



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

Chair: Lesley Dickson, MD

Vice-Chair: Larry Ashley, PhD

***Governor's
Committee on Co-Occurring Disorders
(SB 2)***

Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: *Monday, July 11, 2011 at 2:00pm*

Attendance: Larry Ashley, Richard Baldo, Judy Bousquet, Harold Cook, Lesley Dickson, Nancy Domiano-Sader, Stuart Ghertner, Ron Lawrence, Mel Pohl, David Sonner and Donna Wilburn.

Absent: Kathy Eppen who has resigned, Elena Brady, Judge Perry who was in the hospital and An-Pyng Sun who is in China.

Public: Several individuals from Solutions were in Las Vegas but left halfway through the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting were approved.

Replacement of Consumer member: Kathy Eppen has resigned due to time and work commitments. Dr. Cook pointed out that SB 251 (the Sunset Bill) from the recent legislative session prohibits membership on two or more boards or commissions. We will postpone looking for a replacement until we decide the future of the COD Committee.

Co-Occurring Disorders website: We were informed the MHDS website is being redesigned. SAPTA's website is linked to MHDS website but is a separate website. Lesley will check into it further.

2011 Report: Our 2011 report was sent to First Lady Kathleen Sandoval who has expressed interest in co-occurring disorders in children but no response. It was also sent to Lorne Malkiewich of the LCB and it has been posted on the internet, <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/Documents/ReportsToLeg/2009-2011/118-11.pdf>. Attempts to get Senator Copening to submit a BDR or Bill to the Senate based on requests in our report were not successful. We decided to send the report via the website to some lobbyists, SAPTA agencies and legislators, particularly those that will be assigned to the Interim Healthcare Committee. We are encouraged to cite our report in other documents we become involved in writing.

2011 Legislative Report: There were few successes in regards to co-occurring issues but we are pleased that Mental Health Court and WestCare Triage Centers were funded. The bill on requiring continuing education on prescription drug abuse did not make it out of committee nor did the bill on outpatient commitment. The database on prescription of controlled substances will be expanded to other state databases and MD's can now be licensed after two years of residency which may help retention of graduating residents. The Attorney General's Methamphetamine Task Force will be expanded into looking at all substance abuse, both law enforcement and treatment, and we are interested in being involved. Harold also described a bill on establishing a sex offender program for high risk offenders which Nevada has never had. The bill did not pass except that there will be a feasibility study. Harold gave a report on the budget which did better than expected due to last minute Supreme Court decision which led to the 2009 taxes being extended. But, funding for CO-Occurring Disorders programs were cut. SNAMHS has cut some positions but has done it primarily by not filling vacancies. AB 93 which provided mental health and substance abuse counseling to prison inmates was passed but not funded. The DOC will continue to run the program at Casa Grande but will not involve DHHS programs or funds.

Plans for Coming Year: We discussed some options including more education to prescribers of controlled substances but ultimately decided that was not our mandate nor do we feel our mandate is to put on educational programs. It was announced that the American Association for Treatment of Opiate Addiction will meet in Las Vegas in April, 2012 at the Venetian and will be honoring Dr. Miriam Adelson.

We discussed ways to become more effective and how, as individuals, we may do more to be on other boards and commissions but are not able due to the restriction of SB 251. Dave Sonner made a motion that we write a letter to the Governor and the LCB which details our accomplishments and that we feel we have fulfilled our mandate (SB 2) and that we propose to disband our committee. We would ask for a response prior to our next meeting. The motion was seconded by Stuart and approved. Lesley will write the letter and get approval via email prior to sending it.

Public Comment: None.

Agenda and Date of Next Meeting: We set Monday, October 10, 2011 from 2 to 4 pm. We will stay at the present location but need to check room availability. We will invite someone from SAPTA, the AG's Committee and Cheryl Murphy of Hope of Nevada to speak. We are looking for opportunities to share our expertise with these agencies.

Larry announced that on November 14 the Gang Task Force on Co-Occurring Disorders will meet at the Fitzgerald and 3 CEU's will be available.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley R. Dickson, MD