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California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Via Zoom Call

I. Call to Order

a. Introductions and Roll Call

	Member/Title	County
	Lisa Long / President	Placer
	Frank Smithwaters / Vice-President	Northern California
	Melanie Roland / Treasurer	Santa Clara
	Melody Beltz - Secretary	Humboldt
	Christina S. Kraushar / Central	Merced
	Whitney Wilson/South	San Diego
	Jean McDonald / At Large	San Diego
	Mike Phillips / At Large	San Diego
	Richard Kryzanowski – DRC / At Large	Los Angeles Area
	Jim Raphael / Emeritus	Santa Clara
	Jude Stern – COPR / At Large	Sacramento Area

II. Housekeeping

- a. Roll Call – Quorum met. Welcome Whitney Wilson regional representative for the South.
- b. Treasurer's Report: Melanie Roland reports the account balance is approximately \$7,554.95 (exact total unknown) but no monies outgoing or incoming.
 1. Chris makes a motion to donate \$100 to the children of Martin Hernandez and to accept the Treasurer's report seconded by Richard, no further discussion, motion carries.
- c. Approval of Minutes- Richard makes the motion to approve the minutes, Jim seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.

C * A * M * H * P * R * A

III. Coalition Reports

a. Regional Issues – Lisa worked on Regional Map with the help of Mike and Whitney. Final map emailed. Counties can reassign themselves to another regional if they feel more closely aligned with that region. Lisa would like to provide the regional meetings with standardized quarterly questions to be addressed at their meeting and reported back to CAMHPRA. For example: What is the status of your county resources? MHSA implementation? Jail advocacy? Effects of tele-medicine on your county?

b. Far North: Wendy Cheula (Siskiyou) – Placer County reports that the idea of A CSU in Placer County has been shelved temporarily due to COVID. Lisa is Currently working with the system on advocacy in the jail.

Smithwaters –they have Inyo County now. 8 counties total. .

c. BayPac: Melanie Roland (Santa Clara):
Melanie has a nomination for a possible BAYPAC representative. Info to be forwarded to Lisa for a vote.

d. Central: Chris Kraushar (Fresno County):
Coalition has not met but Chris reports that Merced is not the stability as they had in the past. Tele-doctors and Locums don't want to follow the policy and procedures of the county they are working in

e. South: Whitney Wilson (San Diego) – Coalition has not met. Whitney will report in November.

IV. Standing Items

a. Presidential Updates: Lisa is creating a President's Binder which will be saved in two places. CAMHPRA is tasked with supporting PRAs, therefore CAMHPRA should be: open to all PRAs, be transparent, momentum will encourage membership, membership would add privileges such as voting, board service, panel member at PRAT, posting to social media. Lisa is working on the membership roster.

1. Website: will have a page where minutes are posted to encourage transparency, private issues addressed by the Board will not be posted. Will have a page specifically for new PRAs. Will have clear instructions on how to join CAMHPRA. Will have links to trainings from COPR. Will have tools and forms used by counties so they don't have to keep being asked for. Will have a page to links to pending legislation related to mental health. Will have a newsletter of a synopsis of what we have been doing. Richard willing to write the newsletter. Dave has a library of mental health related books and would like to create an index of those materials

C * A * M * H * P * R * A

available to PRAs. Will have a link to current DMH Publications and DHCS information letters

2. Social Media – Facebook – Lisa would like to update to indicate a clear statement of purpose. Would like the Facebook page to humanize the CAMHPRA Board, celebrate successes, post PRAT luncheon award winners, present information not opinions, display items related to patients’ rights advocacy, be geared toward PRAs, clients, providers, and the public and will balance celebrations with challenges and show PRA activities state wide.
- b. Cultural Competence – will be addressed on the website – tabled for now.

V. Statewide Business

- a. SB 340 (Stern) – Authorizes a family member, friend or acquaintance to request to testify in judicial review proceedings. Still active/limbo. Action: Follow.
- b. SB 516 (Eggman) – Authorizes evidence considered at certification review hearing to include the persons medical condition and how that bears on certifying the person. Still active, wide opposition. Action: CAMHPRA is opposed. Richard will send Melanie bullet points for draft opposition letter.
- c. AB 118 (Kamlager) – Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act (C.R.I.S.E.S.). No amendments, suspense file. Position: Following.
- d. AB 270 – Mobile Crisis Teams formation. No amendments, still active but stalled in Assembly Health Committee.

VI. Reports from Meetings/Other Advocacy Organizations

- a. California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH): No report.
- b. California Office of Patients’ Rights (COPR): Jude reports PRAT will be virtual this year and will occur October 4th – 8th.
- c. California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations CAMHPRO/DRC: Richard reports that Sally is stepping down as Executive Director of the organization. They are looking for a replacement
- d. California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC): Richard reports they now have 13 or 14 jail surveys responses.

VII. Public Policy

- a. State Plan Amendment 21-003: Disaster relief for COVID-19 Crisis Stabilization Units - proposal to allow 96-hour stay in CSU. Item still pending. We will continue to follow due to COVID surges likely.

C * A * M * H * P * R * A

VIII. Standing Items

- a. Race, gender, ethnicity reporting. No discussion at this time.

IX. New Business and next Meeting, Adjourn

- a. DHCS Background Checks: Frank presents that 40% of his advocates cannot work on a PHF unit without being escorted by staff because Smithwaters utilizes persons with lived experience as advocates and many have issues in their background checks that makes them unable to pass the background check. Some specific examples are misdemeanors that occurred decades ago. Frank is no longer allowed on a PHF unit due to an insufficient funds check written 30 years ago. This will be an important issue for Peers in the future. Frank requests support from CAMHPRA. DHCS is the agency responsible for the background checks per WIC 5405. Richard says CMHPRO would be willing to advocate for relaxing the criteria for peers. Expungement of the criminal record is also an option. Committee to address this issue consisting of Lisa for CAMHPRA, Richard for CAMHPRO and Frank.
- b. Legislative Committee consists of: Mike, Jim, Melanie and Dave.
- c. The next CAMHPRA meeting will be Wednesday, November 10th 2021.
- d. Richard makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jim seconded the motion, no further discussion, meeting adjourned.

X. Results of Email Voting

- a. Motion: Shall Clare Cortright be the BAYPAC Regional Representative for CAMHPRA? Eleven (11) out of 16 voted yes. No further discussion, motion carries.