

**Sacramento County
Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee**

**March 18, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Behavioral Health Services
7001A East Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823
Conference Room 1**

Interested members of the public are invited to attend MHSA Steering Committee meetings and a period is set aside for public comment at each meeting. If you wish to attend and need to arrange for an interpreter or a reasonable accommodation, please contact Mary Nakamura one week prior to each meeting at (916) 876-5821 or Nakamuram@sacounty.net.

Members: Michaele Beebe, Laurel Benhamida, Mary Ann Bennett, Caroline Caton, Lois Cunningham, Sandy Damiano, Katherine Elliott, Suzanne Hammer, Ben Jones, Michael Lazar (*alternate for Stacy Hart*), Edwina Browning Hayes, Sherlie Magers (*alternate for Family Member/Caregiver*), Reina Kaslofski, Al Lipson, Hiep Ma (*alternate for Consumer-TAY*), Marguerite Story-Baker (*alternate for Maria Morfin*), Carol Chrisman (*alternate for Troy Nunley*), Stephanie Ramos, Dave Schroeder, Sheila Self, Michael Shores, R.C. Smith, Frank Topping

Alternates: Dorian Kittrell

Facilitator: Eileen Jacobowitz

	TIME	TOPIC
1.	6:00 pm	Comfort Agreement Edwina Browning Hayes read the Comfort Agreement. No changes were suggested.
2.	6:05 pm	Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes Minutes were approved with no changes.
3.	6:10 pm	Agenda Review Eileen Jacobowitz, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda. No changes were suggested.
4.	6:15 pm	Announcements Mary Ann Bennett and Dorian Kittrell spoke in praise of R.C. Smith and thanked him for his advocacy efforts and his support of the Treatment Center. Mary Ann also introduced Chief Deputy Bill Johnson, SSO, R.C. Smith's Steering Committee replacement. R.C. thanked Mary Ann, Dorian and countless others and spoke about the fact that law enforcement and mental health have many shared goals. Frank Topping announced a hearing on Regional Transit's schedule changes on March 22, 2010 and distributed hearing announcements. The April 24, 2010, NAMI Walk was again announced. Mary Ann Bennett stated that the Mental Health Division has formed "The Wellness Walkers" team and if anyone is interested in walking with them, they should coordinate with Marilyn Hillerman. Michaele Beebe announced that the Children's Receiving Home has started an Independent Living Program (ILP) with a planned capacity of 20. They will be collaborating with Crossroads and San Juan USD. PRIDE Industries is providing the housing.

	TIME	TOPIC
5.	6:20 pm	<p>MHSA 2010-11 Annual Update Review and Collective Comment Michelle Callejas, MHSA Program Manager, presented the 2010-2011 MHSA Annual Update which must be submitted by April 15, 2010, in order to obtain funding. See Attachment A – 2010-2011 MHSA Annual Update.</p> <p><u>Member Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the mental health system of care in this county takes further budget reductions, the programs within the Annual Update are likely to be redesigned using the community input process, at which point a plan amendment will have to be submitted to the state. However, although it is likely there will be some programmatic changes, it was necessary to submit the Annual Update in its current form so there would not be a holdup of program funding in July. The state has encouraged counties to revise their plans later as needed, but to submit what they can as soon as possible. • Because MHSA dollars are forbidden by statute from funding involuntary services, the Juvenile Justice Diversion and Treatment Program (JJDTTP) cannot link with other funding streams that provide services that are involuntary. • The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) will not have its March meeting, which would normally be required for all county plans submitted for approval in this fiscal year. MHSOAC will, however, have a conference call at which time the submitted plans will be addressed. Sacramento County will be attending that call. <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Nuñez, consumer advocate, spoke in support of providing people with housing and transportation services, saying that not only do they give people services they need to live meaningful lives but also save the county money by avoiding the need for more expensive services. <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee unanimously supported the Annual Update as posted.
6.	7:00 pm	<p>Budget Update Mary Ann Bennett, Mental Health Director, briefly explained the county budget process before giving her budget update.</p> <p>She referred to a letter she sent to the Mental Health Board, the MHSA Steering Committee, the Mental Health Contractors' Association, and to employees of Behavioral Health Services. See Attachment B – Update Fiscal Year 10-11 Budget.</p> <p>The total reduction to Behavioral Health Services, including Mental Health, the Public Guardian/Conservator, and Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) is \$17.5 million. That figure represents absorption of cost increases, the increased cost of contracting all 12 beds in the psychiatric health facility, the increase in allocated costs, the first year repayment of the Municipal Services Agency (MSA) loan, state revenue projections that will not come in by year end, Children's EPSDT mental health budget revenue issues, state-deferred payments on AB3632, loss of state funding to the ADS budget and a Public Guardian cut of \$196,000.</p> <p>The reductions are: a loss of 58.9 positions; cuts in provider and other professional services of \$11.5 million (impacting our adult services by closing all four of the</p>

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		<p>Regional Support Teams (RST) that provide out-patient services); significant reductions to mental health services in the juvenile institutions (most particularly clinicians in the juvenile medical services budget unit providing treatment services to the Probation-run institutions); reduction in the provision of special education and other services in the Children’s Clinic and the Children’s Access Team; significant reduction to the Minor Emergency Response Team (MERT) which only leaves the provision of assessment and gate-keeping services; decimation of the ADS program related to the Proposition 36 mandate; and reduction of personnel in the Public Guardian/Conservatorship Unit.</p> <p>These cuts will necessitate a redesign of the MHSA programs to compensate for the losses, especially in the adult outpatient system. The department strongly believes that it is not possible to have an effective service delivery without having a continuum of services and that it is vital to keep an outpatient system to provide services and supports that allow consumers to avoid the need for inpatient services.</p> <p>In order to mitigate these reductions, management is in the process of developing some options for the redesign. We may be able to redesign our outpatient system so that the reductions will not be as significant with a consideration of alternate solutions for loan repayment and planning from the MHSA programs. Management will come back with further information and to solicit input from the public, the advocates, the SC and the MHB as the redesign progresses</p> <p><u>Member Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was clarified that although the Children’s Access Team is not being eliminated, it will experience cuts that will impact services. • As a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC), The Effort and the many other community clinics get a higher rate of Medi-Cal reimbursement which, in theory, allows them to fund their indigent as well as their Medi-Cal patients. It takes a lot of upfront funding to start an FQHC. The county is exploring the feasibility of acquiring full FQHC status for the county clinic. • Mary Ann described the decision-making process from which reductions to programs, contracts and county personnel have occurred. She also spoke about 71-J and the reductions to contracted services that result from county layoffs. • The safety net in Sacramento County is being decimated due to budget cuts. • If health care reform legislation passes, it may provide some relief. • The county will attempt to give the people currently served by the RSTs a warm handoff in transition to other services. <p>Three items not included the \$17.5 million total budget reduction were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Corrections (DOC) will release 6,500 low-level parolees on non-revocable parole statewide. Parolees needing mental health services are expected to be served by the county mental health systems. • The county will soon be held responsible for the cost of the care of those in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) ancillary services—psychotropic medications as well as medical care—at an estimated annual cost of \$4,000,000. • The state budget has yet to be resolved.

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		<p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eva Nuñez asked about the opening of the Crestwood Psychiatric Clinic. Mary Ann Bennett stated that it has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and the contract has been signed. It should open within a few days.
7.	7:40 pm	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WET Update Student Mental Health and Wellness Collaborative
8.	7:44 pm	<p>Upcoming Meetings <i>(meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 1, 2010 April 15, 2010
9.	7:45 pm	Adjourn