



**Community Forum Workgroup
 Minutes
 June 14, 2011
 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
 1500 Capitol Avenue
 Room 72.149 (Training Room B)
 Sacramento, CA 95811**

Workgroup Members:

Staff:

Other Attendees:

Eduardo Vega, Chair Ralph Nelson, Jr., M.D., Vice-Chair Khatera Aslami Richard Krzyzanowski Rocco Cheng Abby Lubowe Ruth Tiscareno	Dee Lemonds Kevin Hoffman Jose Oseguera Peter Best	Lynn Frampton Kathleen Casela Raja Mitry Gwenn Slattery Carmen Diaz Delphine Brody Corina Rhett Shawn Nelson
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*Participated via telephone

Welcome/Introductions

Ralph Nelson, Vice-chair, convened the meeting.

- All meeting participants introduced themselves.

Review/Approve February 16, 2011 Minutes

- Comment that Minutes provided for review need to be fresher. It is difficult for members to recall discussions when minutes are not fresh.
- Commitment by staff to provide more timely Minutes.
- February 16, 2011 Minutes approved with two members abstaining.

Discussion of Possible Changes to Community Forum Questions

- Discussion began with a review of the questions used in previous Community Forums.
- Some members commented that they expected the suggestions for questions to be part of the material provided for review by the Workgroup at today's meeting.

- Staff committed to reviewing any previous suggestions for questions and including those in the materials for the next Workgroup meeting.
- Discussion and suggestions for Community Forum questions continued.
- Commissioner Vega indicated that he likes the 1st question in the initial set of Forum questions that focuses on the values of the MHSA. He believes that this question frames the dialogue. Initially, in the spirit of an open forum, he thought it was important to ask everyone the same questions.
- Member comment in support of one suggestion for a question.
- Question from member of the public about the expected outcome from asking the questions at the Community Forum.
- Suggestion that programs funded by the MHSA in the host county be identified and made available at the Forum. Sometimes participants may not know that they are receiving services in a program funded by the MHSA.
- Suggestion that information about MHSA-funded programs be a handout provided at the beginning of the Forum.
- Suggestion that Forum questions and other materials refer to Proposition 63, rather than just the MHSA, because the Proposition is more familiar to the public.
- Comment that the language used in the questions is sometimes confusing including references to the MHSA Planning Process, the Implementation of MHSA Plans, and the word stakeholder. The public does not always know what these mean.
- Suggestion that we explain to the Forum participants in a few sentences about the significant MHSA planning that went on in 2007-08.
- Comment that the current questions read like “shop talk” and cannot be easily understood. Suggestion that staff rewrite the questions.
- Question about what the expectations and opportunities are for continued stakeholder involvement in community planning in light of AB 100. Need to consider that any questions about “community planning” be current.
- Commissioner Nelson indicated we may need to seek direction from the Commission about the role we play in supporting community planning post AB 100. What are the expectations?
- Question about whether anyone considered conducting training for an hour or so prior to the start of the Forums, on what is the MHSA.
- Suggestion that the introductory remarks at the Forums be tied to the questions so that language is explained upfront. Introduction should cover MHSA basics.
- Commissioner Vega indicated he did not think the questions needed to focus on getting hard data but rather on gathering stories and experiences. Suggest question about whether participants feel that stigma and discrimination is reduced.
- Concern about what to do when Forum participants indicate they have not been involved in any planning and know little about the MHSA. What is

- the MHSOAC's role in providing basic MHSA education. Is this a role for the Forum Workgroup and staff?
- Comment that in terms of education, providing participants with the handout identifying MHSA programs should help. This could result in persons supporting the MHSA when they go to vote.
 - Suggestion for question about whether there are more opportunities and resources for ethnic and cultural communities than there were before.
 - Suggestion for question asking if persons are aware of prevention programs in their community.
 - Comment that if the focus is really on wellness and recovery, the questions should use language that resonates with different communities. Focus should not necessarily be on mental illness but on wellness and quality of life.
 - Comment that language should be easily understood – but take care not to be so simple as to offend.

Discussion of Location for December 8 Community Forum

- Workgroup reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the Forum Workgroup and the Community Forums.
- Staff reported that as a result of travel restrictions the Commission will not travel for the rest of 2011. All meetings will be held in Sacramento.
- The Community Forum scheduled for December 2011 in San Diego is cancelled.
- Commissioner Nelson indicated that he had suggested Merced as the location for a December Forum. One advantage of this location is that staff can share rides and drive to the Forum.
- Comment that if we are looking for areas with racial and ethnic disparities, rural is often better.
- Suggestion that Imperial County would be a good Forum location but would require air travel for staff and others.
- Comment that holding the Forum in Orange County would pull in Los Angeles and possibly San Diego.
- Comment in support of holding Forum in a rural county – Merced this year and maybe Imperial next year.
- Comments in favor of holding the Forum in Orange County or Imperial County since the Commission will not be in Southern California at all in 2011.
- Comment that previous outreach efforts in Modesto and Costa Mesa resulted in good turnouts.
- Question about when the state travel freeze will end. There is no end date currently identified.
- Commissioner Vega makes motion to have the December Forum in Merced. The motion passes.
- Comment that we will try to hold Forums in Orange or Imperial next year.

- Comment about how different the Central Valley is from most urban locations. These counties may have fewer resources than others so the Forum Workgroup may be able to offer support. For instance, transportation may be an issue for persons wanting to attend the Forum from surrounding counties. Question about whether the MHSOAC can give stipends to community-based organizations (CBOs) for this purpose?
- Response that the MHSOAC cannot provide that type of stipend but some of the agencies supported by the MHSA do offer that type of support.
- Comment that counties may also be willing to help with transportation.
- Suggestion that NAMI, UACF and the Network contact Workgroup member Rocco Cheng with their organizational contacts that may help arrange supports for clients and family members in the counties involved in the Merced Forum.

Discussion of Planning for San Francisco Community Forum

This discussion was deferred.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.