Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission
Corrected Minutes

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave. Classroom A & B
May 24, 2012 at 7:00 pm

Members of the Public Present: TC Chi, Jeffrey Davis, Harriet Patterson, Lewis Williams

Staff Present: Fawn Downs, Jeffrey Johns, Jane Micallef, Carol Patterson

1. Call to Order at 7:08 pm
   Commissioners Present: Jesse Arreguin (arrived at 7:20 pm), Shelby Heda, Paul Kealoha-Blake (arrived at 7:20 pm), Dametrus Lewis, Carole Marasovic (Vice Chair), Kim Nemirow, Shirley Posey, Anna Mae Stanley
   Commissioners Absent: Dan Virkstis

2. Public Comment
   Commissioner Nemirow – reported that she brought gummy vitamins and melatonin to the Adult Clinic, realizing that medical staff might need to approve their distribution, even though Cliff Bars are distributed freely. Carol Patterson removed them and refused to give them back saying she didn’t take them and that Kim had relinquished ownership of the gummy vitamins. Kim pointed out that lying to clients is not therapeutic.

   Commissioner Stanley – shared the response she received from Oikos University to her condolence card for the families of the students recently killed on campus.

   Commissioner Stanley stated that she has been advocating for very hard for the voices of consumers/clients to be reflected in the Safety Plan ever since she was placed on the Committee last August. Commissioner Stanley has been advocating and believed after a 50 minute discussion at the Safety Committee meeting that the lobby guidelines would contain anti-harassment language with regard to harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation or perceived affiliations by the harassing parties and was disappointed that the document still does not contain said language. She pointed out that there needs to be a Drug and Alcohol Policy for Employees.

3. Commission Housekeeping
   A. Rides were handled
   B. Approval of May Agenda
      M/S/C (Stanley, Arreguin) Move to approve the May 24, 2012 Agenda as written.
      Ayes: Arreguin, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley;
      Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Virkstis
   C. Approval of the April 26, 2012 minutes
M/S/C (Stanley, Arreguin) To approve the April 26, 2012 minutes as written.
Ayes: Arreguin, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley, Virkstis; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Virkstis

D. Staff Announcements - Secretary
1. The Mental Health Commission has now been relocated to 2180 Milvia St, 2nd Floor South. The Communications binder is located in the bookshelf near the front desk along with other Department Commission binders.
2. Reminder about the Brown Act. All Commission decisions must be open to the public so that they can witness and weigh in about the topic. It can be very easy to become part of a serial meeting by talking to different Commissioners about the same topic over time or through email that may be forwarded to any number of Commissioners. It’s not the role of the Secretary to police the Brown Act. It is up to the public to file a complaint with the Open Government Commission.
3. The May Is MH Month Event was a success with many positive comments. A number of Commissioners attended.
4. Be sure to sign the sign in sheet. Stipends will be based upon your signing the sheet rather than your signing a Special Payment Form.

E. SB 343 Communications Binder – The binder was passed around, not a lot of communications this month.

F. The Commission agreed to end the meeting at 9 pm as stated on the agenda.

4. Election of the Chair
Dan Virkstis and Jesse Arreguin were nominated for the Chair.

M/S/C (Heda, Posey) Move we table the election until all the candidates are present to present their case.
Ayes: Arreguin, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: Nemirow (we already have the best candidate in the room); Absent: Virkstis.

5. Approval of Enabling Resolution
The Secretary walked the Commissioners through the draft resolution which has incorporated Commission input. The issue of the Leave of Absence has been further clarified: an individual Council member or a staff person cannot grant Leaves of Absence. Leaves of Absence need to go to the full Council. The City Liaison could submit the request to Council but would need to cc the Secretary as she will need to know when someone should be included on the meeting roster.

Commissioner Marasovic indicated that she wanted the Power and Duties of the Commission to reflect the strength in the State Law. She pointed out that Section 8 #3 says “Advis the local mental health director…” and that the state says the Chair shall be in Consultation with the mental health director.

Councilmember Arreguin mentioned the Commission Consolidation report from City Staff is recommending that the number of Mental Health Commission seats be reduced to 11.

M/S/C (Stanley, Lewis) The Mental Health Commission recommends that the draft Enabling Resolution come back to the Commission for review and input after it goes to legal.
Ayes: Arreguin, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Virkstis

6. Creation of Ad-Hoc Agenda Subcommittee
M/S/C (Lewis, Arreguin) Move to table the Creation of Ad-Hoc Agenda Subcommittee item and calendar By-Laws to the next Commission agenda.
Ayes: Arreguin, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Virkstis.

7. Retreat Planning
The date of the retreat will be July 21. We are currently looking for a site: AlaCosta Center is no longer renting to outside groups, Berkeley Yacht Club isn’t available on the 21st, the conference room at the Marina is too small and dim, Tilden Park is too expensive and already booked, Live Oak Park has classes in the morning.

Suggestions for other sites: North Berkeley Senior Center, North Branch Library, Unitarian Universalist Church (2 sites in Berkeley,) Main Library, Albany Community Center, Northbrae Community Church, the field across from the Adult Clinic or a part of Ohlone Park. Some Commissioners indicated they could not attend an all day meeting outside. Commissioners agreed to send any additional site ideas to the Secretary.

We have a $250 budget for food. Dietary restrictions Include: have a pork-free option, need a sufficient amount of protein in the food, have a vegetarian option.

8. Response to AB 1569, extension of “Laura’s Law”
M/C/S (Stanley, Lewis) The Mental Health Commission recommends support of the opposition to AB 1569 in agreement with the California Mental Health Planning Council position statement. Notably the California Mental Health Planning Council is composed of family members, consumers and providers.
Ayes: Arreguin, Kealoha-Blake, Lewis, Marasovic, Nemirow, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: Heda (thinks the law could be helpful but not sure); Absent: Virkstis.

9. Prioritizing Agenda Items for next Month’s meeting
   - Election of Chair
   - Agenda Subcommittee and By-Laws
   - Retreat Planning
   - Safety Policy Update
   - Generate ideas for what should be included in an Informed Consent Policy

Meeting ended at 9:20 pm due to the need to put table and chairs away.

Minutes submitted by: ________________________________
Carol Patterson, Commission Secretary