

Minutes of the  
Interagency Steering Committee  
June 26, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Semmes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., on Monday, May 22, 2006, in the ICOE Board Room, El Centro, California

ROLL CALL: Present: Jim Semmes, Sam Couchman, Bruce Coon, Mark Gillmore, Mike Kelley, Rosa Lopez (for Robertta Burns), Dr. Stephen Roeder, Warren Sherlock, Victor Jaime (for Paul Pai)

Absent: Robertta Burns, Mary Camacho, Harold Carter, Ralph Cordova, Jr., Judge Barrett Foerster, Robin Hodgkin, Mike Horn, Norma Jauregui, Gilbert G. Otero, Paul Pai, and Chris Yeager

Others in Attendance: John Grass, and Janet Thornburg

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Stephen Roeder, second by Bruce Coon to approve the minutes of May 22, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - ASSESSMENT CENTER:

John Grass of the Behavioral Health Department reported on the relatively new BH assessment center. It is staffed with clinicians and workers during the business hours of 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, at 202 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, El Centro in October 2005. (There are no after hours for the assessment center; however, the crisis unit is available 24/7.) This location formerly was a crisis center where BH received 51/50 referrals from law enforcement along with other clients in need of urgent attention.

The assessment center changes the typical medical model of appointment-basis only in providing services to clients. Besides the scheduled appointments, people can walk in to the center for services. When the clients first come in, they are screened for urgency of need or severity of crisis and what service they are requesting. Some are in crisis and need to get immediate service just like hospital emergency room walk-ins. Those not in crises will be seen by a clinician based on availability of staff or scheduled for an appointment. Because of BH's 70% show rate on appointments, some days staff are available to see walk-in clients for non-emergencies. Walk-ins are given an approximate waiting time to be seen or the option to schedule an appointment through the access unit. Secondly, all clinics operated by BH will take walk-ins on a space-available basis. Taking walk-ins at the assessment center and all clinics operated by BH has sped up the process of delivering services. Previously, clients would ask for an

appointment and wait one to two weeks for their first assessments; then wait another couple of weeks for nursing assessments, then another wait for psychiatric counseling.

Eventually BH wants to have a full service walk-in clinic where clients can walk in, get an assessment, and visit the psychiatrist all in one visit. In working towards that goal, BH has brought on more nursing staff for a couple days a week so clients can get an assessment and nursing assessment on their first appointment and then make another appointment to visit a psychiatrist.

**LCC AND ISC REPORTS:** FRC MOUs

Janet provided copies of the MOU updates with the County Free Library and Office of Employment Training sections. Janet explained that there are certain elements in the MOUs that are unique to each FRC. Jim Semmes requested that additional language be incorporated regarding equity/civil rights and suggestions that were provided by his staff.

FRCs

Jim Semmes reported that it looks like the extra-help Office Assistant positions assigned to the FRCs will be converted to regular Office Assistants IIIs during the budget process this year. Janet said that this would be a significant improvement and provide added continuity to FRC operations.

LCC Meeting June 8, 2006

Bruce Coon reported on the Mentoring Children of Promise (MCofP) Program provided by Denise Cabanilla of ICOE, Student Well-Being. The program is in need of mentors, especially males (25 in the Brawley area alone). This program targets 5-15 year olds who currently have one or both parents incarcerated. Presentations to recruit volunteer mentors have been made at most of the Valley's churches, groups, and organizations. Denise now is asking the members of this committee and the organizations they represent to volunteer as mentors and to help in recruiting mentors.

Janet reported on the LCC item regarding medical consent. Two DSS Program Managers for MediCal reported on the medical consent issues that have recently developed requiring a change in the way that on-going eligibility is certified for Behavioral Health Programs. Minors can receive MediCal services due to drug/alcohol use, without their parent/s income or knowledge, by completing a yearly application. Minors have to go through certification every month in order to keep the MediCal active. Currently sixteen school sites are participating in this program, serving 420 students countywide. However, the regulations do not permit Behavioral Health staff to complete the MediCal

certifications. DSS has requested the assistance of the FRC's in providing a confidential room and fax machine for the certifications. DSS would like this to be done in August. The age of the students eligible to participate in this program is 12 years and older.

**MEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Victor Jaime reported that he will be working with Krista Byrd, Behavior and Social Science, Division Chair, and Dr. Roeder's staff to develop a survey for local college students on ATOD use.

Jim Semmes reported on the possibility that SDSU would be offering an MSW program in the Valley. DSS and BH are surveying their staff for interest.

**ON-GOING FUNDING  
SOUGHT:**

The on-going funding sought list was reviewed.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 28, 2006.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to bring before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.