



**Community Forum Workgroup
 Minutes
 May 6, 2011
 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 MHSOAC Conference Room
 1300 17th Street, Suite 1000
 Sacramento, CA 95811**

Committee Members:

Staff:

Others Attendees:

Richard Van Horn, Commission Vice-Chair and Workgroup Co- Chair* Eduardo Vega, Workgroup Co-Chair* Ralph Nelson, M.D., Workgroup Co-Chair* Richard Krzyzanowski* Abby Lubowe* Kamila Baker* Amber Burkan* Monica Nepomuceno* Darlene Prettyman* Raja Mity*	Matt Lieberman Dee Lemonds Peter Best Kevin Hoffman Jose Oseguera	Stacie Hiramoto Kathleen Derby* Lina Correa* Paul Bugnacki* Mickey Weinberger* Nicole Applegate* Preet Hothi*
--	---	---

Committee members absent: Kathleen Casela, Ruth Tiscareno, Rocco Cheng.
 *Participated by phone.

Welcome/Introductions

Commissioner Eduardo Vega, Co-Chair of the Workgroup, convened the meeting at 10:05 am.

- All meeting participants introduced themselves.

Discussion of Roseville Community Forum and Possible Recommendations for Chico Community Forum on June 29, 2011

Commissioner Vega asked Commissioner Van Horn and Commissioner Nelson if they had any opening comments.

- Commissioner Van Horn asked if the Workgroup had received any written feedback from the Roseville Forum and staff answered not yet.
- Commissioner Van Horn commented that the forums raised issues of evaluation and quality improvement. Commissioner Van Horn reiterated his comment from the forum that the Workgroup was not a “complaint bureau”.
- Commissioner Vega commented that the forum written questions should clarify the nature of the community forums and the Commission’s role.

Discussion of the Roseville Community Forum continued with the Workgroup:

- Comments were made that the Workgroup should assure that what is said at community forums is private. Further comment was made that the Workgroup needs to find a way to make people comfortable.
- Comment that there should be an anonymity statement in the forum materials.
- Commissioner Vega noted that the issue is confidentiality.
- Commissioner Vega commented that when the Workgroup is communicating with the public, the Workgroup members should speak as either a Commissioner or committee member and not as a representative of another organization.
- Commissioner Nelson commented that Workgroup members are gathering information for the MHSOAC and not for other organizational interests.

Commissioner Vega began discussion of the community forum format:

- Commissioner Vega noted that some people wondered whether the town hall format, with the Workgroup up front asking questions, was a good format.
- A comment was made that the opening explanation of the forum needs to be reviewed--in particular, the goals of the Workgroup and the power and authority of the Workgroup.
- A comment was made that the Workgroup member was uncomfortable when participants advertised their own program during the forum.
- A comment was made that the opening statement, which included a statement about “not being a complaint bureau”, may have given the impression that the Workgroup did not want to hear anything negative. The purpose and authority of the Workgroup should be spelled out.
- A comment was made that the Workgroup can refer problems to problem solvers. ????

- A comment was made that a “canned” opening statement should be developed.
- Commissioner Vega commented that the Workgroup is not the Commission. The authority of the Commission should be clarified for the audience.
- A comment was made that the opening statement should be welcoming and a non-retaliation policy should be stated.
- Commissioner Vega noted that the Placer County mental health director asked her staff to listen and not speak at the forum.
- Commissioner Vega asked for a PowerPoint that describes the roles of the MHSA and the MHSOAC.
- Commissioner Van Horn asked to have a two sided information sheet that could be handed out at the door explaining the role of the MHSA and the MHSOAC and what the Workgroup’s purpose is at the forums.
- Commissioner Van Horn asked if the forum structure could be changed from a town hall format to a group of discussion circles to facilitate more comfortable discussion.
- A workgroup member commented that an informational document should be handed out and a PowerPoint or presentation should also be made to start the Forum.
- Commissioner Vega agreed that a presentation should be made on MHSA basics.
- Staff commented that fact sheets could be condensed and handed out. Staff also noted that fact sheets were available in multiple languages at the Roseville Forum.
- A comment was made that an orientation could be conducted before the forums.
- Commissioner Nelson commented that round tables could place participants in interest groups, such as county staff and clients and family members.
- Commissioner Vega suggested break out discussion groups that report back to the larger audience about their discussion.
- Commissioner Van Horn asked staff to put together a break out and report back format.
- Commissioner Vega commented that Workgroup members could report from the discussion circles.
- Staff asked whether Workgroup members would be comfortable responding to all the questions they might be asked in the discussion

circles. Staff commented that there is value in discussing topics in an open session where everyone can listen to what is said.

- Commissioner Vega commented that there is still a need for a general discussion but wants to have break-out tables with a more welcoming atmosphere.
- A comment was made that a client should open the forum from a client perspective and this would set the stage for sharing.
- A comment was made that Client and Family Leadership members represent clients and families already.
- Commissioner Vega asked for a conference call in early June to focus on the forum structure.
- Staff commented that there may be some challenges with competing voices in smaller spaces. ????
- Commissioner Nelson suggested a half an hour for general questions at the end of the forums.
- More comments were made on separating groups into separate discussion groups and this could be done in a positive way—for example, specific groups for specific interests.
- Commissioner Van Horn asked for three to four questions from the Workgroup for each type of discussion group. Staff was asked to initiate an email asking for input on possible questions. Staff were asked to send the last iteration of the forum questions to the Workgroup. Workgroup members will send suggestions for questions to staff who will draft questions for review at the next meeting of the Workgroup.
- Commissioner Van Horn discussed the Governor's travel restriction policy and the process for determining impact on the forums, including an agenda item at the May MHSOAC meeting and review by Staff Counsel Yeroshek.
- Discussion took place on whether food and drink could be provided at state meetings. A comment was made that the State does not allow food or beverages to be purchased for public meetings but some local venues do allow food and water to be brought in by others. A comment was made that the introduction letter should state food and drinks would be welcome.
- A comment was made that invitation letters should be distributed to neighboring counties for the community forums.
- Comments were made on issue resolution processes at the county and state level and whether these should be identified in the remarks opening the Forum that explain where "authority" lies for solving stakeholder problems.

Public Comment

- Comment that the discussion today was very productive.
- Comment that the questionnaires at the forums were overly directed at people already involved in the mental health system and others should be included.
- Concern expressed about having county staff and clients together in discussion. Compliments for the Roseville Forum.

Commissioner Van Horn asked the forum goals to be sent out with the forum questions. Several Workgroup members expressed positive comments about the success of the Roseville Community Forum.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.