

MHSA Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 24, 2015

1:30-3:00pm

20 N. San Pedro Road, Point Reyes Conference Room

Introductions and review of the agenda and materials provided to participants of the meeting. Participants at the meeting included committee members along with Suzanne Tavano, Dawn Kaiser (QI/Quality Management) and Ann Pring (Children's MHSUS).

Brian Slattery requested to change the agenda to talk first about the Committee's Purpose and talk about CalHFA afterwards – the committee agreed to the change.

Committee Purpose

Brian (and others) are frustrated and want to understand the committee's purpose and specifically wanted to express his dissatisfaction with the lack of clarity on the purpose of the group.

Example brought up was the Innovation process and the committees lack of input. Suzanne acknowledged the frustration of the group and addressed the Innovation process by detailing the first stakeholder meeting in October 2014 was publicly announced and was well attended by over 70 people. She advised that based on the feedback at the public meeting, the Innovation approach was revised and at the January 2015 public meeting, the public provided their input on what reducing disparities means to them and what populations were most in need of change.

The Innovation public process was completed in late February/early March 2015. The Advisory Committee was formed and began meeting in late March and so the group was not part of the planning or the public process due to this timing.

Suzanne reiterated that the goal of the committee members was to have meaningful input and recommendations to share with MHSUS in order to make appropriate changes and enhancements to the MHSUS system of care.

Re-confirmed that once Suzanne and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) gives us verbal support of the proposed Innovation project(s) we would then release the proposed project(s) for 30-day public comment period. Upon completion of the comment period, then the Marin Board of Supervisors would need to approve the Innovation Plan. Once their approval is given, then the Plan gets a final approval from the MHSOAC. Without the MHSOAC's approval, no Innovation funding can be expended – their approval is required before an Innovation project can begin.

Kasey also advised that she has reached out to other bay area counties to get input from them on how their MHSA committees are structured and to see if there are existing mission statements and guidelines they are willing to share. More to come on our committee purpose.

CalHFA (California Housing Finance Agency) Stakeholder Process

When MHSAs were first rolled out in California in 2006, counties were required to put their Housing funds with CalHFA. Currently Marin County has approximately \$1.4 million dollars with CalHFA for a yet to be determined housing project. Up until January 2015, counties were required to follow CalHFA's guidelines for any proposed housing project and many counties, like Marin, did not have enough funding with CalHFA to support a project following their requirements. Marin previously hired a consultant to assist with finding housing opportunities in Marin but no projects were identified during that effort.

In January 2015, the State approved a process where counties can request back their unencumbered funds from CalHFA (see attached Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) Info Notice 15-004, CalHFA Housing Fund Balance Request Form, and Housing Fund Balances by County). Counties must go through a community stakeholder process to determine a project for the unencumbered funds. Once a project is identified and approved by the Mental Health Director and the County Board of Supervisors, a request can be submitted to have the funds returned to the requesting county. Once the funds are received, a three (3) year reversion clock begins – meaning the county must expend the fund within three (3) years of receipt of the funds or else the unexpended funding is subject to be returned to the State.

The committee began a lively discussion around how these funds could be used or leveraged and all agreed we should take a thoughtful approach. Some ideas/suggestions/questions discussed were:

- Does not need to be for permanent housing.
- Do we want to parse it out for rent assistance or security deposits for consumers or do we want a more long term housing solution
- Have it focus on LGBTQ Diverse communities.
- Provide stipends to help support consumers and youth to participate in the community stakeholder process.
- Hire a consultant to assist in leveraging the funding such as with a matching grant.
- Don't need short term or transitional housing
- Use Modular Housing or Tiny Homes vs. one big residential house/unit.
- Would like to expand the \$1.4 million (use the money to make a profit to get more money to work with or partner with other companies) to be able to afford more programs / housing
- Provide housing for mentally ill and disabled clients that need permanent housing but that cannot live alone thus allowing clients help each other cook, etc.
- Provide Data on how many homeless, what type of homeless community, age, etc.
- Need a women's residential program.
- Peer Respite

All committee members agreed that we need to be educated about housing in Marin before we can structure a community stakeholder process – thought around how to educate ourselves were:

- Understanding the needs of the homeless population – Joe Hegedus at Marin Partnership to End Homelessness may be a good presenter to talk with the committee
- Demographics of mental ill homeless population in Marin
- Marin Community Foundation – Marc Rand can speak to other housing projects the foundation has been involved with/supported
- Marin Builders Association may have insight on the pros/cons of building projects in Marin
- Roy Bateman from the County Community Development may have insight on what has worked/not worked in Marin previously as well as the challenges of housing projects in Marin
- Buckelew and Homeward Bound have developed housing project in Marin and also may have valuable insight to share/educate us with

Steve Eckert, Kerry Peirson and Gayle Theller were all interested in participating on a subcommittee to explore who could come and speak to our committee based on some of the above suggestions.

Kasey will follow up with Steve, Kerry, Gayle and any other committee member interested in helping us get speakers to educate our committee around housing projects in Marin. Please let me know if you are interested.

New Meeting Schedule

Based on the change to meet monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning in August – please see attached updated meeting schedule for 2015 or you can access it online at <https://www.marinhhs.org/mhsa-advisory-committee>.

Next Meeting Date: August 26, 2015, 1:30-3pm, Point Reyes Conference Room, 20 North San Pedro Rd.