Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission  
Corrected Minutes  

North Berkeley Senior Center  
1901 Hearst Ave. Workshop B  
Regular Meeting  
February 21, 2013 at 7:00 pm  

Members of the Public Present: Richard Austin-Castillo, Michael Diehl, Alexander Kim, Mark Schwartz, Dan Virkstis  
Staff Present: Carol Patterson, Kelly Wallace  

1. Call to Order by Carole Marasovic at 7:02 pm  
Commissioners Present: Jesse Arreguin (Chair- arrived at 7:08 pm), Charles Black (left at 9:15 pm), Jeffrey Davis (left at 9:10 pm), Shelby Heda, Paul Kealoha-Blake, Carole Marasovic, Kim Nemriow (arrived at 7:05 pm), Shirley Posey, Anna Mae Stanley.  
Commissioners Absent: None.  

2. Public Comment  
Shirley Posey made a disclaimer with regard to the vote in the minutes for her reappointment. She doesn’t know what incident was referred to in the abstention vote. She is interested in relationship building and not being bullied.  
Michael Diehl alerted the Commission that AB5, the Homeless Bill of Rights is coming before Berkeley City Council.  
Paul Kealoha-Blake is concerned about the incident at the Gaia Building which started as a police mental health call and ended in a person dying while in restraint. Were any mental health staff dispatched to this call? He feels the press release was not informative. Were the officers who responded CIT trained? He would like the Commission to take notice of this and wants more officers CIT trained. Can this be agendized for a future meeting?  

3. Preliminary Business  

A. Approval of February 21, 2013 Agenda  
M/S/C (Heda, Marasovic) Move to approve the February 21, 2013 Agenda with the change so that item #5 reads “May is Mental Health Month Planning”  
Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Nemriow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.  

B. Approval of the January 24, 2013 minutes  
M/S/C (Heda, Nemriow) To approve the January 24, 2013 minutes with the correction of the following typos:  
1) Under Public Comment, the “d” should be capitalized in Community Development;  
2) Under 3.A. the spelling of January should be corrected;  
3) In the listing of the vote under 3.A. the spelling of Commissioner Nemriow’s name should be corrected; and  
4) Under 4.A. “it’s” should not have an apostrophe.
Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.

C. Staff Announcements - Secretary
The Secretary walked the Commission through the packet that was distributed at the meeting (and which is available in the Communications Binder.)

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
Carole nominated Paul for Chair, Kim seconded and Paul declined the nomination. Shirley asked Carole if she wanted to be Chair and Carole misunderstood that the nomination was for Chair and declined Vice Chair. Chuck nominated Jesse for Chair and Shirley seconded. Carole opposed the election of Jesse as Chair because she feels that the Commission is and should be a citizen board.

M/S/C (Black, Posey) The Mental Health Commission nominates Jesse Arreguin to a second year as Chair.
Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: Marasovic; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.

M/S/C (Posey, Stanley) The Mental Health Commission nominates Charles Black as Vice Chair.
Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: Nemirow (doesn’t see him as an advocate and is concerned that he will get consumed by the process); Absent: None.

5. May Is Mental Health Month Planning
The Mental Health Commission is interested in having input. Shirley offered to help out. The secretary will let the Commission know when there are planning meetings so that Commissioners can participate.

Ideas included: info on Emotional CPR and how it fits into Crisis Intervention Training, have a bunch of organizations have tables with information & resources, invite PEERS to present about their programs, have information about different diagnoses and a mental health professional to interact with, a discussion about what people would like from the system and a sounding board for the general public to express their concerns and feedback.

6. Discussion of Laura’s Law
M/S/C (Marasovic, Posey) The Mental Health Commission goes on record in opposition to Laura’s Law being implemented in Alameda County in agreement with the California Mental Health Planning Council letter hereby attached. The Mental Health Commission recommends further exploration of other means of improving the mental health system without violating individual civil rights.

Ayes: Arreguin, Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: None.

The Commission would also like to develop a more detailed statement of their position.

7. Subcommittee Reports
A. Oversight Subcommittee received the documents requested from the Mental Health Division. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6 pm on March 4. Chuck will confirm with the secretary.
B. By-Laws Subcommittee has not met since the last Commission meeting. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to add Kim to the By-Laws Subcommittee.
C. Safety Subcommittee – The next meeting will be February 28 at 7 pm. Carole dropped off the Subcommittee because it would otherwise be larger than quorum of the full Commission.

8. Liaison Reports
   A. Berkeley CIT Council – Paul attended from the Commission. The first was held January 25, the next will be more focused on March 1
   B. MHSA Advisory Committee – Chuck attended.
   C. Safety Committee – Anna Mae attended the Division’s Committee and reported that the new draft Safety Plan is a vast improvement over previous versions.

9. California Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions – Carole reported that they are discussing whether to have a face-to-face meeting. Information about the webinar was sent to Commissioners

Adjournment at 9:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by: ________________________________
               Carol Patterson, Commission Secretary