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California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates

Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Via Zoom Call

I. Call to Order

a. Introductions and Roll Call

	Member/Title	County
	Jill Ward / President	Shasta
	Lisa Long / Interim Vice-President	Placer
	Melanie Roland / Treasurer	Santa Clara
	Melody Beltz - Secretary	Humboldt
	Wendy Cheula / Far North	Siskiyou
	Christina S. Kraushar / At Large	Central Valley
	Jean McDonald / At Large	San Diego
	Mike Phillips / At Large	San Diego
	Merida Saracho / At Large	San Bernardino
	Richard Kryzanowski – DRC / At Large	Los Angeles Area
	Jim Raphael / Emeritus	Santa Clara
	Dave Vandenberg / Emeritus	Monterey
	Frank Smithwaters / Guest	Northern California
	Jude Stern – COPR / At Large	Sacramento Area

II. Housekeeping

a. Roll Call – Quorum met.

b. Treasurer's Report: Melanie Roland reports the account balance as of the October bank statement is \$7,599.85.

- i. The donation in honor of Rusty Selix to Mental Health America has been made. Invoices to COPR and CCMH have been paid as well as taxes for 2019.
- ii. Discussion regarding the collecting of CAMHPRA membership dues and whether the pandemic exception should continue. Jude informs the Board that PRAT will be virtual again for 2021, therefore, there will not be a CAMHPRA luncheon again this year.

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- iii. Lisa makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, and to not collect dues and revisit this topic in the fall seconded by Chris, no further discussion, motion carries.
- c. Approval of Minutes- Richard makes the motion to approve the minutes, Jim seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.

III. Statewide Business

- a. All previous bills are dead.

IV. Coalition Reports

- a. Far North: Wendy Cheula (Siskiyou) -

Smithwaters – currently providing advocacy to 6 counties: Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Yolo, Sutter and Yuba counties and are in talks with Del Norte County. They report that clients are staying at Sonoma County CSU for the duration of their hold 5150 and 5250 and hearings are happening there. New PHF unit expected to be opened in the Spring will alleviate this issue. Aurora Hospital increasing beds in a couple of months. Smithwaters investigating housing of minors, transgender mistreatment and misuse of grievance process and other violations. Smithwaters reports that Yolo County performs a lot of capacity hearings for long term injectables. DRC has stepped in and will be conducting a training soon. They currently do not have any same day services, that is changing soon. Lake County's client centers are all closed due to Covid. Staff have been calling them with concerns. Smithwaters reports that they took over the contract for Sutter/Yuba in July and have discovered a very fragmented system that they are working on correcting. They were told they have to contract with the hospitals separately. Have already contracted with 3. They are hopeful this can be straightened out with the State audit that is occurring.

- b. BayPac: Melanie Roland (Santa Clara):
Melanie has no updates from Brett. Likely they did not meet. Santa Clara is working on issues with their jail and removing police from mobile response units. Covid conditions in jail concerning.

- c. Central: Chris Kraushar (Fresno County):
Has not met.

- d. South: Jean McDonald (San Diego) – Coalition has not met. Jean reports an increase in grievances due possibly to people being stuck in places longer due to Covid. New CSU coming to San Diego and that board and cares are closing in their area.

V. Reports from Meetings/Other Advocacy Organizations

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- a. California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH): No report.
- b. California Office of Patients' Rights (COPR): Jude reports Eric Harris is the new Policy Director. Jude sent out his bio on the Listserve. Jude also reports that the DRC website is being updated. He will also make an appointment with new advocates (if he is informed) to get them up to speed with the listserve, etc.
- c. California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations CAMHPRO/DRC: CAMHPRO - Although they are having a respite from legislation, they expect new bills to be introduced that expand the definition of grave disability, they are bracing for bad things to come down the pike. Steinberg Institute working on a small avalanche of bad ideas. DRC – Kurt Childs retired and the new Legislative person is Eric Harris
- d. California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC): Working on a survey for PRAs regarding advocacy in the jails. Suggestion to send the survey to the lead PRA in each office in order to coordinate responses due to the possibility of contradictory responses within the same unit. Began by sending survey to Behavioral Health Boards in the counties. Results were varied. Richard welcomes suggestions and ideas for this survey. Goal to strengthen access to jail clients. Suggestions provided, Richard will take all suggestions back to the committee.

VI. Public Policy

- a. State Plan Amendment 21-003: Disaster relief for COVID-19 Crisis Stabilization Units - proposal to allow 96-hour stay in CSU. Jude foresees a lot of due process issues as no guidance is being provided.
- b. Presentation by Kim Pederson, Attorney for DRC: Will CAMHPRA support the Amicus Brief to the California Supreme Court regarding allowing LPS clients the right to refuse to testify at LPS trials on their own behalf similar to defendants in criminal cases. After further explanation and discussion Melanie makes a motion to support the Amicus Brief, Jim seconds, no further discussion, motion passes.

VII. Standing Items

- a. Race, gender, ethnicity reporting. Discussion regarding altering the Denial of Rights reporting forms to include race, gender, ethnicity.

VIII. New Business and next Meeting, Adjourn

- a. Election: Jude nominates Frank Smithwaters for CAMHPRA Vice President. Melody will send the ballot out to the general members. If we do not get 2/3 of the membership to respond, then the Board will vote to certify the election at the next meeting.

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- b. Enacting PC 2603 (removing LPS designation for jails).
- c. The next CAMHPRA meeting will be Wednesday, May 26th 2021.
- d. Lisa makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris seconded the motion, no further discussion, meeting adjourned.