



## **The Mental Health / Developmental Services Collaborative**

**Carlos Flores, Leslie Tremaine  
Co-Chairs**

**June 3, 2009  
Minutes**

### **In Attendance:**

Lori Banales	Bob Baldo	Lisa Rosene	Jeanie Thurston
Jo Ellen Fletcher	David Riestler	Beth Robey	Carlos Flores
Stephen Mouton	Tom Kelly	Eliana Lois	Jeff Payne
Tricia Howell	Tom Keenen	Kathleen Kasmire	Ken Carabello
Wendy Desormeaux	Nicole Weiss	Ann Christen	Ross Peterson
Cristina Barrios	Andrew Cavagnaro	Bob Hamilton	Michael Januse
Keith Penman	Patricia Ryan		

### **I. Introductions**

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Carlos Flores. Introductions were made. Wendy Desormeaux will be replacing Troy Konarski as the DMH representative to the Collaborative.

### **II. Approval of Minutes/Agenda**

Minutes of the March 11, 2009 meeting were approved by consensus.

### **III. Report from Consultants**

David and Beth gave a report on activities since the last meeting. Based on the direction given at the March meeting, work has begun on establishing the first Children's Summit for those counties within the Alta and Valley Mountain service areas. The invitation list would include the 2 regional centers, 14 county mental health departments, 23 SELPAs, and 15 Social Services: Child Protective Services departments. Discussion ensued about also inviting the 15 county First Five coordinators and 15 Chief Probation Officers. This ends up with a total of 99 agencies. Beth was conducting a survey of the 23 SELPA directors to ascertain availability during the summer months. It appears that early August will be the optimum time. Beth also went over the tentative format for the one-day program (8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) It will start with a brief overview of what each entity is mandated to do and what they cannot do. It has become evident over the past few years that most disagreements arise from a lack of understanding about the mandates and restrictions of our partner agencies. It was suggested that we use directors from the jurisdictions in attendance to do these short educational presentations. Next, we will present three successful models of collaboration. Ideas included the

Fresno Assessment Center, the Chinatown project in San Francisco, Solano County's Multi-disciplinary Team, and the Fred Finch Center in the East Bay. Discussion ensued about other programs for youth including an adolescent PHF in Alameda County, discussions about a new Fred Finch 3-bed crisis home in San Diego, an adolescent treatment unit at UCSD, a wraparound program in San Diego for children with autism for which the Regional Center pays a "patch," and a home for adolescent autistic boys which Alta regional is hoping to develop. Everyone agreed that these programs are very difficult to start because of the shortage of child psychiatrists and other key staff. In the afternoon, breakout groups would discuss what is currently working at their local levels, what have been some of the barriers and challenges, and what do we need to do to fill these gaps. The breakout groups will report out and we will see if there are any regional, statewide, or regulatory steps which need to occur.

David also spoke about the Capitol People First Lawsuit Settlement Agreement. DDS and DMH were defendants in this class action lawsuit along with the 21 regional centers. Plaintiffs contended that persons with developmental disabilities residing in facilities with a capacity of 16 or more and persons at risk of placement in such facilities are illegally institutionalized in violation of their right to the least restrictive environment. A summary of the agreement was distributed in the meeting packet.

David then asked key members in attendance to provide updates on resource development:

Jeff Payne provided an update on "Priorities" the 16 bed Adult Residential Facility in Yuba City designed for the dually diagnosed population. They have applied to licensure and hope to open in the Fall. The program will look like a crisis residential program utilizing the rehabilitative model and will have delayed egress. The price will be about \$600 per day and David asked Joey to follow up on making sure it is eligible for a Medicaid waiver.

Steve Mouton talked about the DDMI wing. He was pleased to report that referrals are increasing and that patients are experiencing a shorter length of stay. The adult wing is at about 60% capacity and the adolescent wing at 30%.

Ross Peterson from Telecare reported that they are breaking ground in Alameda on June 5<sup>th</sup> for a new secured MHRC which should open next Spring. It is a collaborative venture with Golden Gate, East Bay, and San Andreas Regional centers. They are also looking at two potential sites in Fresno and Sanger for a 15 bed secured facility. Finally, the Assertive Community Treatment Program in Sacramento is now fully operational.

David reported that the California Psychiatric Transitions MHRC in Delhi is expanding by 44 beds which will be available in mid August. At least 16 of these beds will be dedicated to regional center clients. CPT offers competency training on site

#### IV. Budget/Legislative/Policy Update

- A. Developmental Services – Bob Baldo reported that the State is running out of cash and that the deficit is now at \$24 billion. The process is moving fast and changes daily. Key republicans were removed from leadership roles for supporting the budget. The Regional Centers are hanging in and trying to figure out how to deal with the cuts already proposed. Bob acknowledged that the cuts

to partner agencies and programs will hurt their clients as well. No one really knows the nuts and bolts of how the cuts will occur.

- B. **Mental Health** – Patricia Ryan spoke about how in addition to all of the cuts being proposed, mental health departments are suffering from a significant reduction in realignment funding due to the economy. Realignment funding comes from a portion of the sales tax and vehicle in lieu fees, both of which are in decline. The loss has been \$148 million statewide. Further Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue has peaked and is expected to go down by nearly 30% next year. The proposed budget cuts include a \$64 million reduction in MediCal Managed Care dollars with no reduction in requirements, a \$28 million reduction in EPSDT which funds children’s mental health services, and deferment of \$52 million in AB 3632 payments which pay for services for school-age children.

V. Old Business:

- A. Update on “Difficult to Serve” Projects. (Postponed until next meeting)—
- B. **DDS Project on Mental Health** – Joey Fletcher. DDS received MHSA funding for dual diagnosis training and regional planning. The funds were distributed as 3-yr grants to regional centers. Seven of ten proposals were funded. Projects include:
- Harbor/Lanterman – Evidence Based Therapeutic Practices
  - Inland – training on early childhood mental health
  - Westside/North LA – training on referral process and other issues with local mental health providers.
  - Golden Gate – Infant mental health training to medical providers
  - San Gabriel – training for LA County psychiatrists – inpatient session at DDMI
  - San Diego – via a sub-contract with ARCA, will conduct regional planning meetings to enhance collaboration among partner agencies. The first meetings will be the Children’s Services Summits.
- C. **Southern California Regional needs for secure facilities for regional center clients who commit crimes.** Assembly Bill 438 (Beall) has passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate. This bill would require that DDS convene a state level stakeholders’ task force to study and recommend solutions to the problems of individuals with developmental disabilities enmeshed in the criminal justice system. The task force would review the need for secure community treatment services and barriers to their development.

V. New Business

- A. **New Training Program for Westside and North Los Angeles Regional Centers and local Mental Health providers:** Tom Kelly reported that, as mentioned above, Westside received one of the MHSA grants to fund collaborative trainings and providers from Westside and North Los Angeles County Regional Centers and local mental health providers. They are currently putting together a task force of representatives from all of the interested agencies to help inform us what trainings would be most useful. He asked for input from others on the Collaborative on training ideas.

- B. Several members mentioned that Sierra Vista has not been accepting new clients "due to budgetary reasons." Jeanie Thurston said she would look into this.
- C. It was suggested that we might want to invite the U.C. Davis Mind Institute to attend one of our meetings to talk about mental illness co-morbidity with autism. David and Beth will follow up.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting Time & Place –

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 10-2, at the following location:

Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza  
300 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-0100

VII. Meeting Adjourned