

# C · A · M · H · P · R · A

California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

**Quarterly Board Meeting  
August 25, 2010  
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
MINUTES**

**Locations:  
All Disability Rights CA Offices**

**2580 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 902  
Los Angeles, 90010  
(213) 427-8747**

**1330 Broadway, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 267-1200**

**100 Howe Ave, Suite 235N  
Sacramento 95825  
(916) 488-9950**

**1111 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 200  
San Diego 92101  
(619) 239-7861**

**567 West Shaw Ave, Suite C3  
Fresno, 93704  
(559) 476-2000**

**Teleconference Call-in number:  
1-866-711-9897 (permanent number)  
Participant Call-in code: 3234259 (permanent pass code)**

**I. Call to order [15 minutes]**

**a. Introductions and Roll Call Present: President Barbara Rocha, Jim Marquez, Past President Jim Raphael, Secretary Janet Marshall Wilson, Gloria Hernandez, Hank Hallowell, Dave Vandenberg, Teresa Alvarez.**

**Absent: jim Preis, Francesca Tenenbaum, Jill Ward**

**Also present: Danielle Kelley, LA Patients' Rights [interested in joining Board];**

**No longer on Board: Jessica Martinez, Dennis Wall, Sarah Barnes. 3 at large positions open. Will ask. Brandon Hammerschlag, Danielle Kelley interested. Late next month Jim Rafael send out PRAS e-mail soliciting, including invitation to join CAMHPRA.**

**Should minutes be posted on website? New webhost [Rockin] should be able to provide assistance in doing this. Teresa volunteers to do so with assistance from**

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**IT. Get administrative access for Teresa. Notify host that Teresa also needs to be added as administrator. Have minutes of last meeting posted. Also put bylaws up once they have been approved. Jim to send e-mail to host w cc to Teresa giving her access, and ask for specific person to manage the account? Will this be an extra expense?**

**b. Approve minutes from May 19, 2010; formatting and typo errors [page 3 section f investigations, is "also" typo complaint procedure in Title IX.**

**M/S/Carried unanimously [Hernandes/Alvarez] to accept with the correction of typos.**

**c. Additional agenda items/time accommodations: ADD: under 6, bylaws review, 7 PRAT planning, 8 Old Business**

**d. Announcements: none.**

## **II. Organizational Business [35 minutes]**

**a. Treasurer's report: Teresa Alvarez reimbursed self \$20 [filing fees]; paid \$305 to Adele Lynch for transportation to PRAT last year; paid ROCKIN \$110.62 plus \$3..22 transaction fee [using Visa] \$107.40 yearly fee paid. 7/15/2010 ending balance \$4534.19.**

**b. Board issues:** Additional Board Vacancies, Jessica Martinez is no longer working for LA Patients' Rights, but a co-worker Danielle Kelly has expressed interest in joining the Board and will attend the Board Meeting in LA.

**c. Website issues:** report on the transfer and set up Board Members who volunteer to cover questions, can we set up an archive for questions answered. Questions are coming to Jim Raphael. He is forwarding to advocate in appropriate county. Put on bulletin board of website, to put what county questioner is from. Wait for meeting at PRAT to see. Jim will call Rockin and e-mail Teresa. Come up with some FAQ at PRAT for posting. Themes from listserve, including driving privileges on conservatorship. Dave Vandenberg to make available Attorney General's decision.

**d. Legislation committee:** report on activities. Beall AB1600 status [would require health insurance carriers to provide mental health coverage as one of the benefits]. Raphael has not checked recently AB2706 homeless hate bill: Hernandez; includes homeless as protected class so they can sue for higher damages if attacked as transients. Passed senate this Monday. Returns to assembly for final action. M/S/carried [Wilson/Raphael] to support AB2706 and for Gloria to draft letter.

**e. Bylaws Committee:** Jill Ward, Jim Marquez, Jim Raphael. Please review attached Bylaws for discussion of changes. P 2 of 10: violation of use of association name: no objection. General membership. P2 add "upon payment of dues." Association membership: add "upon payment of dues." Jim to send old brochure electronically which includes application for suggested modifications;

Barbara will put in all updates; will circulate by e-mail; Board will vote at PRAT.

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Other organizational business:

## LUNCH [ONE HOUR]

### III. Coalition updates [50 minutes]

a. Far North: Linda Helling (Placer): no report

b. BAYPAC: Francesca Tenenbaum (Alameda/San Mateo) absent. In her absence: Santa Clara County: Kaiser opening up PHF 11/2010; 24 acute + 6 crisis stabilization beds. Palo Alto VA constructing new building consolidating Menlo park and Palo Alto. Between these two increases, may have a major impact on number of hearings. County MH Dept has set up a policy w/requirement for formal full-day training w/test for county mental health providers who do 5150's. MHAP does legal aspects of training. Tightening up controls on who can 5150. Use listserve. Monterey: external quality review group monitoring posting of rights to grievances, appeals, etc. Dave assuring that all is current. B&C home sloppily operated; resident covered w/feces for 3 days; nobody at hospital reported it to CCL or APS. Hospital doesn't have a policy for reporting DEPENDENT abuse and neglect. Ultimately CCL substantiated complaints; Dave did inservice on reporting responsibilities. Barbara: Orange County has Residential Care & Housing, preventative work re: b&cs including mentoring. Patients' Rights is included w/CCL, Pts' Rights and Residential Care. Residential care also looks into the unlicensed.

c. Central Valley: Gloria Hernandez (Fresno): met, Good Samaritan [Bakersfield] having lots of problems; d/c patient back to Fresno on Greyhound, took over the Greyhound, now in jail. New advocate in Merced, RN, good advocacy skills. Barbara Mobes. New advocate also in Tuilomne, thinking outside the box. Tuilomne shut down PHF, now has crisis facility. Fresno a nightmare; Fresno: licensing upheld complaint objecting to strip-searches; .closed 23-hour facility. Everyone reports to ER, waiting time varies 14-24 hours, shipped all over. Director sued, trying to use realignment money for legal fees. Rather, County Counsel should defend. Gloria will call Legal Aid. Board of Supervisors contracting out Public Defender, to agencies who don't believe in writs or writ rehearings. Still, psychotropic medications not available in the jail. Family referred to ACLU attorney. There is a regional task force. Kingsview in Kings County intending to pay for 2 crisis residential beds in Tulare. Stanislaus: death in facility. Advocate not informed. Drug & alcohol client. Died in room at hospital 1 ½ months ago. Cause of death not known, under investigation. Director retiring.

d. South: Jim Marquez (Orange): did not meet; very busy, one advocate passed away. PHF closed [very far south]. Defaulted back to MHRC. Stays are pushed up to 24-36 hours in crisis. Many designated facilities are for geropsych. People on 5150s in ERs are languishing, awaiting placement. San Diego: ICE

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detainees in shackles; hospital still trying to negotiate with ICE to have a "non-psychiatric" detention facility.

### IV. Report from other advocacy organizations [30 minutes]

a. CCMH – Jim Preis will go end of September

b. OPR: Ann Collier not present.

c. DRC: Dan Brzovic: had been on leave until 6/1. Naper case in Sacramento county gone well; re 4 county clinics. Adult day health care case: court relied on Olmstead argument case requiring community placements. AB1421. SF: health director opposed; involuntary medication not an option. Sent back to committee. Probably come back as pilot project. Preparing legal analyses. AB 2034 is before the court of appeals, expecting legal arguments in the fall. A lot of state payments ended 6/30 including to Medi-Cal clinics. County-by-county basis whether county can float the money. Sydney H. on back burner during the summer. Has not been filed yet but looking to do that soon. Working with Marin and Alameda Counties. Will be filed in Alameda County. Smoking in acute psychiatric facilities: a real battle, losing. Hospitals say they are there to "promote health." This is hard to fight now. Focus of advocacy: smoking cessation classes, patch or gum. The rules applying to patients should apply to staff.

d. MHAS

### V. Public Policy [3 hours]

Send or call in Issues

### VI. Bylaws Review and set date for vote

### VII. PRAT planning:

Theme: Advocacy in Transition. Think about it. Listserve. \$10 gift card? Teresa to submit logo ideas. Menus for sit-down lunch; Barbara to consult about 2 chicken, 1 vegetarian, 1 fish option. Order 10 extras.

Luncheon agenda: speakers? Darrel Steinberg? Termed out? Hate crime bill author? Will be just after elections. Send out PRAS e-mail.

Awards: Jim Raphael has electronic ballot; will send to Barbara. Michael Berryman [deceased] nominated for lifetime achievement. Dan Brzovic for legal services award? Steve Musick award: nominations committee: Barbara and Jim. Get nominations from listserve. Put "Hall of Fame" last year's award winners from minutes.

Ask OPR re listserve archive; do by topic. Frequently Asked Questions..

Workshops: 5150 designations: facilities and individuals.

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**Not a denial of rights to take contraband as long as documented and stored and available upon discharge.**

**ER outside security guards who abuse patients. Should undergo training including from patients' rights. Are people having problems w/security guards: survey on listserve.**

**Basic training. Emotional survival skills panel. Send out on listserve: what advice would you give a new PRA? Using the listserve. Networking while you are here. How to stick to your guns and not take things personally. Choosing your battles is a key strategy. Experienced advocates submit handy hints.**

## **VIII. Old Business**

**a. PRA Population update: where are we with this? Nothing new to add.**

**11/3,4,5 PRAT. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. or so, annual CAMHPRA meeting.**

**M/S/carried unanimously [Hernandes/Raphael] to adjourn at 5:04.**

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