

## Criminal Justice Health Advisory Committee

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Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2010

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Present Susan Adams, David Augustus, Ed Berberian, Bruce Gurganus, Eric Engelbart, Sparkie Spaeth, James Sellers, Larry Meredith, Michael Mesmer, Paula Glodowski, Jose Varela, John Hamel, Roberta English, Susannah Clark

Next Meeting October 27, 2010

*Note: the CJBH committee meets quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.*

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9:35 Meeting called to order by Chair Supervisor Adams

- I. **Welcome And Introduction**
- II. **Minutes of April 28, 2010 meeting approved**
- III. **Updates and Discussion**

**Jail reentry.** Dave Augustus reported that this program is expanding to a community-wide focus with H&HS looking at different aspects of the populations they want to work with on re-entry. Larry Meredith said they are looking at the “frequent flyers (filers)” to understand the characteristics of the group—a STAR like approach, so they can design and create appropriate interventions. One recurring issue that is a huge obstacle to success, experienced on so many levels by so many in Marin, is the lack of affordable housing. Right out of the gates, this population is likely to have no stable place to live, no source of income, ineligibility to public assistance because of their status, all challenges that prevent a sustainable lifestyle. Jose Varela added that soon people will be served by Probation/Parole in the county of their residence rather than their court/jail jurisdiction. This will hopefully have a positive impact on Marin; we could be a beneficiary county. We have a huge Sonoma County population in our system. This new reality could allow us to realign our programs more effectively. The model is Alameda County.

**Family Violence Court.** Ed Berberian reported that Family Violence Court has proven to be a role model program, getting very positive results. Jose remarked that it should also be pointed out that the Court is seeing high risk individuals, so the success of the program is even more noteworthy. The program isn’t vulnerable to loss of state funding because it isn’t dependent on grant money. If the departments can maintain staff assigned to this program, everything will be fine. A question was asked about the Grand Jury report on domestic violence and whether that kind of report should be the topic of

discussion by this group when it was made public. It is available online. Development of the response is being managed by the CAO and is due in September. The website to see Grand Jury Reports and Responses is:

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/GJ/Main/index.cfm>

**Domestic Violence Coordinative Council.** Ed Berberian reported that the court has been given the by-law changes that were approved by DVCC and is considering them for approval. Chuck Cacciatore in the DA's Office is the most familiar with the wording of the changes, however, in short, there is a path for non non-profit groups to be voting members. All groups will have a representative voice on the council, which doesn't mean that every organization representing that interest group will be a member. A question was raised whether minutes of the DVCC are available on a website.

**Homelessness issues- Report by Sparkie Spaeth on "Community Connect":**

Sparkie described the new approach to H&HS outreach to the community's at-risk populations. "Community Connects" will replace all of the different targeted events such as Binational Health Week, Project Homeless Connect, etc. All vulnerable populations will be addressed, in venues throughout the county, but the County will be taking more of a technical assistance role and facilitating the community based organizations to develop a more active ownership of the outreach to the targeted events. The County will be working on creating new and more effective outreach, and collecting data on the events. One of the goals is to link treatment options to the prevention and health screenings, a warm hand-off. Other non-health related services will still be part of these Connect events, such as financial, legal, issues resolution, and businesses, volunteers, and agencies will all be part of the program. As Larry described, this is an effort to hard wire the events into the community, with a larger vision of how a person creates a sustainable life. Jose suggested they consider having an event mediator to address possible culture clashes that could arise as the events become more diverse and inclusive. Cio and Jose will discuss.

**Youth Courts.** Ed reported that he spoke with Ron Ravani and that this court continues to be working well—the concept is alive and well. Don Carney mentioned that he has lost a key member of his administration team, so that may cause a little blip until he can cover that position.

**Adult and Drug Court.** DJ Pierce and Paula Glodowski reported that loss of staff in the DA's Office and Probation could have an impact on these programs. Until December, Drug Court is fairly stable now with respect to the State funding, and they will be applying for federal funding if it becomes available. They are still awaiting word on another federal grant they applied for. Drug Court is now all felony cases, including people who have dropped out of Prop 36. Therefore, it is crucial to beef up the treatment capacity to deal with the intensity of treatment needs. Funding for Prop 36 expires in March, 2011 and with this shortfall of treatment dollars, the program will need major restructuring.

Collaborations between the different courts and substance abuse programs are working really well. Jose (PD) described a new way of dealing with these clients-- they have mental health clients in other courts that don't rise to the level of STAR. He would really like to have a better look at this population and create a "STAR Light" to address their issues. He is getting the caseload organized and hopes to work with the Courts to have them scheduled together. There is a better opportunity to follow them that way, to track them more meaningfully. It was noted by him that STAR court recidivism is markedly down.

Once they establish that platform of working with the Courts and the Sheriff's Department, they will look for grant funding. This would be a good population to tie to Jail Reentry Services.

**STAR and Mental Health Programs.** Bruce Gurganus reported that they have assigned a new supervisor for the Jail Mental Health Program. Also, they are doing a crisis intervention training in October and hope to get 20-30 officers to attend the 4 day training. Joel Fay will be one of the trainers, thanks to Chief Odetta, San Rafael Police. Starting in 2014, they expect a huge influx of people who will have insurance, as the healthcare act starts to kick in. Those who have CMSP or are uninsured will be on Medicaid and be eligible for services. Capacity will be a challenge. It is hoped that under the new Act, they will be following the Medicaid/MediCal model so that treatment services will be covered, and not the Medicare model which just covers physician visits. They are anticipating "Accountable Care" which is a similar system to what is offered by Partnership Health.

**Transition Age Youth.** Bruce said that Buckelew is managing a program that can accommodate 20 transition aged youth under the Mental Health Services Act. DJ mentioned that Marin Treatment Center has noted that 20% of their clients are TAY, on Methadone for Oxycotin abuse. This is a huge increase in that population, which raises concerns.

**Questions/Announcements:** Roberta English asked if something could be put on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss Laura's Law. Bruce said that the Mental Health Board is sponsoring a public forum to discuss this, with speakers on both sides of the issue. It was decided that this will be the best way to deal with this subject. An announcement will be sent out when a date and location have been decided. Roberta noted that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been looking at this and is expected to vote on August 2. Susan Adams mentioned that there has been much discussion of this at the state Judicial Council Task Force that she and Ed are on, and materials will be distributed to the CJBH mailing list.

**Agenda items for next meeting:**

Transition Age Youth (Heather Ravani)

Department of Justice \$200,000 grant for mental health services (Bruce Gurganus)

Report on Jail reentry program (submitted to BOS in late May) (Dave Augustus)  
Response to Grand Jury Report re Domestic Violence (Eric Englebart)

Notes by Susannah Clark  
Office of Supervisor Susan Adams