the plan of correction and next steps. Mark Higginbotham asked, "What are the potential consequences of non-compliance found in the audit to future audits?" Mike advised that Mental Health is fixing the areas out of compliance now, prior to the release of official reports and these areas out of compliance do not jeopardize funds coming into the department.

3. **Chair's Remarks – Sam Neustadt**

Sam Neustadt remarked on the status of the state budget, in particular mental health in Solano County, and how it echoes the budget in all sectors of the community. Linda Seifert warned that the budget issue is on going and it is important for service providers to plan for the long haul. Linda says "do

everything you can to leverage your dollars” such as less money for administration and more money for services.

4. **FY 2008/2009 Third Quarter Budget Review – Patrick Duterte**

Patrick Duterte, Director of Health and Social Services gave a presentation on the status of the state budget as it relates to Solano County. PowerPoint handouts were provided at the meeting.

Update on the latest state budget issues and the Governor’s proposal:

- The Governor proposes to eliminate the Cal Works program.
- Reduction in the healthy family program: cutting approx. 1 million kids in California who are receiving health insurance in the healthy family program.
- Cut the child welfare program significantly.
- In home support services reducing the hourly service provider rate to \$8.00 hr. and lower level of care to level 4 clients.
- Cut mental health service and substance abuse services.
- Release 18,000 prisoners into the community.

Questions and Answers from the Board:

Dr. Vu Le: “Is the state going to punish us for having a surplus?” Patrick discussed that the state distributes equally; however, the surplus is an issue for the Board of Supervisors. Linda said we can challenge if punished, however, six million dollars was pulled from the reserves to replenish the budget.

John Rayburn: “Is there money from the state for core programs?” Patrick gave a brief explanation between funding for core programs and new MHSA dollars for funding.

Sam Neustadt – “What is the reserve for Solano County?” 28 million dollars and the Board can withdraw six million dollars per year.

Questions and Answers from members of the audience:

Norman Filley spoke for Crestwood and Neighborhood of Dreams commenting on the need to continue funding for the programs.

Louise Harris from Aldea questioned MHSA dollars – Patrick advised the funds available at the State have a number of rules attached and commented on the desire to manage the funds at the County level.

Debbie Davis discussed the proposals being counter intuitive and asked if there is talk of increasing revenue? Patrick stated it takes a two-third vote to raise taxes and democrats are talking about fees.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion to adopt the agenda of June 16, 2009 was made by Linda Seifert and a second by Mark Higginbotham. The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Linda Seifert made a motion to pass the minutes as submitted and seconded by Mark Higginbotham. The minutes of the May 19, 2009 Local Mental Health Board were approved unanimously.

7. **Community Input**

Norman Filley addressed the Board requesting help in keeping programs working at their current level.

Mary Scaler from Telecare and a Solano Strides advocate wants to let the Board know how many of their members are benefitting from services and how their program is preventing re-hospitalizations.

Janet Marshall Wilson of Mental Health Consumer Concerns Inc. comes with concerns of licensed residential care facilities and patient's rights of residents in long term care. Janet is especially interested in the care of the client's transferred from Contra Costa to Solano County.

Brenda Crawford – Executive Director of Mental Health Consumer Concerns is here to support Janet's concerns about Contra Costa County residents being placed in Solano County. She expressed her matter of interest about the overall state of services for Solano County residents.

EJ Hullana administrator for Dream Catchers spoke of the opportunities for growth and available resources in the community and cautions Solano County decision makers to look at choices in making the budget. He emphasized being resilient to nurture growth.

Mike Oprendeck responds by stating that these are challenging times and encourages voices to be heard by lobbying at the state level.

8. **Board Member Remarks**

Sam Neustadt remarked on what he heard from the community stating that early intervention is more cost effective than restrictive reactive systems of care. He encourages the Board to keep in mind preventative service delivery models when considering future items.

Sam also stated we can be responsible with our services and systems and we need to do whatever we can to take care of each other and ourselves.

Dr. Vu Le announced the opening of a new psychiatric ward at David Grant and in August there will be inpatient care located at David Grant.

Mike Oprendeck announced the Solano County launch for Network of Care on June 25 for the community and returning veterans.

9. **Adjournment**

Sam Neustadt adjourned the meeting at 6:10PM.

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Limerick