



**Community Forum Workgroup
 Minutes
 April 20, 2011
 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
 Drexel University
 One Capitol Mall, Suite 260, Second Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95811**

Committee Members:

Staff:

Others Attendees:

Eduardo Vega, Chair Ralph Nelson, M.D., Vice-Chair Kathleen Casela Richard Krzyzanowski Abby Lubowe Ruth Tiscareno Kamila Baker Amber Burkan Rocco Cheng Monica Nepumuceno	Matt Lieberman Dee Lemonds Peter Best Kevin Hoffman Jose Oseguera	Gregory Wright Donald Clark—UACF Karinna Rhett—NAMI CA
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Committee members absent: Darlene Prettyman.

Welcome/Introductions

Commissioner Eduardo Vega, Co-Chair of the Workgroup, convened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

- All meeting participants introduced themselves.

Review and Approve February 16, 2011 Community Forum Workgroup Minutes

- February 16, 2011 Workgroup minutes review postponed to June 14, 2011

Discuss Plans for April 26, 2011 Community Forum

Commissioner Vega discussed his goal today to empower Workgroup members to be a part of community forum planning and to prepare for the next community forum.

Commissioner Vega discussed some of the history of community forums.

Commissioner Nelson discussed some of the issues presented at past community forums:

- Should there be regional rather than county based forums to cover a wider area?
- Concern with a safe environment. Should there be smaller break-out groups for clients and family members so that participants are more comfortable speaking?
- Suggestion that Commissioners or workgroup members opening the Forum say directly that our intent is to create a safe space for comments.
- Should there be reports from stakeholders who attend the forums?
- Discussion about how to ensure that the Workgroup presents as a united front when answering questions from stakeholders.

MHSOAC staff discussed plans for the April 26 community forum.

- Staff commented that the workgroup was not clear on procedure for community forums at last meeting. **At the last meeting or last year's forums?**
- Staff indicated that since there was limited time to design a new format for the April 26th Forum and have materials translated, last year's format for Community Forums would be used in Placer County for the April 26th Forum. This will allow the Workgroup to experience the format used last year in designing a new format.
- Staff noted the first community forum had been postponed for more outreach. **What is the first forum?**
- The structure of the forum was discussed and the agenda for the forum was referenced.
- A meeting/call to de-brief the Placer Community Forum is set for May 6th.
- Five goals for the Community Forums were discussed.
- The Placer County resource list prepared for the Forum was discussed.

More forum preparations were discussed:

- Commissioner Vega acknowledged that forum materials had been translated into Spanish.
- Commissioner Vega reviewed the forum agenda.
- A comment was made that the forum would have simultaneous translation in Spanish.
- Discussion about providing general information about the MHSA and the MHSOAC in a PowerPoint to be presented at the start of the Forum.

- A PowerPoint on MHSA was offered by a workgroup member. Commissioner Vega commented that the PowerPoint would need to be modified to be a Commission product.
- A request was made for more notice of workgroup meetings.
- A request was made for help transporting Hmong stakeholders to the forum in Chico.
- Staff requested outreach assistance from the workgroup members for the forum.
- Commissioner Vega commented on the listening role of the workgroup at the forum and the need to answer some questions.
- A comment was made about the educational aspect of the forums in explaining the MHSA.

Commissioner Vega led a discussion on the forum goals:

- Staff commented that the goals were a starting point for the forums.
- The forum goals were stated for the workgroup.
- A comment was made that the goals were good.
- Regarding goal 1, a comment was made that some people had difficulty accessing the planning process and some people did not understand the implementation of MHSA programs. **I don't think this refers to Goal 1.**
- Comments were made about the need to always gather MHSA stories.
 - A comment was made that it should be ok to tell negative stories and this should be stated at the forums.
 - Commissioner Nelson commented on having heard "rough" stories from clients in the past and these were important.
- The workgroup discussed what the forum can do for people.
 - Commissioner Vega stated the goal of getting back to people with answers to their questions.
- A comment was made on the need to outreach to African-American and Latino churches as possible Forum venues.
- Commissioner Vega described the forum process as: outreach and engagement, events, review and quality improvement, and information production.
- Questions used at previous Community Forums were discussed.
- Regarding question 4, a request was made to use plain language.
- Regarding question 5, Commissioner Vega commented that the question should be higher on the list.

- A request was made to spell out all acronyms.
- Suggestion that fact sheets and other literature should be brought to the Forums.
- A suggestion was made to produce a “who’s who and what do they do” document. An offer was made to share a rough draft of this document.
- A request was made for “languages served” to be noted on resource document.
- A suggestion was made to have question and answer documents and not just resource lists.
- More discussion took place on people coming to the forums with specific complaints and what to do in response.

Commissioner Vega led a discussion of parking lot issues:

- Comments were made about retaliation issue. Comments were made about officials not coming in their official capacity. Comments were made about small group discussion as a solution to the need to be more welcoming.
- Request was made for food and water in order to create a welcoming atmosphere. Staff responded that the state cannot provide food at public events.
- Comment was made that the forums should be held in the community and staff responded that hotels were being avoided.
- A comment was made that flyers should invite targeted audience.
- More discussion on creating a “safe space” for dialogue at the forums.
- A comment was made that the questionnaire should list programs that people would be aware of in their community.
- Commissioner Vega agreed that the forum questions could reflect programs in the community.
- Commissioner Vega commented that the forums should be regional and staff stated that surrounding counties would be invited to Forums.
- Commissioner Vega commented that parking lot issues would be further discussed at the next workgroup meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

