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California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

**Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 29, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Via Zoom Call**

I. Call to Order

a. Introductions and Roll Call

Member/Title	County
Jill Ward / President	Shasta
Melanie Roland / Treasurer	Santa Clara
Melody Beltz - Secretary	Humboldt
Megan Wheelehan / BAYPAC	Santa Clara
Wendy Cheula / Far North	Siskiyou
Christina S. Kraushar / At Large	Central Valley
Merida Saracho / At Large	San Bernardino
Richard Krzyzanowski – DRC / At Large	Los Angeles Area
Jim Raphael / Emeritus	Santa Clara
Dave Vandenberg / Emeritus	Monterey
Jude Stern – COPR / At Large	Sacramento Area

II. Housekeeping

- a. Smith-Waters Group joining CAMHPRA.
- b. Roll Call – Quorum met. Resignation received Gloria Hernandez.
- c. Treasurer's Report: Melanie Roland reports the account balance as of June is \$8,178.05, balance is less than this due to filing of two tax documents.
 - i. Tax documents have been filed – four more to do.
 - ii. The donation in honor of Rusty Selix is still pending.
 - iii. Jim makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Richard, no further discussion, motion carries.
- d. Approval of Minutes- Chris makes the motion to approve the minutes, Jim seconded, no further discussion, Richard abstains, motion carries.
- e. Discussion regarding vacant seats. Jim makes a motion that two seats on the board are vacant (held by Gloria and Ann) seconded by Melanie

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therefore 9 members present constitutes a quorum, no further discussion, motion passes.

III. Statewide Business

- a. PRAT training by Curt Child provided a thorough review of all the pending bills (Handout attached to these minutes).

IV. Coalition Reports

- a. Far North: Reported by Wendy Cheula (Siskiyou). Frank Smith-Waters Group joining CAMHPRA.

Shasta County – has a new Director of Behavioral Health, Robin Bowman. Staff working remotely due to COVID-19, doing hearings remotely. Had a Hearing Officer workshop that Jill and Nicole facilitated there have been two sessions and a third is expected, August 5th. County Counsel brought up issue of 3rd party assistance declarations to be in writing.

Jill shares information from Smith-Waters Group regarding hearings officers in their counties being extreme such as 90 minute hearings and demanding to hear all progress notes. Talked about issues with rights posters from DHCS. He also reported they are covering Sutter/Yuba County now and all the county had the PRA doing was covering the PHF hearings although there is more work to be done there. He is working on educating the county but it will be a long road.

Placer County – Lisa is back to work after being gone for 3 weeks. She is doing contact tracing work.

- b. BayPac: Megan Wheelan (Santa Clara)
Has not met, will update in the future.

- c. Central: Christina Kraushar (Merced)
Has not met will update in the future. Christina will schedule a meeting. Merced has a new Director, Genevieve Valentine out of Stockton. One locked facility declared an outbreak area for COVID due to three staff testing positive. PHF unit is closed to new admitees, they had staff test positive. Won't open again until staff test negative twice.

- d. South: Martin Hernandez (Los Angeles)
No one in attendance from South – no report.

V. Reports from Meetings/Other Advocacy Organizations

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- a. California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH): Megan reported the last meeting was very brief. Next one in September should be more comprehensive. Question whether CAMHPRA's dues have been paid. Melanie says the dues have been paid.
- b. California Office of Patients' Rights (COPR): Jude reports that COVID-19 dominates concerns and technical assistance he provides. PRAT was virtual and a truncated version, he experienced difficulty locating presenters. Is going to provide a training for first year advocates. Likely that 2021 PRAT will also be virtual. Report for LPS audit was released and he sent it out.
- c. Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS): We do not currently have a representative attending or in contact with this group. Jim says he will make contact and see if they are interested in collaboration with CAMHPRA.
- d. California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations CAMHPRO - AB1976 mandates statewide Laura's Law involuntary treatment programs. Counties must comply or state why they are opting out. Richard is advocating for opposition due to this bill's lack of patients' rights protections.

They are advocating for the passage of SB 2016 (DRC sponsored) which provides for limited conservatorships.

Peer support certification, SB 803, CAMHPRO striking the state mandate in order to insure passage.

Statement of public policy principles, just added one on social justice.

Working on position paper focusing on best practices on peer support in COVID-19 times. Richard will share it when it is completed.

- e. California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC): Richard reports they received a copy of the Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury investigation report. They may or may not draft a response regarding their position. Focused on patients' rights in county jails. Issued a survey to Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions regarding advocacy in jails. Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission has proposed a series of changes. Increases the power of the director of OAC and staff member and decreasing the participation of stake holders. OAC is backing down

VI. Standing Items

- a. County Retaliation

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- i. Discussion regarding coverage of PRA by Quality Improvement. This is a conflict of interest as the PRA should not have any other clinical or administrative duties. Technically, if the PRA cannot perform the duty of representing the clients at probable cause hearings, then the duty falls back onto the Public Defender's Office.

VII. New Business and next Meeting, Adjourn

- a. Vehicle and animal fees – No update.
- b. Racial Justice Legislation – Melanie would like to add racial equity to CAMHPRA's agenda. Currently there is no reporting on denial of rights by race or gender or 5150s placed by race or gender. Melanie makes a motion that CAMHPRA investigate to support further studies that reports to PRAs data regarding race and gender of denials of rights, seclusion and restraints and the use of intramuscular injections as well as PRAs get data in regard to inpatient deaths seconded by Jim, not further discussion, motion carries.. Richard suggests updating our Platform Statement to include language regarding race, gender, ethnicity, Jim seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.
- c. The next CAMHPRA meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th 2020.
- d. Meeting adjourned.