



MENDOCINO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
MENTAL HEALTH  
1120 S. DORA STREET  
UKIAH, CA 95482

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*Before the Mental Health Board  
County of Mendocino • State of California  
Minutes – September 16, 2015*

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REGULAR MEETING       SPECIAL SESSION

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

JOHN WETZLER  
CHAIR

ROGER SCHWARTZ  
VICE CHAIR

DENISE GORNY  
SECRETARY

NANCY SUTHERLAND  
TREASURER

DAN HAMBURG  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JOHN McCOWEN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ALTERNATE

JAN MCGOURTY  
CATHY HARPE

KATE GASTON  
DINA ORTIZ

MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN

TAMMY LOWE  
EMILY STRACHAN

JILL MCCAUGHNA  
MARGIE HANDLEY

JOHN GILMORE

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—  
**OPEN SEATS**

1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT – 1 - SEAT

2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED

3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT – 1-FILLED

4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED

5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT – FILLED

BOARD RESOURCE INFORMATION:

OFFICE: (707) 472-2355

FAX: (707) 467-2364

EMAIL THE BOARD:

mhboard@co.mendocino.ca.us

WEBSITE:

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/  
mh\_board.htm

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – OPEN SESSION, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL, QUORUM NOTICE, AGENDA CHANGES - 3 MINUTES**

**Chair Wetzler called the meeting to order (10:06)AM**

**Roll Call Taken by: Nancy Sutherland**

**Mental Health Board members present from 10:06 to 2:14 PM (9):**

Cathy Harpe, Emily Strachan, Jan McGourty, John Wetzler, Kate Gaston, Margie Handley, Maureen O'Sullivan, Nancy Sutherland, Roger Schwartz

**Mental Health Board members present from 10:17 AM to 12:30 PM (1)**

Board of Supervisors representation John McCowen

**Mental Health Board members present from 10:28 AM to 2:14 PM (2)**

Jill McCaughna, John Gilmore

**Mental Health Board members absent (3):**

Denise Gorny (excused), Dina Ortiz (excused), Tammy Lowe (excused)

**Chair Wetzler noted that a quorum was present at (10:09) AM**

**HHS Staff Present:** Tom Pinizzotto, MSW, HHS Assistant Director, Bev Rae, BHRS Program Administrator, Karen Lovato, BHRS Program Manager, Jenine Miller, BHRS Deputy Director, Heidi Poor, Office Assistant III, Larry Ainbinder, Compliance Manager

**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Stakeholder Committee members present:** Mark Montgomery, Psy D, Vice President of Operations, Ortnier Management Group, Susan Wynd Novotny, Manzanita Services, Director Tim Schraeder, Chief Executive Officer, Redwood Quality Management Group, Tom Pinizzotto, MSW, HHS Assistant Director, and Members of the Mental Health Advisory Board.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION OF MINUTES – DISCUSSION & ACTION – 10 MINUTES**

**Definition of minutes (public comments) and county support for board “Special Meetings.”**

The Board Secretary or designee will continue to record public comments and provide to Support Staff to be included in the minutes.

Support Staff will continue to provide support to genuine Special Meetings.

Chair Wetzler will have a meeting regarding general topics related to staff support and membership with Carmel Angelo, Chief Executive Officer and Stacey Cryer, HHS Director on 9/21/15.

8/19/15– Regular Meeting – *handout*

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Strachan, seconded by Member Handley and carried with the following YAY votes from: Members Harpe, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Schwartz and Handley and the following NAY vote from: Member Sutherland IT IS ORDERED at 1:45 PM that the Mental Health Advisory Board approves the minutes from the August 19, 2015 MHAB meeting as written.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – TREASURER & SECRETARY REPORTS - DISCUSSION & ACTION - 5 MINUTES**

Mental Health Board Expense Reports – *handout*

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Schwartz, seconded by Member Strachan and carried with the following YAY votes from: Members Harpe, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Gaston, Handley, O’Sullivan, Sutherland, and Schwartz: Board Members accept as printed, the remaining FY 14/15 balance of \$1,478.17 and the remaining FY 15/16 balance of \$9,162.68 as written.

Member Sutherland reminded the Members to turn in their travel requests monthly.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT FORMAT – DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT - VICE CHAIR READS MISSION STATEMENT – 15 MINUTES OR AT CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Read by: Member Schwartz

*Citizen and Community comments and questions regarding Mental Health Services in the County are welcomed and encouraged and are one of the mandated functions of the Mental Health Advisory Board. Comments will be limited to three minutes (or longer, at the discretion of the Chair.) Speakers do not have to identify themselves as per the CA Welfare & Institutions Code. Public comment is also requested at each agenda item.*

Read by: Chair Wetzler

**Mendocino County Mental Health Board Mission Statement**

***“To be committed to consumers, their families and the delivery of quality care with the goals of recovery, human dignity, and the opportunity for individuals to meet their full potential.”***

Board Action: No Action Taken

**AGENDA ITEM NO 5 - REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015 - SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT 2- MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

**Remembrance Day 2015** will take place around California on September 21, 2015. Events will be held at various sites to remember the people who died while in state institutions. ~ *Handout included*

**In Ukiah a ceremony will be held at 12:15PM to 1:15 PM  
Russian River Cemetery District  
940 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA**

Supervisor McCowen stated that the Board of Supervisors annually adopts a proclamation honoring those who died.

Board Action: No Action Taken

**AGENDA ITEM NO 6 - DIRECTOR PINIZZOTTO, MSW, HHSA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE WRITTEN REPORTS – 30 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

Assistant Director Pinizzotto recognized the Administrative Service Organizations (ASO) for being available for mental health needs at the Red Cross shelter for displaced persons due to the Lake County fires.

**a) Introduction of Compliance Manager**

Larry Ainbinder was introduced as the new Compliance Manager. Larry is an attorney with experience working with mentally ill clientele in San Diego. Some of Larry's duties will be assuring compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations and training BHRS and ASO staff on items regarding compliance.

**b) HHSA internship program with Mendocino College**

Assistant Directors Pinizzotto and Lowery along with the following HHSA Staff: Bekkie Emery, Deputy Director Adult & Aging Services/Employment & Family Assistance, Jena Conner, Deputy Director Family and Children's Services, Jenine Miller, Deputy Director Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Catrina Taylor, Staff Services Manager II HHSA and Pauline Rantala, Senior Staff Services Analyst HHSA met with Dan Jenkins from Mendocino College to build an intern program for HHSA. Currently there are three SUDT interns and one HHSA intern for human service work.

Applications for the MHSA Loan Assumption Program (LAP) are available online. The dollars for this program are State level dollars from the MHSA Work, Education and Training (WET) program.

**c) Update on MOU between County Contracts Department and RCHDC**

County Counsel has reviewed and Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation (RCHDC) and Mendocino County HHSA Director Stacey Cryer have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is in the final stages of the signature process.

Assistant Director Pinizzotto requests action from MHAB in scheduling MHSA stakeholder meetings and outreach with MHSA coordinator Robin Meloche.

**d) Progress on the selection of an AB 1421 implementation coordinator**

The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Coordinator Job description is complete and recruitment flyers should be out soon.

Bev spoke with Chair Wetzler and requested an AdHoc committee meeting to go over the draft Laura’s Law Implementation Plan in preparation for presenting the plan to the 10/21/15 MHAB meeting for review and recommendation.

**e) Wellness Grant implementation progress “crisis residential.”**

The Crisis Residential Treatment program is being drafted. The site selection is in progress. It was suggested that additional discussion is needed with the ASO’s to coordinate the program and site. Tom will set up a meeting before the next MHAB meeting and MHAB members will be involved.

**Board Action: No Action Taken**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.7 – AN UPDATE FROM MHAB’S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON “CULTURAL COMPETENCY.” WITH KAREN LOVATO PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS – 30 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Karen Lovato, Program Manager and Jenine Miller, Deputy Director attended the MHAB per the MHAB request for a Q&A session.

Karen brought informational copies of the 15/16 Budget Table Summary, the 14/15 Training Summary, the Three year Training Plan for 15-18, and the 15/16 Reducing Disparities Work Plan Table upon Member Gaston’s request.

Member Ortiz, who requested the agenda item was not available due to the emergency in Lake County.

Karen Lovato, Program Manager explained what cultural competency training should consist of:

- Talking in general terms about the culture
- Culturally appropriate practices
- Targeted to specific culture
- Education of culture
- Crossing cultural boundaries
- Family relationships
- Culture provides the training
- Cultural diversities

Jenine Miller explained that the plan presented to the MHAB was in a draft form. The State continued to change format and the plan was updated to the new requirements and provided to External Quality Control Organization (EQRO) for their audit with additional requirements expected.

Member Sutherland asked what is the Cultural Competency strategy. Karen Lovato explained the strategy is to work with a promotoras (promoter has the language) program with outreach to specific populations. She expects to increase training in cultural competency for staff and public in this fiscal year.

Member Sutherland stated that the plan does not work and Jenine Miller offered that the Performance Improvement Project for next years' EQRO audit will focus on how to access services based on culture. This should allow for improving the program.

Member Sutherland wanted to know if MHSA money is designated for outreach. Two contracts with specific agencies for Latinos and Native Americans were entered into for FY 15/16.

Member Gaston thanked Karen Lovato and Jenine Miller for their time and requested expansion of the MHAB members roles. Todd Harris also recognized Karen for an excellent job providing cultural information.

Director Pinizzotto will collaborate with the ASO's and the Boonville Clinic.

**Board Action: No Action Taken**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 – RQMC AND OMG DATA AND UPDATES BY WRITTEN REPORT – 15 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

- a. Redwood Quality Management - Handout  
 Tim Schraeder, MFT – Chief Executive Officer to answer questions – 5 minutes
  - Tim spoke of an uptick in referrals with school starting.
  - RQMC is working with evacuees in three facilities in Lake County.
  - RQMC is working with County partners for the EQRO audit on 9/29/15 and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) audit the week of October 26. RQMC is also in the process of doing provider chart audits.
  
- b. Ortner Management Group - Handout  
 Mark Montgomery, Psy D-Vice President of Operations to answer questions – 5 minutes
  - OMG is also working with Lake County emergency needs.
  - OMG is preparing for the EQRO and DCHS audits.
  - Adult System of Care (SOC) State reporting regulations are changing.
  - Mark acknowledged Manzanita for doing fantastic work with the wellness centers as well as Hospitality Center on the coast. Anna Shaw will be making a presentation before the Board of Supervisors on the new facility on the Coast in October.
  - Negotiations with Howard Hospital for mental health services are in progress.
  - Medications support via ICMS with Dr. Garratt and Tim Jackinsky, NP is working well which has been a great benefit to the adult SOC.
  - Mark asked to refer any supportive housing leads to him.

**Data**

Member Sutherland asked about the psychiatric response time from first appointment and if medications are being recommended based on costs.

Todd stated that there is no directive to prescribe medications based on costs. Medications are prescribed based on what is most clinically appropriate.

Regarding the response time Todd explained that the data is provided by EQRO standards and may show a low percentage due to no shows or cancellations being included.

Any concerns please refer to Todd or Mark.

**Board Action: No Action Taken**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 – OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION TO CREATE NEW AD HOC COMMITTEES AND DIRECTIONS CLARIFIED. – DISCUSSION & ACTION - 30 MINUTES OR AT CHAIR’S DISCRETION**

Committee suggestions

1. **Membership Recruitment and Publicity**  
Chair Wetzler and Members Gaston, Sutherland and Strachan
2. **Cultural Diversity and Outreach**  
Members Ortiz, Gaston, Schwartz and O’Sullivan
3. **Co-occurring Disorders**  
Members McCaughna, O’Sullivan and Sutherland
4. **Financial and Contracts Performance**  
Members Strachan, Harpe and Sutherland
5. **MHAB’s Liaisons to MHSA County Program**  
Member Ortiz and Chair Wetzler
6. **Jail/Stepping-Up Program**  
Member McGourty as Chair and Members Handley, Harpe and O’Sullivan
7. **AB1421**  
Chair Wetzler and Members McCaughna and Schwartz
8. **Housing**  
Members Gorny, Lowe and Sutherland
9. **How the County Handles Mental Health Crisis**  
Members Gilmore, Strachan and Lowe

**Board Action: No Action Taken**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 – DISCUSSION REGARDING BYLAWS CHANGES STEERING COMMITTEE - DISCUSSION & ACTION - 5 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

Issues:

- a) Name Change
- b) Why or why not amend bylaws
- c) Add new members to Steering Committee

**Board Action:** The Board directed Chair Wetzler to table item a of this agenda item until the October meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 – CHANGE OF VENUE VOTE FOR NOVEMBER MEETING – DISCUSSION & ACTION - 3 MINUTES OR AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

Venue change to Preston Hall due to lack of availability of both the Mendocino County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Conference Room and the Veteran's Hall in Fort Bragg.

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member Strachan and seconded by Member Sutherland and carried with the following YAY votes from: Members Harpe, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Handley, Sutherland, and Schwartz: Board Members accept the change of venue location.

**Board Action:** The Board directed Chair Wetzler to table the 2016 meeting schedule until the October meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 – INTERVIEW OF LOIS LOCKHART FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT PUBLIC INTEREST SEAT - 20 MINUTES OR AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**

**Board Action:** Upon motion by Member McCaughna and seconded by Member Gilmore and carried with the following YAY votes from: Members Harpe, Strachan, McGourty, McCaughna, Gilmore, Handley, Sutherland, and Schwartz: Board Members accept Lois Lockhart for the 1<sup>st</sup> District Public Interest Seat on the Mental Health Advisory Board.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - CORRESPONDENCE AND BACKUP MATERIALS RECEIVED AND FILED**

- OMG Data
- RQMC Data

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 – AGENDA ITEM HANDOUTS:**

- MHAB draft meeting minutes – 8-19-15
- Treasurer's Report

**Chair Wetzler requested copies of Member Ortiz's data notebook for the MHAB members**

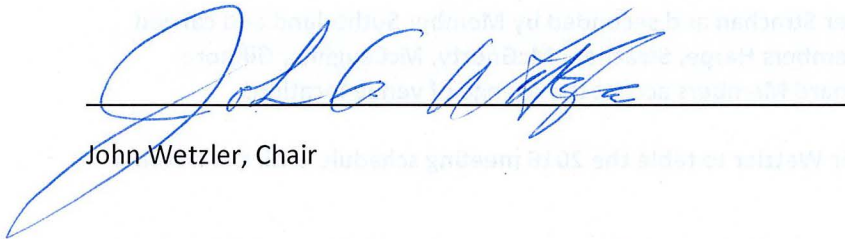
**Member Schwartz announced a Brown Act training being provided at the Volunteer Fire Department on Little Lake Road in Mendocino on October 9 starting at 10 AM**

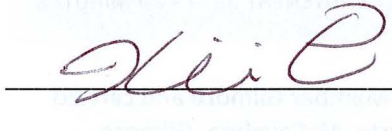
**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 - PUBLIC COMMENT**

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*Record of Public Comment will be documented by the Mental Health Advisory Board Secretary and added as an addendum to the minutes.*

THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MENTAL HEALTH BOARD OF MENDOCINO COUNTY ADJOURNED ON September 16, 2015 AT 2:14 PM.

  
John Wetzler, Chair

 Heidi Poor OAH HSA  
Admin Secretary, Temp.

Attest: Marina Baird, Administrative Secretary

*Thank you for your interest in the proceedings of the Mendocino County Mental Health Advisory Board.*

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE**

The Mendocino County Mental Health Board complies with ADA requirements and upon request will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in appropriate alternative formats (pursuant to Government code Section 54953.2) Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact the Mendocino County Mental Health's Administrative Office by calling (707) 472-2355 at least five days prior to the meeting.



Public Comments

Addendum A  
Public Comment

Mental Health Advisory Board  
Meeting September 16, 2015

The following is a brief summary of the public comments from the September 16, 2015 Mental Health Board Meeting. Public Comments made as part of an agenized item are not included.

- 1) Heather Gurewitz, Field Representative for Congressman Jared Huffman, California Second District. Introduced herself and expressed the Congressman's interest in mental health issues.
- 2) Sysan Wynd Novotny, Executive Director Manzanita Services and family member. Expressed appreciation for the BHRS staff and the participants for a valuable HHSA forum on September 15, 2015.
- 3) Shirley S., family member. Described various difficulties she had encountered over an extended period of time with obtaining, timely, appropriate crisis and stabilizing mental health services in Mendocino County.

Submitted by Nancy Sutherland  
September 22, 2015

