

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

**April 15, 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@saccounty.net.

Members: Michaele Beebe, Laurel Benhamida, Mary Ann Bennett, Caroline Caton, Lois Cunningham, Sandy Damiano, Katherine Elliott, Jane Fowler, Kathy Briem (*alternate for Suzanne Hammer*), Bill Johnson, Ben Jones, Joyce Wright (*alternate for David Gordon*), Edwina Browning Hayes, Hiep Ma (*alternate for Reina Kaslofski*), Al Lipson, Marguerite Story-Baker (*alternate for Maria Morfin*), Stephanie Ramos, Michael Lazar (*alternate for Rene Reis*), Dave Schroeder, Sheila Self, Rob Edmisten (*alternate for Michael Shores*), Frank Topping

Alternates: Dorian Kittrell, Marcia Jo

Facilitator: Eileen Jacobowitz

	TIME	TOPIC
1.	6:00 pm	Comfort Agreement Jane Fowler read the Comfort Agreement. No changes were suggested. Steering Committee members and alternates at the table introduced themselves and the stakeholder groups they represent.
2.	6:05 pm	Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes The minutes of the April 1, 2010 meeting were approved with changes. The date of the Capitol Rally will be May 26, not April 26.
3.	6:10 pm	Agenda Review Eileen Jacobowitz, Facilitator
4.	6:15 pm	Announcements Caroline Caton announced the NAMI Walk, a fundraising and awareness walk at William Land Park on Saturday, April 24. Frank Topping announced that the Veterans' Service Office of the Veterans' Community Support Network is facing budget cuts that have forced it to eliminate all paid staff and that he will be stepping up as its new Vice President. Patty Gainer announced flyers available for a voter registration drive and City District 1 and County District 1 candidates' forum at Loaves and Fishes Delaney Center at 12 th and Ahern Streets from 9-11 a.m. on April 22, 2010. Steering Committee member Reina Kaslofski gave birth to a baby boy April 14. A reporter from the Sacramento Business Journal was present at this meeting.

	TIME	TOPIC
5.	6:20 pm	<p>Update on Proposed System Redesign Mary Ann Bennett, Behavioral Health Director, described current and proposed changes caused by budget reductions to Children’s Mental Health Services. She asked Lisa Bertaccini, Division Manager for Child and Family Mental Health, to give additional details. See Attachment A – Children’s Mental Health Redesign.</p> <p><u>Discussion Points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 3632 services will be adapted to ensure expenditures match revenue and to more closely monitor what services are being provided. Some younger consumers currently receiving services funded purely from AB 3632 will see their services cut. • A small number of children will stop receiving services, but the greatest impact will be a reduction in services overall. • Mary Ann reviewed details of the Adult Outpatient Services Redesign. See Attachment B – Adult Outpatient Services Redesign. • Focus groups will take place at the RSTs in the next few weeks to solicit consumer input. • The four center locations currently under consideration are: South area (Bowling Drive), North area (Del Paso Heights), near the Treatment Center on Stockton Blvd, and potentially partnering with a provider agency in the Carmichael area. There are no centers proposed further south than Bowling Drive. • Many consumers in the downtown area will be inconvenienced by the distance between downtown and a Wellness Center at Stockton Blvd. Some consumers will still be able to access services at Guest House. • Individuals currently receiving services at an RST will not have to be reauthorized to continue receiving services when they are transferred to a Wellness Center. • Mary Ann stated the entire safety net of Sacramento County is taking huge reductions. The cuts to mental health services are only part of this--every cut in the social services network will have a significant impact not only in itself but in its repercussions on the rest of the network. The collective impact of these cuts will cause people to fall through cracks. She asked for community input to help the division know where these cracks appear. • County personnel will operate the Wellness Centers; psychiatrists will be provided through UC Davis contract or personal service contracts, as needed; and peer partners and peer mentors will be contracted as well. • Will there be any arrangements made with Regional Transit (RT) to put in a bus stop closer to the Wellness Center on Stockton? Mary Ann promised to look into this, but given the reductions that RT was making in its schedules and its routes, she is not hopeful. • Will there be a warm handoff from the RSTs to the Wellness Centers? The last large-scale transition was supposed to do this but with a four to six month wait, some clients ran out of medication half-way through. Also, will the clients and family members currently working in the system be eligible to work in peer mentor jobs? Mary Ann responded to the first question, saying that the county would do all it could to ensure a warm hand-off. Rod Kennedy addressed the second question, saying that where there were openings, they would be eligible for employment. • It was pointed out that we have a persistent disparity in services in the Latino community. The redesign will attempt to address this but as yet there are no specific strategies delineated.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion was voiced that since MHSA dollars will be used for this transition, the MHSA Steering Committee should be more closely involved in the planning. • Even if the loan repayment (Intra-fund Transfer) were delayed or the budget situation improved in some other way (which at this point does not seem likely), the Division would not recommend restoring services slated for cuts. A recommendation would be made to extend the transition period and set any remainder aside to offset other reductions the county believes are coming down the road. There are more mental health budget cuts anticipated but not yet addressed because they are not as immediate as the ones we are now tackling. • A request was made for a budget showing the costs of and funding for establishing the Wellness Centers. • The MHSA programs in place reflect a lot of community time and input, but this proposal has not benefited from that time and input. Mary Ann reminded the committee that the TCORE workplan services were developed and approved by the community and the Sacramento Wellness Centers services are TCORE workplan services. • A member expressed the wish that the county clearly explain, to whatever extent possible, the constraints it finds itself under so that when it says it has little choice but to make certain decisions, the community can understand its reasoning. • It was requested that meeting agendas be sent out earlier to facilitate transparency. <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patty Gainer, client advocate, said that consumer involvement in decision-making is important and that the System Integration Workgroup should not have stopped meeting. To call the new centers “Wellness Centers” is wrong because the existing wellness centers are client-led programs and provide holistic services and the new ones will not. Placing one by the Mental Health Treatment Center will discourage consumers from coming to it. Call them what they are--Medical System Management Centers. The client movement has a slogan: “Nothing about us without us, at every stage and every level.” She quoted California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5846(e): <i>The commission shall ensure that the perspective and participation of members and others suffering from severe mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations.</i> • Sylvia Muñoz, consumer advocate, said that if only the most critical cases are going to be served at the Wellness Centers then subcritical cases currently being served by the RSTs will become critical. To her that sounds like genocide. If we’re community-based, we’re supposed to be showing others how to do this. Where will the community-based part go? She believes that county workers should take cuts in their paychecks or money could come from the lottery or MHSA to save the services being lost. It feels as if nobody cares about the mentally ill. • Community member stated that people need the services provided at the RSTs. They need to be able to get rides to services and need peer partners. Without those services, there will be a lot of suicides. • Eva Nuñez asked whether County Charter Section 71-J could be changed. She thinks the public should be more aware of the way it steers public monies toward public employees rather than toward services. She also wondered why the Division of Mental Health had become the Division of Behavioral Health Services.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former consumer advocate recommended that consumer staff who are losing their jobs be supported through this transition to whatever extent possible so their recovery is not endangered by the trauma. She asked that they be considered on the same level as consumers who are losing services. • Sandra Sykes, client at HRC, asked for reconsideration of two of the potential service locations, Stockton Blvd and Del Paso Heights. She believes it is detrimental to place services in areas with high drug use and crime because many clients, having gotten away from that in their own lives, don't want to be close to it again. • Elene, HRC, acknowledged the work done to put together the plan saying she believed that the caliber of the county workers planned to provide services would be high but, nonetheless, she believes that the planned staff reduction will inevitably affect not just the amount but also the quality of the services provided. Some people need a lot of help during transitions and the transition of clients last year has left many consumers still floundering. During the last transition, a lot of the consumer staff were asked to step up and shoulder more which they did. Now some of them will lose their jobs and this may set back quite a few in their recovery. Sacramento County has some sacred cows—71-J and the size of the Treatment Center are two. There needs to be more will applied in the interpretation of both 71-J and the Treatment Center by higher level County staff. She urges staff to talk to these individuals to relax interpretation of both. • Sayuri Sion, consumer advocate, said every time there has been a crisis, consumers came forward with their concerns and were ignored. She is concerned about the short timeline involved in training staff and transitioning clients. There have been many clients in the past who have died. She doesn't want us to go back to that dark time. Consumer Self Help Centers, if kept open, will really help clients, as opposed to clinicians who will need to be trained. • Leslie Napper, consumer at Northgate Point, asked that at least one RST be kept open to mitigate the downside of the transition process. The level of service and personal care received at the RSTs cannot be duplicated. She does not want to fall through the cracks. She asked that she not be disenfranchised. Consumers deserve a better quality of life and her life depends on those services. She closed with an acknowledgement of the staff at Northgate Point who had done so much to help her. • Max Hernandez, mental health worker, consumer, patient rights advocate, spoke about how the RST services had helped him. The redirection of money away from the RSTs seems to him to be for the benefit only of county workers, not consumers. It will have the effect of turning police officers into social workers and will fill up the jails with consumers. Keep all the RSTs open and don't waste taxpayers' money trying to fix a system which isn't broken. • Jessica Muñoz, said she was glad to see the outline of the proposed services, but thinks that everyone in the room would probably agree that even if they were added to those now in place, rather than replacing them, there still wouldn't be an excess of services. Since that cannot be the case, she asks that the doctors currently providing services for clients be employed rather than hiring doctors through UC Davis. <p><i>[Mary Ann responded to this comment, saying that UC Davis is reaching out to the doctors currently working at the RSTs and is hoping they will sign on.]</i></p> <p>She would also like to see the consumer staff currently providing services hired</p>

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		<p>because they already know how it's done, which will be important when the county is trying to serve the same number of clients with fewer staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie Davis, client, asked approximately how many peer mentors would be employed by the Sacramento Wellness Centers. She then asked whether the existing WRC would be dismantled. <p><i>[She was answered that responses to those questions are precluded at this time.]</i></p> <p>She feels that there is a lot of county management of clients in this plan without much client input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael McDaniel said that California has one of the largest economies in the world and has a lot of big companies Connie Komen admonished the county, which seems to her top-heavy with administrative costs, for looking first to reduce services to those who need them most when it needs to cut its budget. It appears to her that a good portion of county employees have forgotten that they are public servants and think more of themselves than the public they are supposed to serve. She is sure that governmental bureaucracy process complicates the provision of services requiring more county workers and county time than that needed by outside contractors. Frank Topping, speaking as a private citizen and consumer advocate, spoke about how he had gone from homelessness because of the work done by Consumer Self Help. He hopes that the expertise at those programs will not be lost. [Community member] asked for a status update on the 2010 -11 Annual Update. Michelle Callejas, MHSA Program Manager, said that she is working to incorporate the changes made in response to the public comment received and it will be submitted to the state as soon as that is done. She has also let DMH know that the county will be submitting a plan amendment, just as they did last year. The input received at these meetings will be used to inform that plan amendment.
7.	8:05 pm	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Implementation Task Force and focus groups at RSTs WET Update Student Mental Health & Wellness Collaborative
8.	8:05 pm	<p>Upcoming Meetings (meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 6, 2010 May 20, 2010
9.	8:06 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>

Minutes taken by: Michael Sheridan, Administrative Services Officer I

Approved: Michelle Callejas, MHSA Program Manager

Distribution: MHSA Steering Committee, MHSA Distribution List, MH Division Management, posted to MHSA website