



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
**MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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REGULAR MEETING
MARIN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

October 13, 2015

Point Reyes Conference Room

20 North San Pedro Road
San Rafael, California 94903

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

ATTENDEES: Stephen Berk, Everett Brandon, Aida-Cecilia Castro Garcia, Sandra Fawn, Maya Gladstern, Robbie Powelson, Katie Rice, Marvin Mars

ABSENT: Narayan Khalsa

STAFF: Suzanne Tavano, Director, Mental Health & Substance Use Services
Bonnie Barrett, Staff, Mental Health & Substance Use Services

GUESTS: Scott P., Rashi King Abramson, Libby Sherwood, Steve Harris, Marianne York, Marie Tannyhill, Stephen Freschl

- 6:00 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS and Call for Quorum**
- 6:05 p.m. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** - No changes;
Approval of minutes **Vote: Unanimous Aye** – Motion by Katie Rice and
Second by Marvin Mars
- 6:10 p.m. **OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** – please limit to 3 minutes per
speaker –
Barbara Alexander shared information regarding Shasta County's
implementation of AB1421.
Rashi King Abramson spoke as a consumer advocate in opposition to
AB1421.
- 6:45 p.m. **PRESENTATION ON AB1421**- Dr. Grant Colfax
Dr. Colfax presented a Power Point on AB1421, prepared by RDA
Consultants, as Chair of a Marin County workgroup studying pros &
cons of AB1421. RDA has assisted other counties in their decision
making on AOT. Purpose of the workgroup is to bring together
representatives of the county for educational purposes, with the intent
to go before the Board of Supervisors sometime around the first of the
year. Dr. Colfax acknowledged that people have different perspectives
on both sides of the issues. He stated AB1421 is a potential tool which
can be used for good or bad and will probably not help most people in
Marin County due to eligibility criteria. It will not address the homeless
issue. Marin's Mental Health system has improved significantly, but it

will be difficult to move forward without expanding capacity system wide. Additional resources will be needed to do so. Presentation was followed by Q & A session with the Mental Health Board.

Ensuing Public Comments:

Comments in favor – Although AOT is not perfect, it would be a step in the right direction. Marin should keep an open mind and go forward with AOT. Families facing challenges with loved ones feel this would provide an avenue for getting treatment. Potential for keeping people out of jails. Would assist with housing for homeless individuals suffering from mental illness. Would provide treatment for persons who otherwise resist services, due to their inability to acknowledge mental health issues. Has the potential to bring people not currently receiving services into the system.

Opposing comments – Need additional resources to implement AOT. Resources could be better spent elsewhere, due to the small number of clients it would serve. Since MHSA has passed, services in Marin County have blossomed. Due to the potential for increased capacity, additional funding resources need to be identified. While parents want the best for their children, it is the responsibility of the client to make choices for themselves. AB 1421 would not fix all the issues. It could impede trust between client and provider. Due to the finite amount of housing, AOT would not fix the housing issue in Marin. Potential legal challenges.

Recommendation to ask BOS **not** to take action at this time to adopt AB 1421 because of concerns and this being a civil rights issue. Everett Brandon suggested looking at a cost analysis and deferring a decision in order to take the time to look at the issues further.

Motion by Maya Gladstern and Second by Stephen Berk.

Vote: Four (4) Ayes, One (1) NAY, Three (3) Abstained

7:10 p.m.

REVIEW DISCUSSION ON DATA NOTEBOOK –

Robbie Powelson wants to make the Data Notebook a public document & put it on the website. Suggestion to send what we have on the Data Notebook to planning council and have workgroup look at it. **Vote: Unanimous Aye** - Motion by Robbie Powelson and Second by Everett Brandon

7:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting will be a joint board meeting with AOD on Monday, November 2, 2015. Scheduled speaker is Sean Stephens from Marin County Veteran’s Services.

Reminder regarding the upcoming Bay Area Regional training for Mental Health Boards & Commissions on October 24, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned