



**Community Forum Workgroup  
 Minutes  
 June 13, 2012  
 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
 1500 Capitol Avenue  
 Room 72.167 (Hearing Room)  
 Sacramento, CA 95811**

**Committee Members:**

**Staff:**

**Other Attendees:**

Eduardo Vega, Workgroup Co-Chair Ralph Nelson, M.D., Workgroup Co-Chair Khatera Aslami Kathleen Casela Rocco Cheng Raja Mitry Monica Nepomuceno Ruth Tiscareno Gregory Wright	Matt Lieberman Peter Best Kevin Hoffman Dee Lemonds Jose Oseguera	Delphine Brody Viviana Criado Carmen Diaz Stacie Hiramoto Vickie Mendoza Cheryl Perucca Teresa Settle
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Committee members absent: Dr. Victor Carrion, Co-Chair, Kamila Baker, Amber Burkan, JoAnn Johnson, Abby Lubowe and Darlene Prettyman.

**Welcome/Introductions**

Commissioner Eduardo Vega, Co-Chair of the Workgroup, convened the meeting at 12:05 pm.

- The meeting participants introduced themselves.

**Review/Approve April 25, 2012 Minutes**

Minutes approved as submitted.

**Debrief: San Diego Community Forum**

The following are the highlights from the discussion:

- Co-Chair Nelson commented that there were 147 RSVPs for the San Diego Community Forum. He was not sure if 147 people showed up at the forum. He commented that there was some uncertainty whether the

Community Forum Workgroup Minutes  
June 13, 2012

forum was in a good location. Co-Chair Nelson noted the meeting date for the forum had to be changed several times and this impacted the location that was available. Co-Chair Nelson commented that overall the forum went well. The San Diego Mental Health Director Alfredo Aguirre gave some welcoming comments and one mental health board member joined a family group at a later discussion.

- MHSOAC staff commented that there were 135 people at the forum. County staff stated at the forum that they did not stay because they wanted people to speak freely. Staff thought there would be a county break out group but county staff left after 15 minutes. Staff recited the commissioners and workgroup members in attendance at the forum, as well as the volunteers from NAMI who welcomed participants.
- Comment that staff did a good job of planning the forum and the flow of the meeting was good. Comment that the hotel was not a good location. Commissioner Vega commented that hotels are common places to do business. Staff commented that the Orange County forum will be held in a community center. Comment expressed preference for forums to be held in community based centers.
- Disappointment was expressed at the low Latino and parent turnout. The forum was filled with providers. Staff commented that there were lots of client/family members, peer providers, and transition age youth (TAY) who outnumbered providers.
- Comment that some of the Spanish speakers' own providers sat with them and made them uncomfortable.
- Compliment to Commissioner Wooton for doing a good job with the PowerPoint. Comment appreciating format for themes during the report out where four themes were identified, two positives and two challenges. It was good to hear from TAY and one member from the mental health board. Uncertainty expressed as to what to do to get local mental health board members to come to forums. Suggestion to have local leadership reach out to the mental health boards. Staff commented on extensive outreach at the San Diego forum to local officials and underserved communities.
- Discussion of moving forum time to later in the afternoon in an effort to reach parents.
- Staff commented that it was good to have floating staff to deal with issues as they arise at the forums. Staff commented that several groups felt that there was a disconnect between San Diego County Behavioral Health Services and getting information to clients.
- Staff commented that participants stated that services for Latinos were going to an older population and others were neglected. Eight dollar parking charge and location were negatives expressed by individuals from several ethnic communities. Staff commented that discussion groups were engaged and the evaluations show this positive feedback. Co-Chair Vega asked for staff to structure reviews of the forums--such as logistics, structure, and outreach--and the Workgroup can reflect on each category.

Community Forum Workgroup Minutes  
June 13, 2012

- Comment that the feedback was smooth in discussion groups and that dialogue was rich. Suggestion to send thank you's to those who participate in report out. Staff stated they would forward names of those who reported out to committee member who asked for them.
- Comment that sometimes providers support clients in group discussion.
- Staff provided comments from an absent Workgroup member. Suggestion to have signs for each break out group and each group to follow facilitator out of the main meeting room. Suggestion to have facilitator introduce themselves and have others in break out group introduce themselves and the county they are from. Comment that if facilitator had a large break out group, then introductions could take a long time.
- Commissioner Nelson commented that a police officer liaison at the San Diego forum told him that services were poor due to people landing in jail. Individuals sit in jail due to a lack of facilities for the mentally ill. San Diego has Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT), but these are underfunded.
- Comment that there are some deficiencies in San Diego. However, San Diego has a program for "first break" individuals; it has a "1-800" number for services; it has crisis facilities; and it has Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams (PERT) in almost all regions. Comment that police liaison may have been seeking additional funds for programs. There are challenges in letting community know where the services are located.
- Suggestion to ask local providers to provide resource tables at community forums. Comment that San Diego County has a resource directory which was provided at the San Diego forum; comment that this was an excellent and comprehensive document. However, the drawback is that the directory is only available in English. Suggestion to have providers staff the resource tables to talk about services. Staff commented that San Diego is having some local forums and has its own Issue Resolution Process (IRP). Comment that there may be a demand for too many resource tables at community forums. Commissioner Vega commented that if county staff were at the resource tables, then there could be a problem with county staff playing an official role at the forums. Commissioner Nelson commented that the resource tables should be made available one hour before the forum starts and should be shut down when the forum begins. Suggestion to have ethnic service providers host program tables.
- Public Comment: Delphine Brody of the California Network of Mental Health Clients (CNMHC) commented that it is important to separate counties and community based organizations from clients in discussion groups. Important to make clear that an IRP exists. San Diego has an IRP contractor but it is important to let people know they can go to the state level with complaints. Commissioner Nelson noted there is an IRP slide in the forum PowerPoint which shows who to contact, although it is uncertain how long this contact will continue to be available.

Community Forum Workgroup Minutes  
June 13, 2012

- Commissioner Nelson suggested marking “out of county” comments in forum notes and facilitators should be told to do this. Staff stated that this suggestion would be added to the notes for facilitators.
- Staff commented that when working on the Community Forum Workgroup, members need to stay in role as facilitator or scribe. Important not to take on role of stakeholder. Staff stated that this comment will be added to facilitator’s notes.
- Comment that it is best to have Community Forum Workgroup as facilitators and scribes. Need a scribe who speaks Spanish.
- Discussion of which languages to interpret for Orange County forum. Suggestion to interpret Cambodian, Vietnamese and Korean. Staff noted Orange County suggested Spanish, Vietnamese and possibly Farsi. Staff agreed to send Asian Pacific Islander outreach information in Orange County to workgroup member Dr. Cheng for distribution.

**Planning: Orange County Community Forum**

Highlights of the discussion included:

- Staff commented that the next Community Forum will be on September 13, 2012 in Santa Ana. The forum will be held at the Delhi Center and there is extensive public transit near the site. The center is 4,000 square feet in the main room. Food can be brought in. There will be three microphones. The center has a lobby with four tables. Senator Correa has been contacted and the event is on his calendar. Senator Correa’s staff will help with outreach to diverse communities. Orange County is contacting their mental health board. Staff is contacting agency director Mark Refowitz.
- Comment that families, consumers and transition age youth should be encouraged to come to the Orange County forum. This could be put on flyers.
- Comment that it would be nice to communicate back with the TAY at the San Diego forum; they had inspiring stories. Suggestion to create thank you cards for report out speakers and give these to facilitators to hand out.
- Request to have tables at forum include all four age groups.
- Request for food at the Orange County forum. New forum time schedule agreed on for 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

Public Comment: Public Comment included during the regular course of the meeting. Public Comment also made by Donna Barry at the end of the meeting. Ms. Barry commented that she was unable to attend the San Diego forum. She made some general comments on the community forums and expressed concern about general cultural competence of community forums.

**Workgroup Identification of Possible Future Agenda Items**

Community Forum Workgroup Minutes  
June 13, 2012

No items identified.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.