

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

**July 1, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

**Division 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: Michael Beebe, Mary Ann Bennett, Kathy Briem (*alternate for Department of Human Assistance*), Caroline Caton, Sandy Damiano, Rob Edmisten (*alternate for Probation*), Jane Fowler, Edwina Browning Hayes, Laura Heintz (*alternate for Children's Service Providers*), Marilyn Hillerman, Reina Kaslofski, Al Lipson, Hiep Ma, Stephanie Ramos, Marbella Sala, Dave Schroeder, Frank Topping

Alternates: Dorian Kittrell

	TIME	TOPIC
1.	6:07 pm	Comfort Agreement Marilyn Hillerman read the Comfort Agreement. No changes were suggested.
2.	6:10 pm	Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes Minutes of June 3, 2010, were approved with no changes.
3.	6:12 pm	Agenda Review The agenda was reviewed and approved.
4.	6:16 pm	Announcements Bert Bettis, new Division Manager of Adult Services, was introduced. Kathy Robertson, a reporter from the Business Journal, is in the audience. Frank Topping announced that National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) has a hotline for soldiers, 1-800-273-TALK (press 1 for Veterans), and that The Soldiers Project (www.thesoldiersproject.org) has free and confidential counseling available for soldiers and their families. Frank complimented the Wellness and Recovery Center for its valuable activity calendars. See Attachment A – WRC North July Activity Calendar . Michael Beebe provided flyers announcing the Children's Receiving Home's new Independent Living Program (ILP). See Attachment B – ILP Brochure . Patty Gainer announced the formation of a new Peer Support Group for mental health client advocates and requested that interested people contact her. Patty also announced that there is a new café and catering business, Plates Café and Catering, sponsored by St. John's Shelter for Women and Children that is an employment learning program for formerly homeless mothers with children. Patty requested that consumers concerned about the MHSA stakeholder process contact her with input as she is attempting to document these concerns.

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5.	6:23 pm	<p>Steering Committee Facilitator Dave Schroeder, Steering Committee Co-Chair, announced that due to budget constraints, the contract for the facilitator, Eileen Jacobowitz, would not be renewed. The Co-Chairs would lead discussions just as they did when the first Steering Committee was formed. If members believe a facilitator is needed for a particular issue, the County can obtain one outside of DBHS at no cost.</p> <p><u>Member Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caroline Caton stated that it was important to consider the role of a facilitator - somebody who doesn't have a stake in the outcome of the decision. Mary Ann Bennett reassured the Committee that the facilitator the County provides will have no vested interest in Mental Health issues. Mary Ann encouraged members to speak up if ever they feel the process isn't working. She also said that if, when we get to <i>Next Steps</i> in the agenda, an item is perceived by the Steering Committee to be controversial, a facilitator could be requested to be on hand at the next meeting. <p><u>Action</u> Frank Topping moved that the Steering Committee bring Eileen in for a thank you. Jane Fowler seconded. Motion approved by unanimous vote.</p> <p><u>Public Comment</u> A consumer spoke about having a problem with the decisions and decision-making process of the Steering Committee as a whole. He said the Committee should reflect the consumer's point of view but fails to do so.</p>
6.	6:40 pm	<p>Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee Caroline Caton, Steering Committee Member/Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee Member and Dave Schroeder, Steering Committee Co-Chair reviewed the Charter revisions and suggestions made by the Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee</p> <p><u>Review of Proposed Changes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Attachment C – Steering Committee Charter (10-31-2007 revision), Attachment D – Steering Committee Charter (05-17-2010 revision), and Attachment E – Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee Recommendations (05-17-2010). Dave asked Steering Committee members to review the recommendations and discuss them with their constituency before voting at the next meeting. <p><u>Member Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that veterans have separate representation on the Committee; Frank Topping and Dave Schroeder currently represent veterans on the Committee. Dave Schroeder and Mary Ann responded that the Committee is already at the upper limit of manageable size and that it has become necessary for some members to represent multiple constituencies. However, veterans and any other groups are encouraged to attend and participate during public comment. A member perceived a conflict of interest in that the Committee is co-chaired by the same Mental Health Director it was formed to advise. He suggested the Committee vote on the chairs rather than having it determined by office held. He said the Vision Statement does not match reality as the Committee does not match the one described in that document. Finally, it would be easier to plan for the future if the Committee had better information about budget cuts. Dave Schroeder responded saying that the previous Steering Committee had voted to make the Mental Health

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	<p>Director the co-chair because they felt it was important to have the Director involved in the process. He also noted that DHHS often does not have much advance notice of budget changes; the new Acting County Executive appears to be more open which may allow more lead time for Committee input regarding budget decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member pointed out that the Vision Statement is not meant to be a representation of the current state of the Steering Committee - it is a vision to work toward. • Mary Ann noted that she is the sole representative for Mental Health. <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Bennett stated that the Consumer/Family Member selection Committee is full of conflicts of interest and that county contracted agencies have a conflict in their consumer membership on the Committee. He does not believe their agency CEOs are consumers and thinks they allow personal biases to affect their selection criteria. Additionally, he believes that there is a conflict of interest in county employees sitting on the Committee and feels this is why the Committee fails to address the consumers' concerns. He does not understand why Sacramento County's MHSA money is put into supplemental programs when primary programs are being discarded. Caroline Caton responded saying that there had been discussion on the issue of contractors having a voice in the selection of consumer members and it was decided that when consumers or family members associated with MHA or Consumer Self Help apply for membership, the organization representatives on the selection panel would remove themselves from voting. • Patty Gainer requested that public comment from this meeting and the next be reviewed and taken into account before the vote is taken at the next meeting. She echoed James' concerns about conflicts of interest on the Committee, especially the Mental Health Director. She also believes that some consumer representatives on the Committee who work for contractor agencies do not feel free to speak their mind. Dave Schroeder and Mary Ann Bennett requested input at or before the next meeting as to who best could serve on the selection committee. • Hiep Ma stated he works for a contractor agency but when he attends meetings he thinks only of the Transition Age Youth (TAY) consumers he is there to represent and speaks his mind accordingly. He is not paid for his time at these meetings. • Michael Wilkins thanked all who represent TAY, stating he felt that was the basis upon which MHSA was founded – to better identify and treat mental illness among youth. He felt the services provided by MHSA should be open for everyone. • Sandra Marley commended Stephanie Ramos for her excellent MHSA presentation to the State Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and her thoroughness in answering the Commissioners' questions. Sandra recommended that the Steering Committee designate a member to attend the monthly MHSOAC meetings to stay informed. She also suggested that one of the Steering Committee's consumer positions be designated as a consumer client advocate and requested that there be an open forum public comment period at the end of every meeting. • Eva Nuñez spoke regarding safety at hospitals and psychiatric facilities, saying that money and training for staff are needed to protect clients. Reports should be filed at the time of incidents, not 72 hours later. She also spoke about values that are important to her and other consumers: private phones in psychiatric wards, family rooms, appropriate diets, the ability to contact your psychiatrist, consistent medication, warmer blankets, and warmer rooms. Clients won't always mention or

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		bring these subjects up, but the contractors that really support them will. She believes it is important for decisions that affect clients to be made in the public eye.
7.	7:23 pm	<p>DBHS Updates</p> <p>Mary Ann Bennett referenced a Sacramento Bee article that implied an upcoming reduction of capacity at the Mental Health Treatment Center. Although the quotes in that article were accurate, the article did not clearly convey that the reduction described was not immediate and was planned to take place after the county had created 16-bed PHFs, per direction from the Board of Supervisors. A clarifying memo was sent to the Division and the MHSA email distribution list. See Attachment F – Memo re: Sacramento Bee Article Referencing MHTC Closure or Reduction.</p> <p>Mary Ann reviewed the Department of Health and Human Service’s (DHHS) proposal to restructure the County’s Adult Outpatient Mental Health System that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. See Attachment G – DHHS Proposal to Restructure the County’s Adult Outpatient Mental Health Services System. The peer-supported Sacramento Wellness Centers will be staffing up through July and consumers are welcome to seek services during that time, but the transition period from the RSTs to the Wellness Centers will begin Aug 1 and conclude by Oct 31. Many of the doctors currently seeing consumers have been hired by the Wellness Centers so many consumers will be able to have consistency of service. HRC-TCORE, WRC North, Hmong Women’s Heritage Association, and Mental Health America of Northern California will provide contracted peer support services. WRC South will close. Discussions will continue with stakeholders (The Effort, the RSTs, consumers, etc) regarding maximizing federal revenues in our community. These discussions will be led by the County Executive’s Office. After a community planning process, the County will request unallocated Community Services & Supports funding to continue HRC-TCORE and provide other peer support services within the Wellness Centers.</p> <p><u>Member Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Lipson expressed his appreciation for the efforts toward transparency. Recognizing that Mary Ann may not be able to comment on the lawsuits, he asked for the potential impact of the various lawsuits the county is facing. Mary Ann responded that she could not comment but that the lawsuits are public information and can be accessed on the internet or at the Sacramento Superior Court. Referencing the Peer Partners program that had been mentioned earlier, Marbella Sala acknowledged how effective Hmong Women’s Heritage Association is in serving the Hmong community, but asked how the Latino, African-American and other ethnic communities would be served as effectively. Mary Ann called on Jo Ann Johnson, Cultural Competence/Ethnic Services Manager. Jo Ann said that Hmong Women’s Heritage Association and Mental Health America of Northern California were awarded through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. They will be required to address cultural and linguistic issues for every population they serve. Jane Fowler asked about the capacity of the RSTs versus the capacity of the Wellness Centers. Mary Ann stated the RSTs had been under capacity according to the data in the AVATAR system and assured members that the Wellness Centers will have the capacity to serve all of the RST clients. Laura Heintz asked what cost savings are involved in this proposal. Mary Ann explained that there are no cost savings; instead there are revenue shifts. The RSTs were funded by realignment funds which were cut. The county is proposing using some of the MHSA dollars currently funding HRC-TCORE and the Wellness and

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		<p>Recovery Centers (WRCs) for the Sacramento Wellness Centers. Other funding includes CalWORKs, SAMHSA and Medi-Cal. MHSA dollars cannot be directed to the RSTs to replace realignment because that would be supplantation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Lipson asked if the cost/benefit analysis regarding this proposed change requested at the BOS budget hearings had been completed. Mary Ann responded, saying that an analysis is in development. <p><u>Public Comment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Marley stated that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would like to see more stakeholder involvement in the discussions with the County Executive about this proposal. She asked what stakeholders were involved. Mary Ann stated that a list of groups had been provided to the Division by the BOS and representatives of all those groups (clients, family members, RSTs and hospitals) have already been selected. She then asked whether the services provided at the WRCs, as typified by Attachment A, would be supplied at all the Wellness Centers. Michelle Callejas, MHSA Program Manager, responded, saying that there will be recovery groups and peer services at all the Wellness Centers. The Marconi Wellness Center will continue to have drop-in services; as the other Wellness Centers get going, consideration will be made of the drop in capability at those three locations. James Bennett believes that the proposal is a done deal, so he won't speak further regarding it. He stated that The Effort is no longer doing a good job helping consumers who have co-occurring disorders. The people who worked there and set up the services to help people with co-occurring disorders are no longer with The Effort and the quality of services to the consumer is no longer what it was. Mary Ann thanked him for his comments, saying that the Division would look into this and that she hoped he would continue to come to these meetings and share his opinions because his opinions are heard and valued. Patty Gainer referenced comments made by the County at the budget hearing to the BOS that the State Department of Mental Health and the county had resolved their issues. Patty said that she spoke to Dr. Mayberg, DMH Director, within the last few days and he stated that is not true. She wanted it on the record that that isn't true. She expressed skepticism that the opinions of consumers were really being listened to. She gave an example from a Community Forum where she felt that the Division representatives had not been straight with the consumers in attendance. Eva Nuñez expressed her appreciation that some service changes had been covered in the newspaper, but asked if the care homes in Sacramento could be notified via direct mail of upcoming changes; many of the operators or inhabitants might not have read the stories in the Sacramento Bee.
8.	7:48 pm	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Ad Hoc Charter Review Action</p>
9.	7:58 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"> July 15, 2010 August 5, 2010
10.	8:00 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>