NAMI SCC Board Minutes

Monday, December 5th, 2016

Total in attendance: 11

**Board Members:** Carol Williamson, President; Melissa Watrous, Vice President; Hugh McCormick; Pam Gleitsman; Tina Landino; Betsy Clark  
Absent: Rama Khalsa  
**Advisory Members:** Nancy Sherrod  
Absent: Jim Williamson; Lynda Kaufmann

**Guests:** Mary Gaukel; Les Forester

Others: Sheryl Lee, Program Director; Suzanne Williams, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

1) Review of last month’s minutes – slight modifications –added “Deputy” rather than Vice Chief Rick Martinez, modified statement about response to NAMI SCC letter

Motion by Pam to approve minutes as modified, seconded by Hugh, motion approved.

2) General Comments. Items added to the agenda.

3) Advocacy for community. Police shooting of Sean Art. Upcoming meeting with two City Council members and City Manager. Sheriff’s shooting of Luke Smith.

Report by Betsy & Carol:

What is the role of NAMI SCC? How will police and council assure us that this won’t happen again? What can we expect? Three months is too long to wait for a review of Sean’s death. Carol viewed the video of Luke’s incident. He was cornered, then the dog was released, Luke regained possession of the knife (perhaps to defend himself against the dog). The goal was to remove the knife. The dog was not used properly. Luke was tassered four times.

There were possible mental health issues along with drug use. There needs to be more education for parents and schools about drug use, LSD especially.

Pam interjected that we have heard how the Sherriff’s office has done better at de-escalation in the past. The officers were so focused on the knife. They appeared to follow protocol in the beginning but perhaps someone who loved the dog reacted inappropriately. It appears an individual reacted rather than responded to an instruction ordered. There were 11 officers close to the scene and a total of 40 officers responding!

Why don’t we have Sean’s video? Luke’s family requested that his video not be released but it was released in an effort to show transparency.

Mental health services have not been heard from.

Why wasn’t Sean kept on a mental health hold? Why was he released?

There is a huge need for consistency and communication.

Melissa brought up the point of view of the officers.

Sheryl wanted to know why wasn’t Sean held, talked about AB1424 and involuntary treatment.

Suzanne mentioned The Arbinger Institute’s book “The Outward Mindset – seeing beyond ourselves” and the importance of seeing the person as a person rather than an object. The police need to put themselves in the victim’s shoes and respond with understanding and compassion.

Everyone is welcome to attend the upcoming meeting with the City Council members and the City Manager Jan 12 at 3:00 at City Council Conference Rm.

James Russell is the mental health liason that rides along with the sheriffs. Danielle goes along with SC Police.

Our county leans toward early release of individuals.

It is likely that Chief Vogel will be retiring. The City Manager has indicated they would like NAMI’s involvement in the recruitment of a new police chief.

Chief Vogel’s comments included: “we are really well trained” and “mental health is not a police duty”.

We need to educate the city council. We need to let them know who NAMI is and the services we provide. Do we have another department to handle mental health issues and crisis? No! Thus the police need to learn how to have successful interactions with

What do we want from the City Council? Perhaps a letter from the mayor speaking out on KSBW. No one wants to call 911. They fear what will happen.

NAMI’s role is to keep the urgency going on the investigation, etc. We need to continue to stir the pot. Question arose as to whether we should support the protests at the town clock? We need to investigate their intentions and determine if it’s appropriate for us to participate.

4) Discussion of Michael Fitzgerald’s talk at the speaker meeting. You can view it at:

<http://www.namiscc.org/materials.html>

5) Insufficient PHF follow up.

According to Jorge, there are 9000 in the county with serious mental illness and only 4100 in the county system! (per Pam G. she researched and approx. 5400 with serious mental illness are treated) Regardless, the numbers indicate an extreme lack of services.

The problems include:

1. Many patients are released too early.
2. Criteria for admission is too high.
3. There is limited linkage to services after clients are released – there is insufficient follow up.
4. Not enough beds

There are limited outpatient services for patients with insurance. Coastal Turning Point near Trader Joes downtown is the only one. 60% of those in crisis intervention are released because they don’t meet the criteria to be held!

There is no bird’s eye view!

There is not enough space – the unit is so small

66% of youth that present symptoms/of 24 youth only 15 are admitted

Most have never hear of a county that doesn’t have follow up home visits!

Whose job is it to follow up? Hospital? County Mental Health?

Mary Gunkle reported on the State of the Region – a group of about 300 people who have formed a Monterey Bay Area Partnership to improve the quality of life in our area!

6) Discussion of our next steps for advocacy. Define priorities, processes. Meeting Wednesday with Erik at County Mental Health.

Plan to talk about crisis type of services. If a patient is released from the hospital to a residential treatment facility there is follow up. If a patient is released to home there is no follow up. We need more places like El dorado to offer services.

7) Speaker Meeting January 18. Possible presentation by Erik Riera and Pam Rogers-Weiman on mental health services and criminal justice needs.

Update/Timeline of Strategic Plan. Integrate plan & hold them accountable. Behavioral Health website.

8) Update on County-wide CIT Trainings: Feb 18, March, April, May - 120 participants from all areas of law enforcement.

Sheriff Hart – “We are only as good as our latest recruit!”

Most helpful is the NAMI piece

Watch people tell their truth

“I can think differently” – a lot of potential to be gained by these trainings!

The “Memphis Model” is 40 hrs. At one time our county did this. Now we only offer 6 hrs for new recruits.

New Ideas – Class for incoming police officers

9) Update on Training for NAMI Speakers for CIT training. (25 signed up so far)

Email to all regarding Sign Up Genius – anyone who has volunteered for us.

Meeting at Capitola office at 7p for conference call with trainers from LA.

10) Holiday Party MHCAN/NAMI – December 10th.

Planning is going well.

11) Update on recruitment for bilingual and youth program coordinator.

Pass the word. So far not going so well. Les will contact Monterey interns.

12) Finance Report and opportunity for CORE grant from city/county. HSD’s website.

13) Innovative Project – expand grant - $500,000 – need input by December 15th

Freeing up space in board & care

NAMI to include supportive housing, peer support, occupational therapy & nurse

TAY group – example referrals from TAY group

TAY group has a hard time

Betsy to draft a letter

MHSA – Innovative Project

14) MHFA Training – Mental Health First Aide – Basic Training

See “TED Talk” – look it up

8 hr training – we need to determine how to best intervene

Can split into 2 – 4 hr sessions

20-35 school personnel – Feb/March

No charge for trainer/Don’t need to pay their hotel costs

How do you get continuing ed credits (CEUS)

Perhaps we should consider doing in August – How valuable is the training?

Recruit SROs (School Resource Officers)

15) Update on facilitator training. There are no trainings planned by NAMI CA. There is a new training format available for volunteers to be mentored by trained facilitators, which serves as temporary training.

16) Request for Board Member to help with phone calling to thank big donors. Nancy, Sheryl, Carol. Next two weeks (3-5 donors each). So far approx. $3200 in honor of Ken.

Meeting Adjourned 7:55pm.