

Minutes for Yolo County Mental Health Board
Monday, February 25, 2008

Members Present: Chairwoman Marilyn Moyle; Vice-Chairman Robert Schelen; Millie Braunstein; Peter Brixie; Robert Canning; Martha Flammer; Rhonda Hensley; Guille Libresco; Carolyn Reiff; Irma Rodriguez; Rev. Hank Scherer; Marilyn Schwartz; Joanne Welty

Members Absent: Helen Thomson, County Supervisor

Members Excused:

Others Present: Richard DeLiberty, ADMH Interim Director; Christina Hill-Coillot, Deputy Director; Tawny Yambrovich, ADMH Secretary; Laura Bibelheimer, Deputy, Board of Supervisors; Kimberly Bellows, Intern, Board of Supervisors; Don Meyer, Probation Chief; Pat Leary, Assistant County Administrator; Jesse Salinas, Analyst, County Administrator's Office; Leigh Harrington, M.D., ADMH Psychiatrist; Deanne Buchan, NAMI-Yolo; June Forbes, NAMI-Yolo; Leslie Carroll, NAMI-Yolo; Nancy Temple, NAMI-Yolo; Don Honey, NAMI-Yolo;

Location: Training Room, Administration Building, Families First, 2100 Fifth Street, Davis, CA 95618

- I. Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Marilyn Moyle at 7:05 P.M.
 - a. Introductions
 - i. Rhonda Hensley—new board member from West Sacramento. Very interested in Mental Health Issues. Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) intern; works with homeless women in West Sacramento.
- II. Approval of Agenda; Minutes.
 - a. Approval of Meeting Agenda: *Motion was made by Hank Scherer and seconded by Millie Braunstein to approve the agenda; carried with none opposed.*
 - b. Approval of Meeting Minutes: *Motion was made by Hank Scherer and seconded by Robert Canning to approve minutes of January 28, 2008 meeting as amended; carried with none opposed.*
- III. Announcements:
 - a. Leslie Carroll: NAMI-Yolo Potluck on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, with a focus on music and its effect on mental health; performer will be Lisa McFerrin, musician and sister of Bobby McFerrin. More information available at www.namiyolo.org.
- IV. Report: LMHB Chairperson—Marilyn Moyle
 - a. Presented Annual Report to Board of Supervisors on February 12. Robert Canning, Bob Schelen, Millie Braunstein and Guille Libresco were present, as well as Richard DeLiberty.
 - b. Have not followed up on Neighborhood Watch collaborative; would like to get Sheriff's department to expand program from only looking for criminals to assisting vulnerable populations such as elderly and mentally ill during community crises.

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- c. Monitoring people whose adult children have been in crisis. Concerned with patients who have moved to Sacramento not having access to Yolo County crisis care. Would like to look more closely at Crisis Services during our March meeting.

- V. Yolo Jail Suicide letter–Robert Canning:
 - a. Several members of the forensic team toured the jail, and noted that there was only 1 cut down tool in the jail, that isn't used until medical staff arrives. LMHB is suggesting a change in policy. In many other areas, the change that is being suggested is standard practice.
Millie Braunstein moves and Carolyn Reiff seconds sending letter to the jail. Passed with none opposed.

- VI. Report: Board of Supervisors–Helen Thomson
 - a. Laural Bibelheimer: notes that Marilyn did a fine job presenting to the BOS.
 - b. Also, the NAMI Winter Mental Health Dinner was well attended, and as a first-time attendee, was very impressed. The speaker, Tom Wooten, was very good.

- VII. Report: ADMH Interim Director–Richard DeLiberty
 - a. Written reports provided; no oral, in order to allow Pat Leary more time to speak.

- VIII. Committee Reports – need to review committee assignments
 - a. Executive–move to one week from Thursday
 - b. Budget–change to Mar. 13?
 - c. Forensic
 - d. Program–Meeting March 11 at 3:30 P.M.; committee needs to look at what programs are essential and cannot be cut
 - e. Legislative Advocacy

- IX. CAO's Report: Pat Leary
 - a. Mid-year report to BOS a couple weeks ago. \$5 million short in general funds, \$11 million shortfall in other funds. Approximately \$5.7 million of that shortfall is from ADMH. Labor agreements have had an impact. The recessionary economy and stalling housing market are causing an impact. 2/3 of Yolo County's discretionary income comes from property tax. Increase in property taxes was predicted at 8%; so far is only at 4%.

The size of the budget hole is 25% of the entire budget. The reverse side of the chart shows historical data; the trend is headed the wrong way, into the red. 2001 was OK, but each succeeding year the county has had to supplement more. Even with assistance from the county, the department has ended up \$3.8 million in the red, which has to be repaid to the county.

The department is in the biggest hole yet, without looking like they will get out anytime soon. If nothing was done between now and the end of the year, there would be an \$8 million gap. This is not supportable. We are trying to structure the \$3.8 million as long-term debt, but the department cannot afford to add an additional \$5.7 million. The county is looking at a significant shortfall, and is looking at using up all of its reserves in the next 3 years. The money just isn't available to fill in the gap.

Sharon Jensen has put together a team, including Phil Batchelor—a longtime county administrator—who is conducting an assessment. The idea of the county team is to help

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facilitate the department getting back to strength. We are looking to create other kinds of working groups/task forces/sub-committees who will work on pieces of the puzzle, while the management team will try to put it together in the big picture. We need people at all levels to help in this process. We need to consider the ripple impact of decisions. We will look for participation from this board, staff at every level, CBOs, providers, every partner we collaborate with.

We are obviously going to have to make some pretty dramatic changes to how we do business, but it is an opportunity to do things more creatively.

We don't know what the answers look like, but there is a \$5.7 million gap that we need to address. Everything is on the table. Staff have been reassured that layoffs are not imminent, but may be considered along the line. It's not going to be painless, but we have to do the best that we can with the resources that we have.

Irma R: Recommends strongly that clinician be on assessment team. Also notes that hiring freeze increases burden on clinicians.

It's unrealistic to say that this budget will be balanced at the end of the year. We are going to save what we can, but we do have to have this on track by next year. We are looking for a target for the rest of the county to save \$3 million, through reducing travel, better management of overtime, no hiring of temporary help. It has been estimated that if every county employee turned off their computer monitors at night, the county would save \$100,000/year. Time frame = 4-6 months to implement changes, so we can get next year on track. The tension over the next few months is to act quickly but thoughtfully.

The CAO will need participants from LMHB, but cannot include everybody. CAO will continue communicating with LMHB at meetings. Interested in volunteering: Irma, Bob, Rhonda, Martha, Millie, Carolyn, and Guille.

Marilyn M: Would like to look at the costs of long-term care vs. crisis management; wondering if the costs—including the human costs—of moving clients into the community and out of long-term care are too high. I don't know how ADMH is going to cut \$5 million from the budget, without someone we know dying from a medical crisis.

JoAnne W: It is so critical that the committee hears from consumers, clinicians, the Local Mental Health Board.

Martha F: How do West Sacramento property taxes assist Yolo County?

Answer: When Prop 13 passed, Yolo County was a very low property tax county. The state bailed counties out based on how much they had previously collected, which, historically, was low. Yolo County got locked in at a very low rate. West Sacramento got to keep most of their property tax and sales tax. The county only gets 8.7 cents/dollar. Most of the remainder goes to the schools, as well as the cities and redevelopment districts. We are 57th of 58 counties. We are preserving our agricultural heritage, but farming does not generate revenues.

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Irma Rodriguez moves that LMHB supports the inclusion of a retired or former mental health director in the County's core study group; Carolyn Reiff seconds. Passed with one abstention; one opposed.

- X. Public Comment: Dr. Harrington stated that it would seem to be helpful to have Phil Batchelor's assessment in written form so people can more easily analyze and interpret the data.
Hank S. thinks that the LMHB should word its statements strongly, and be firm in its requests.
- XI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.