

Chair: OPEN Vice-Chair: DAVID SONNER,
DPS CAPTAIN

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

## Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 1:00pm.

**Attendance:** Larry Ashley, Richard Baldo, Elena Brady, Kirby Burgess, Harold Cook, Lesley Dickson, Mel Pohl, David Sonner, An-Pyng Sun, Donna Wilburn

Opening Remarks: David Sonner: Vice-Chair. Captain Sonner expressed his sadness regarding the loss of Rosetta Johnson and our loss of a champion. He described the need for new leadership, the challenges and obstacles for the membership, the question of where to go now, the need for funding for our activities as SB 2 had no funding attached to it although we did obtain a small amount from SAPTA. We will need to file another report January of 2011 and will need to decide what we will do in the next 16 months. We will need new members to fill vacancies and a new Chair to replace Rosetta. Captain Sonner expressed his thoughts that the Committee needs leadership from those in the clinical settings and he said he doesn't feel he is the appropriate person. He described a need to honor Rosetta and her work and thanked the Committee members for their past work.

**Legislative Update** was given by Dr. Harold Cook who described the passage of SB 79 which has directed the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services to do much the same as our Committee in looking at the problems and needs of those with Co-OD's. Streamlining and consolidation of various boards was also part of SB 79. Two bills, AB 187 and SB 398, were attempts to coordinate care with DOC and MHDS but mostly did not make it out of committee due to being unfundable. Budget bills have led to much struggle in continuing to function. Outpatient commitment bill also did not pass.

Larry Ashley asked about working with the Commission and Dr. Cook suggested working with Kevin Quint, the Chair. Dr. Cook also suggested working with the Substance Abuse Advisory Committee which is working on the integration of services and we might want to include them. Dr. Cook will have us put on the agenda of the Commission's meeting on Sept. 18. Captain Sonner made a motion that we approach the Commission to be placed on the agenda, Larry Ashley seconded. Elena Brady commented on the accomplishments of the Committee which should be communicated to the Commission. Richard Baldo suggested we decide on our strengths that will help us move forward. The motion was passed. Dr. Pohl asked about whom to contact about the Substance Abuse Advisory Committee and it was suggested we contact Frank Parenti of that Committee. Motion was made, seconded and passed. Elena asked that we keep minutes of our Committee. David Sonner pointed out we don't have funds for such. Dr. Pohl pointed our bill was a good summary of our meetings and activities and Dr. Cook pointed out the same is true of our Report.

Dr. Dickson added that the bill for a program for pathological gambling was passed with our support. Lesley Dickson will go to the Commission meeting and will contact Kevin Quint. Larry Ashley will contact Frank Parenti. Harold pointed out that some outside discussions may violate the open meeting law.

**Election of Officers**: Larry Ashley nominated Lesley for Chair and An-Pyng seconded it. An-Pyng nominated David for Vice-Chair but David declined. Elena then nominated Larry and Donna seconded. David made a motion for the above nominations to be approved and both were elected.

Committee Vacancies: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consumer, Member of the Nevada Mental Health Planning Advisory Council, Hospital Administrator and the Judge. Kirby described that his position at WestCare had changed and he wondered if he still has time to continue. Elena wondered if we should go ahead as we may integrate with another committee and then Larry expressed that we should move ahead as an organization and tell potential members to apply. Richard volunteered to organize the search. Harold described the usual situation where the Governor's office asks the various licensing boards to suggest three potential candidates. He offered to send a letter to the Social Work Board and suggested that Bill Welch of the Hospital Association be contacted for the Administrator position and he would contact the NMHPAC. Larry moved that Richard take the lead, Elena seconded and it was approved.

**Committee Role and Future Plan:** Dave asked Harold to speak on potential funding who first spoke on the need to abide by the open meeting law, NRS 241. He said he can provide funding for a staff person to prepare and post agendas, take and type minutes, maintain records, about a \$1000 a year.

Larry said we are laying the groundwork for the future by meeting with other agencies. Lesley asked to clarify how we would integrate with the Commission and Harold said that sub-committees of the Commission must consist of members of the Commission so we would work with them and not become part of the Commission. Mel asked for clarification for the timing of our existence and it was clarified that we do not sunset although terms are limited. Mel then suggested that we look at our report as a starting point for the future. An asked Harold his opinion about how to do this and he reiterated that recommendations that cost money are unlikely to succeed. Mel suggested we make a list of priorities that are cost neutral. Lesley suggested we look at what can be done legislatively and that SB 260 had a lot of cost-neutral ideas. Mel made a motion to that effect which was approved. Lesley said we do need a time-line that is realistic.

**Honoring Rosetta:** Larry suggested honoring Rosetta by naming a piece of legislation after Rosetta. Kirby suggested an annual award in Rosetta's name. Mel asked about a Governor's proclamation. Harold described the procedure for a proclamation and he said we write it, the he gets it in the correct form and then submits it. It takes 4 to 8 weeks. Elena supported all the suggestions. Larry made a motion that we look at doing all three since they have different time courses, Elena seconded and Kirby suggested the proclamation be done by next meeting. The motion was passed. Lesley described a donation that was suggested by An and that perhaps an annual award should have funds associated with it. Elena suggested contacting Rosetta's husband about her non-profit foundation and said she would contact him.

**Public Comment:** None was offered. Mel did ask Harold about the open meeting law as applied to our Committee. He said we had not done anything but other Boards and Committees had. Issues involve outside conversations, sub-committees that take action, etc.

**Set Agenda and Date(s) of Next Meeting(s):** Donna suggested we meet after the next Commission meeting and Harold clarified we need to have a minimum of 4 meetings a year and there is no maximum. We tentative set the next meeting as the third Tuesday of October, the 13th, 1-3pm.

Mel announced the Recovery conference coming up at which three of our members will be speaking, Sept. 18-19.

Adjournment: After acknowledging David's work as Vice-Chair, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Dickson, MD