Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority

Region V OBH Regional Office

3505 5th Avenue, Suite B

Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607

November 20, 2012, 5:30-7:00pm

Meeting Notes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chris Stewart called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Board members present.

* + Clarence “Chris” Stewart, appointed by Governor Jindal
	+ Mrs. Sandy Gay, appointed by Calcasieu Parish
	+ Mrs. Patti Farris, appointed by Beauregard Parish
	+ Mr. Shawn Sabelhaus, appointed by Governor Jindal

Absent:

* + Mr. Doug Hebert, Jr., appointed by Allen Parish.
	+ Mrs. Susan Dupont, appointed by Cameron Parish
	+ Mr. David Palay, appointed by Governor Jindal
	+ Ms. Christina Mehal, appointed by Jefferson Davis Parish

Executive Staff Present

Mrs. Tanya McGee, Executive Director

Department of Health and Hospitals Liaison

Mr. Russell Semon, OBH (via videoconference)

Guests – See attached list

Since there was no quorum for the meeting, the Board was unable to conduct business but continued discussion regarding recent press releases and community meeting participation.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of minutes was tabled until a meeting with a quorum.

1. BOARD MEMBER REPORT ON GATHERING DATA

Sandy Gay reported that she has visited with three families with autistic children and one person who has been clinically depressed and uses the services of Behavioral Health. A copy of the notes from those interviews is attached to the minutes.

Doug Hebert plans to meet with the Allen Parish Health and Resource Coalition in January.

Susan Dupont plans to meet with the Cameron Parish Police Jury in December.

Patti Farris and Tanya McGee plan to meet with the Beauregard Parish Police Jury in December where one item on the agenda will be to reappoint Patti to the Board. They also plan to meet with the Rotary Club in DeRidder in January.

Over the next two months there will be a meeting of the advisory board of the Office of Behavioral Health January 9, 2013, (Doug Hebert, David Palay, Sandy Gay, Shawn Sabelhaus) and the Mayor’s Commission January 17, 2013 (Doug Hebert, Sandy Gay, David Palay).

The Region V Office of Behavioral Health hold a public forum in early Spring and the Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities will hold a form in April.

1. PROGRESS REPORT ON PRESS RELEASES

Chris Stewart began the discussion by affirming the awesome job Tanya McGee and David Palay did on the interview that was in the “American Press” on the first page. Gordon Propst also brought a copy of the “American Press” dated today with an editorial affirming the work of the district.

Tanya McGee reported that she had sent the article to every paper in the five parish area, all radio stations and TV stations as well as the newspapers found in grocery stores. She did not hear anything so she followed up with telephone calls which prompted the interview with the “American Press.” The interviewer was Eric Cormier. That article stirred up interest in the other papers. The article is now being published in the paper in Jennings, the “Cameron Pilot,” the “Welsh Citizen” and the paper in Dequincy. There was a short report on KPLC TV. Will plan closer to July 1 transition a live interview with KPLC.

Patti Ferris reported that in Beauregard Parish the teachers are spread out over the parish but at the beginning of the year they come together for a meeting and this would be a good time for a speaker about the services available for young people.

1. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tanya McGee reported that David Palay had requested more information about what was included in the $4.8 million in “other charges” in the budget of the Office of Behavioral Health.

As Tanya reported at the October meeting, that budget line item consists of funds for behavioral health contract providers. For the Office of Behavioral Health, services are either provided directly by the staff or by contacted professional staff in the clinics of Behavioral Health, or contracted through provide providers in the community. While the tracking of contract expenditures is an operational responsibility of the Executive Director, Tanya believes that the Board members would benefit from an orientation to the types of services provided through these Behavioral Health contracts. She present a breakdown of the current OBH social and contracted services for Mental Health and Substance Abuse services which range from housing programs, crisis intervention services, inpatient substance abuse services, comprehensive support programs, medication assistance programs, psychiatry time, etc. The $4.3 million for social service programs plus the $500 thousand in telemedicine (psychiatry via video) is the $4.8 million in “other charges” within the OBH budget.

Also included on the spreadsheet is the $7.2 million in other services provided through the Louisiana Clinical Services (LCS) program at the state level. While the dollars are not in the OBH budget, the services are for people in our region.

Tanya reported that there is a huge budget crisis in the state. The offices have been told that there is a target reduction beginning in July of $80 million. She asked that board members contact their local legislators regarding this issue. In the past, cuts have been in administrative areas, but these cuts will affect services.

1. POLICY TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER ACCORDING MANUAL

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| 1. Discuss Holiday Social
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| 1. Communication & Support
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| 1. Monitoring Of Executive Director
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Because there was no quorum, the discussion of the holiday social was assigned to Doug Hebert and the other two items were tabled until there is a quorum.

1. OTHER BUSINESS

Sandy Gay reported that she had received a letter from the Office of the Commissioner, Paul Rainwater, notifying the Board that certain information has to be posted on line and giving the information needed to get on line. She checked with the Administrative Office which affirmed that she was already registered with the Commission and thought that was the end of the story. She then received a call from the auditor of these web pages notifying her that the page for this Board was not yet complete and had to be completed by the 20th of November in order that the Board be responsive to this mandate. Tanya McGee, Rusty Semon and Sandy Gay were able to get the board up to date.

Part of this requirement is the posting of the minutes and the posting of notice of meetings. Rusty had already posted most of the minutes but during this panic to be “responsive,” Sandy Gay learned how to make the posts and will be responsible in the future for maintaining this web page.

1. NEW BUSINESS

None

1. NEXT MEETING

December 18th next meeting

1. The question of the holiday social will be handled by email.
2. The polices scheduled for November will be on the agenda for December
3. Progress reports from Board members regarding gathering data.
4. Progress report from Executive Director.

1. ADJOURN

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

SANDY GAY

From the time of the last meeting, I have visited with the following

1. A man in his 30s who has one son who has been diagnosed with Asperger’s. He expressed his frustration at getting the help needed for his son especially through the school system. He feels that he has to fight for everything needed for his son.
2. A woman who is in her late 20s whose daughter was recently diagnosed with Asperger’s. In the process of the testing she learned that she and her husband both have the syndrome. Her main problem at this point is that her personal insurance does not cover assistance for her daughter who is getting worse. The only alternative she could see was to hold a money maker, which would not be a long term solution. I contacted Christi Papania-Jones who referred me to St. Nicholas Center and the McNeese Autism Program. I also contacted Tanya who contacted OCDD. The family is registered in the early steps program and Sandy referred them to OCDD for any further references.
3. The most serious situation is a friend of mine who has two and maybe three children diagnosed with Asperger’s. They have had to pay out of pocket for the services needed for the oldest. The middle son is in real need of further assistance but now they have insurance and the out of pocket co-pay is beyond their means. They have had to fight for everything and seem to fall between the cracks of any assistance.
4. The fourth person is an adult in her 50s diagnosed with deep depression. Seven or so years ago she checked herself into the hospital and then was referred to the proper agencies for assistance. She reported what we all know that access was a problem – but once in the system she can work the system. The biggest problem is that no one person monitors every issue that she is dealing with – she finds out on her own services that can be of benefit. She would love to have a kind of “case manager” that could help her look at the whole picture.

