

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN CALIFORNIA BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010
3:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
SHERATON GATEWAY LOS ANGELES
6101 WEST CENTURY BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045**

MINUTES

Board Members-at-Large Present:

Peter Schroeder, President
Karen Hart, President Elect
Elizabeth Pfromm
Steve Leoni

Chapter Representatives Present (Voting Members):

Patricia Marrone Bennett, MHA San Francisco
Chad Costello, MHA Los Angeles
Richard Van Horn, MHA Los Angeles

Chapter Staff Present (non voting members):

Tom Behr

Staff Present:

Stacie Hiramoto
Jerry Jeffe
Rusty Selix
Amber Burkan (via conference call)

President Peter Schroeder called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Approval of the May 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

The minutes were approved with the following amendments: Betsy Pfromm, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, was present at the Board meeting in Riverside (February 10), and Joel Bosch, Interim Executive Director, Mental Health Association of San Francisco, was present at the Board meeting in Sacramento (May 25).

Areta Crowell's Resignation from the MHAC Board of Directors:

Peter Schroeder reported that Areta Crowell had resigned from the Board of Director. She will be honored in a very dignified way that has yet to be decided.

Public Policy Committee Report:

Hannah Cohen, Public Policy Committee Chair, presented a report on legislative and public policy matters:

- ✓ The Governor's Office announced on Friday that a framework of a deal on the State Budget has been reached.
- ✓ None of the State propositions have a direct impact on mental health so there are none to bring to you for discussion.
- ✓ A deal was reached during the Budget Conference committee hearings on AB 3632. MHAC staff sent out the details. If you have any questions, direct them to staff.
- ✓ As of Friday morning, there were 765 bills on the Governor's Desk. He signed 76 bills Friday night and vetoed 43 bills. He has until midnight, Thursday, September 30, to sign or veto bills or let bills go into law without his signature. He has 600 bills left. None of the bills Friday night dealt with mental health.
- ✓ He signed a few bills before he left for his trip to Asia and none until Friday night.
- ✓ His Press Secretary said he will not issue any blanket vetoes like he did two years ago. He vetoed 414 bills in 2008 and 240 bills in 2009, which was about 28 percent of all bills before him.
- ✓ MHAC is closely monitoring the following bills:
 - ✓ The Governor signed AB 278 by Assemblyman Bill Monning Friday night. This bill will authorize the State to administer up to four demonstration projects a year for the purpose of evaluating solutions to facilitate health information exchange.
 - ✓ AB 1600 by Assemblyman Jim Beall would ensure that private health plans treat persons with mental health and substance abuse or co-occurring disorders in comprehensive and meaningful way.
 - ✓ AB 1600 is strongly opposed by the Department of Managed Health Care, the Governor's Legislative Secretary, and most of the business community. The Governor has vetoed similar legislation every year for the past several years.
 - ✓ AB 2645 by Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro would eliminate cost of living increases for skilled nursing facilities for two years. The cost of living increases come out of county budgets. It frees up more money for county mental health departments. The skilled nursing industry supports the bill.
 - ✓ SB 543 by Senator Mark Leno would give youth ages 12 to 17 in need of mental health treatment or counseling permission to get that help without parental permission. The bill still requires the involvement of a minor's parent or guardian if or when the attending professional determines involvement is appropriate.

- ✓ SB 220 by Senator Leland Yee would require all health plans and insurers to provide coverage of treatments to help patients quit smoking. A high number of people with mental illness are smokers. The health plan industry strongly opposes the bill.
- ✓ AB 12 by Assemblyman Jim Beall and Speaker-Emeritus Karen Bass would allow California to draw down newly available Federal funds to provide enhanced support to foster youth from age 18 to age 21. It gives the Legislature the option to review and choose to extend the program into the third year (age 20 to 21).
- ✓ Most provisions of AB 12 would go into effect on January 1, 2012 and the remaining provisions on July 1, 2012.
- ✓ SB 1392 by Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg would remove unnecessary health funding delays at the State level to enable counties to appropriately access funding in a timelier manner prevent unavoidable budget cuts at the community level. The Department of Mental Health is neutral.
- ✓ AB 1602 by Assembly Speaker John Perez and SB 900 by Senator Elaine Alquist would implement the health benefit exchange under Federal healthcare reform in California. The business community is strongly opposed to both bills.
- ✓ AB 2342 by Assemblyman Noreen Evans would require the State to develop a resource directory for foster youth that outlines available statewide programs and services.
- ✓ AB 2199 by Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal would repeal prejudicial, unjust language in current law that requires the Department of Mental Health to plan and conduct scientific research into the causes and cures of homosexuality.
- ✓ SB 516 by Senator Mark DeSaulnier would create a Youth Legislature.

Nominating Committee Report:

Hannah Cohen, Nominating Committee Chair, said there was nothing to report at this time.

Name Change Committee Report:

Karen Hart, Name Change Committee Chair, said her report will be deferred to the retreat on September 29. She did note that a release date needs to be worked out for maximum impact.

Bylaws Committee Report:

Peter Schroeder said that Bylaws Committee Report will be deferred to the retreat on September 29.

Legislative Report:

Jerry Jeffe gave a report on federal legislation. No major mental health bills or the SAMSA budget bill have been sent to the President for his signature this year. They may come up for consideration during a post-election Congressional session starting on November 15.

Rusty Selix gave a report on the implementation of Federal Healthcare Reform in California.

November 17, 2010 MHAC Annual Meeting in San Diego:

Rusty Selix requested that the November 17 Board meeting be rescheduled since he will be attending a conference back East on that day. It was decided to move the meeting to November 18 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at whatever location the MHSOAC holds its meeting, whether it is in San Diego or Sacramento.

Update on the Development of the John Van Aken Advocacy Academy and the Dedication of the MHAC Conference Room:

Rusty Selix said a plan needs to be developed to fund the John Van Aken Advocacy Academy. He also said the MHAC Conference Room will be dedicated in honor of John Van Aken at the next MHAC Board meeting in Sacramento. A reception will be held in conjunction with the dedication ceremony.

Chapter Reports:

Tom Behr introduced himself as the new Executive Director of Mental Health Association of San Diego.

He said that the Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony award-winning Broadway musical, "Next to Normal," will be performed at the Balboa Theatre in San Diego on January 18, 2011 by the National Company. This musical about a family member battling bipolar disorder would be a great event to hold a fundraiser around. He would like to work with MHAC on doing such an event.

Patricia Marrone Bennett, Interim President of the Mental Health Association of San Francisco, reported that a new Executive Director will be chosen by the Board in a few weeks.

Executive Director's Report:

Rusty Selix gave the Executive Director's report. He walked everyone through his draft memo, "The Big Picture: The Bridge to Healthcare Reform – The Possible Dream of Adequately Funded Systems Starting in 2014 – Opportunities, Barriers, and Threats."

He said that he anticipates the State will try to take realignment money away from the counties in 2014 when healthcare reform is fully implemented.

He said that PEIs have been approved by the MHSOAC in every county except Del Norte.

He said that nothing has happened yet by the MHSOAC or CMHDA about his draft proposal, "Inclusive and Informed Policy Making: A Cornerstone of the MHSA." He suggested that the proposal be applied to CalMESA.

He said to put aside for now his draft memo, "Insuring Meaningful Consumer and Family Member Participation in State and County Mental Health Decision Making." It is of secondary importance for the moment. The focus for now should be on the draft proposal noted in the previous paragraph.

He said that there is no State money until Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to fund the Depressive and Bipolar Support Alliance Collaboration Project, LGBTQ Project, Veterans Program, and Older Adults Program. As a result, he suggests going the foundation route if the Board wants to pursue funding for these projects. But they are on hold for the moment.

As for mental health parity, he said everyone is still waiting for the issuance of more regulations by the Federal government.

He said more attention needs to be paid to dealing with mental health in the schools.

He discussed introducing the Steinberg Bill from a few years ago dealing with criminal justice diversion efforts /prebooking diversion model and outlined his long-term strategy for passage of the bill.

He said there is a trade association based in Fresno that is interested in working with MHAC and the chapters on a series of mental health programs to be broadcast on PBS stations in California. MHAC chapters could build around the broadcasts. There would be DVDs for classrooms. MHAC would be involved in content with funding from MHSOAC. There would be six hours of programming at a cost of \$1 million.

MHAC Special Projects - Updates:

Stacie Hiramoto gave a status report on the implementation of the new grant from DMH for REMHDCO. A written report was attached to the agenda.

Rusty Selix said that the National Institute for Mental Health Partnership Project is still going well.

Amber Burkan gave a status report over the telephone of the Transition Age Youth Project: CAYEN (written report was attached to the agenda) and the Office of Patient Advocate.

Jerry Jeffe said that Mental Health America's Regional Policy Council has assigned its regional representatives to write White Papers for Mental Health America's Toolkit by the end of 2010. Jerry said he has been assigned mental health in the criminal justice system.

Steve Leoni asked that Laura's Law (AB 1421) be brought up under Other Items of Interest to Board Members. He said San Francisco is looking at the matter and that he has been asked to provide input.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.