County of Orange
Mental Health Board

405 W. 5th Street, Ste 405
Santa Ana, CA 92701
TEL: (714) 834-5481 / FAX: (714) 796-0194
Email: ddaniels@ochca.com

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Hall of Administration – Board Hearing Room
10 Civic Center Plaza
(333 West Santa Ana Blvd.)
Santa Ana, CA 92701

MINUTES

Members Present: Jeffrey Davis, Cecile Dillon, Suzie Gulshan, Brian Jacobs, Carol Langone, Nomi Lonky, Judith Lewis, Dick McConaughy, Jenny Monge, Michaell Rose, Gregory Swift, Gregory Wright

Members Absent: Supervisor Patricia Bates, 5th District, Carolyn Nguyen, MD

Call to Order and Introductions

- Richard called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. All in attendance introduced themselves and their respective affiliation. He also acknowledged Michaell Rose as the newest Mental Health Board member.

Approval of Minutes – Action Requested

- The minutes for January 25, 2012 were reviewed for approval. Richard called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Judith made the motion and Brian seconded the motion. Minutes approved and placed on file as written. M/S/C.

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update – Mark Refowitz, Deputy Agency Director

- Mark updated the board on the state and local budget. He reported that the state legislature is working continuously on the state budget for mental health, recruitment of a Director, and the overall need in terms of tasks that were omitted in the governor's budget.
- Several advocacy organizations have shared concerns with the idea of licensing being transitioned to the Department of Social Services. Also, several realignment programs are proposed for elimination such as EPSDT, Drug MediCal, and AB 109. BHS Administrators will continue to monitor these programs and keep the MHB informed of the progress.
- In regards to the local budget, the county is moving into the final stages of the annual budget process. Once complete, the budget will be forwarded to the County Executive Office for review, then to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- In terms of Cal Optima, Mark reported that there have been recent changes in the organizations Executive Leadership. The Board of Supervisors will make reappointments to the Orange County Cal Optima Advisory Board.

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John M.W. Moorlach, Chairman
Second District

Shawn Nelson, Vice Chairman
Fourth District

Janet Nguyen
First District

Bill Campbell
Third District

Patricia C. Bates
Fifth District

MHB MEMBERS

Richard McConaughy, Ph.D., Chair

Brian Jacobs, MA
Vice Chair

Supervisor Patricia Bates, 5th District

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Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update – Mark Refowitz, Deputy Agency Director continued…

- Furthermore, Mark updated the board on AB 3632. The revenue contracts have been approved by the Board of Supervisors and funding appears to be stable through March 2012. HCA will continue to ensure that the transition of services from HCA to the schools will be as efficient as possible. Finally, HCA will remain available to provide services in lieu of contracted services.

Board member remarks in response to BHS Update:

- Nomi Lonky shared her concern on why Chairman Supervisor John M.W. Moorlaach, the Homeless Commission, or any of the Board of Supervisors has approached the Mental Health Board for their recommendation and perspective on implementing AB 1421. Nomi shared that the Mental Health Board is supposed to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, however she doesn't understand why the Homeless Commission versus the Mental Health Board is the platform of discussion on implementing AB 1421. Furthermore, Nomi shared that she is offended by this activity as the Homeless Commission isn't experts on mental illness such as the Mental Health Board. Finally, Nomi asked Mark for the original MHSA documents which state that MHSA funding are not allowed to fund an involuntary program.
- Brian Jacobs expressed to Nomi that he can answer her questions. He also shared that the issue is very complex and he commended the Board of Supervisors for grabbling with these legislative aspects of the law.
- Mark Refowitz informed the board that their position to support the implementation of AB 1421 is clear and that the Board of Supervisors is aware of their position in regards to this legislation.

MHSA Overview and Update – Bonnie Birnbaum

- Bonnie updated the board on the principles and components of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). See PowerPoint Presentation. For additional information, please visit http://ochealthinfo.com/mhsa or (714) 667-5620.

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Committee Report

Legislation – Carol Langone, LCSW

- See written report

California Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Committees (CALMHB/C) - Gregory Wright

- Gregory updated the board on the current activities of the CALMHB/C. The next meeting will be in Los Angeles, April 19-21st. Also, Gregory asks the board to confirm if they have received the information he has forwarded regarding Advanced MHB 101 Teleconferences. For additional information, please contact ddaniels@ochca.com or (714) 834-5481.

Study Committee Meeting – Brian Jacobs

- Brian recommend that the board hold quarterly evening meetings in place of the monthly morning Study Committee meeting in efforts of making the meeting accessible to the public and general public. This recommendation will be further discussed at the Mental Health Board Annual Retreat.

New Business

- Richard reminded the board that the Mental Health Board Annual Retreat meeting will be Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 8:30 am – 12:00 n. The board will further discuss the location and agenda during the upcoming Study Meeting on Thursday, March 9th.

Announcements

None

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Public Comment

- Mary Palafox: I would like to thank the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Orange County for their commitment to improve crisis intervention in this county. As you remember, families are the largest providers of housing and care for the severely mentally ill. I believe the last AB 1424 workshop that was done; it was full of CAT Team members and other people in the county who needed that training. As families, we continue to be neglected in crisis intervention. We are following a lot of families and they continue to be told they need to call the police. As of last night, that was the same situation for a family member whose son has been hospitalized at least five times and continues to be in crisis and they were told to call the police. There is nothing provided at all for these family members. If we are going to continue to follow the same old philosophy that all care needs to be one hundred percent voluntary and only assisted outpatient treatment is going to come through the criminal justice system, and we are going to rely on conservatorship – you're going to wait in crisis for years. I really encourage this board to monitor and look at what is happening with AB 1421 and with your ability to know why MHSA funds aren't being used. Also monitor what is happening to develop that program. Families are not going to get their loved ones who are unable to seek voluntary services. Over and over again, families in crisis are told by the CAT Team that their hands are tied. It's the common statement that we get and this need to be addressed.

Meeting Adjourned

- 10:58 am

Officially submitted by:

Danielle Daniels, Reporting Secretary
Note: Copies of all writings pertaining to items in these MHB minutes are available for public review in the Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Office, 405 W. 5th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701, 714.834.5481 or Email: ddaniels@ochca.com.