

**Approved 7-10-07**  
**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 12, 2007**  
**EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A**

**Members Present:** Nancy Dow-Witherbee, Eleanor Owen, Allan Panitch, Eugene Wan

**Members Absent:** Lisbeth Eddy (excused), James Nobles (excused), Ron Sterling (excused), Gwendolyn Williams (excused)

**Guests Present:** Dave Black, County Ombudsman; Joan Clement, KCASAAB Liaison; Irene Hartzell, Board applicant

**Staff Present:** Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

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Board Chair Eleanor Owen convened the King County Mental Health Advisory Board Meeting at 4:33 p.m.

**I. APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

The review and approval of the May 8, 2007 meeting minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.

**II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**A. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

Board Chair Eleanor Owen conducted the election of new Board Chair and Vice Chair. The Board members present cast written ballots and turned them in to Rhoda Naguit for counting. Partial result of the election is as follows:

Board Chair: Nancy Dow-Witherbee – 4  
Vice Chair: Eugene Wan – 3

The Board bylaws have been amended to include options for conducting board business by way of e-mail, Internet chat, or telephone (hereinafter "electronic business").

**UPDATE:** Absentee ballots were received from Ron Sterling, Lisbeth Eddy, James Nobles, and Gwendolyn Williams. The final result is as follows:

Board Chair: Nancy Dow-Witherbee – 8  
Vice Chair: Eugene Wan – 7

## **B. Individual Disability Account**

Eleanor attended a four-day SAMHSA conference in Washington D. C. last week. She shared information about a well funded federal program called Individual Disability Account (IDA). An eligible applicant retains his/her Medicaid benefit in addition to receiving funding under IDA. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is responsible for the distribution of the funding for this program.

## **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee – *Jim Nobles***

Not present to report. Jim Nobles is running for County Assessor.

### **Nominations Update – *Nancy Dow-Witherbee***

Nancy introduced Irene Hartzell, a prospective Board applicant. This is the first of her required three meeting attendance prior to applying. Eugene Wan will serve as her mentor and her first contact person.

Nancy reported that she has re-written a letter sent to the Councilmembers to go to Board and Commission Chairs as part of Board recruitment efforts.

Ron Sterling and Eugene Wan set up a table for Board recruitment packet at NAMI's Walk event. Some people expressed interest in the Board but no formal application has been received to date.

### **Quality Council - *Ron Sterling***

Not present to report.

### **Recovery Initiatives Committee – *Eugene Wan***

Eugene reported the following:

- Perry Wien gave an update about a new finance model and training for mental health providers. King County has posted the RFP for a training consultant to provide trainings at 16 sites for a full year.
- Discussion on awarding businesses for promoting recovery. Monetary or tax break incentive is more effective means to encourage businesses to support recovery.
- Discussion on peer counselor issues, particularly on training and certification process.

#### **IV. STAFF REPORT**

##### **A. Sales Tax Initiative**

Phase III of the Community Crisis Alternative Action Plan was submitted to the Council on June 1<sup>st</sup>, as scheduled. This final phase of the Action Plan identifies service priorities and projected funding for the services. Jean shared some of the service priorities and the projected funding for each.

Jean briefly stated that the Plan was developed in response to legislation passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2005 that allows counties to raise the sales tax by one tenth of one percent, to be used exclusively to support mental health, chemical dependency and therapeutic court services. Clallam, Clark, Jefferson, Skagit, and Spokane counties have already moved forward to do so. In July 2006, the Metropolitan King County Council passed Motion 12320, which calls for the development of an action plan for the one tenth of one percent tax sales tax.

The Department of Community and Human Services, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division was tasked to convene workgroups to develop an alternative to incarceration for youth and adult. The Community Crisis Alternative Action Plan is composed of three phases. Phase I of the Action Plan was submitted to the Council in September 2006 while Phase II in March 2007.

To get more detailed information about the plan, visit the King County Council webpage at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/mhd/salestax.htm>

The first public discussion on the plan will be at a special town hall meeting at Shoreline Conference Center on Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m.

##### **B. Budget Process**

The budget process has begun. This will be sent to the King County Executive by July 2007.

##### **C. Recovery Plan**

Each agency will do a recovery self-assessment to assess where they are now. The agencies will use the Recovery Implementation template for developing their Recovery plans based on the result of the self-assessment.

## **V. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Eleanor Owen: *Highline-West Seattle Mental Health Center, Western State Hospital***

No report on Highline-West Seattle Mental Health Center. Western State Hospital is planning to downsize in the future, however for the present the only program that is being reduced with the goal of ultimately eliminating it is the PALS program. RSNs have been given responsibility for these clients because the state is providing additional funds for providers to accept them. PALS clients remaining at PALS or returning to PALS will be charged to the RSN that is responsible.

### **Gwendolyn Williams: *Therapeutic Health Services***

Not present to report.

### **Eugene Wan: *Community Psychiatric Clinic***

He is meeting with Shirley Havenga next month.

### **Allan Panitch: *Seattle Children's Home***

Allan was unable to attend the Board meeting of Seattle Children's Home.

### **Jim Nobles: *District Mental Health Court***

Not present to report.

### **Nancy Dow-Witherbee: *Harborview Mental Health Services***

Nancy reported the following:

- HMHS will be sending a delegation of 12 HMHS Consumers and 5 Staff to the Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference this week.
- The team responsible for developing the Certificate of Rehabilitation including Meghan Szczebak HMHS Employment Team and Steve Collins QRT will be a recipient of a HERO Award at the WBHC.

- 2 of 3 Peer Specialist positions open since last fall have been filled. This includes a newly created peer specialist position working directly with the clinical teams. One opening remains with no current applicants.
- The first session of a peer specialist facilitated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy group for Voices requested by the Consumer Council has started.
- A peer facilitated Money Management curriculum is in development for consumers who may be in the process of becoming their own payee.
- A consumer volunteer internship program for current consumers, supervised by staff peer specialists has begun as part of the HMHS Peer Specialist Strategic Plan. This program includes written job description and duties and successful acceptance as an HMC Volunteer. Several of these positions are currently filled by consumers and fulfilling the requirements for a Trial Work Experience (TWE) plan with DVR.
- HMHS Peer Support Services Strategic Plan. See handout on Strategic Plan from consumer retreat

**Lisbeth Eddy: *Seattle Mental Health Court***

Not present to report.

**Ron Sterling: *Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation***

Not present to report.

**VI. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Complaint and Grievance Issue**

Allan Panitch brought up a question about how clients' complaints or grievances are handled. He said that it seems King County Mental Health Ombudsman does not handle enough clients' complaints/grievances because in most cases the complaints are handled by the people who are the "accused." David Black, KC MH Ombuds staff, explained the process used in handling client's complaint/grievance. If a client's complaint/grievance can be resolved at the agency level, the better. David said that his office currently has 100 resolved complaints monthly.

**B. Prevention Services for Kids**

Irene Hartzell noted the need for more services for kids who are homeless.

**C. NAMI Seeking Permanent Director**

Eleanor Owen announced that NAMI is seeking for a permanent Director to replace Frank Jose, who is now working for the state.

**VII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Eleanor Owen  
Board Chair