



## COUNTY OF SAN MATEO MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY COMMISSION

**Unadopted Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**  
**225 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 100**  
**San Mateo**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Judy Schutzman, Josephine Thompson, Carol Marble, Patrisha Ragins, Patricia Way, Eric Wollman, Betty Savin, Kelly Liang

**STAFF:** Randy Torrijos, Steve Kaplan, Chantae Rochester, Doris Estremara, Jei Africa, Jiara Wilches, Liz Downard, Sylvia Leung, Diane Dworkin, Kristal Powers

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Edmund Bridges, Wanda Thompson, Rocio Cornejo, Debra Yamaguchi, Rodney Roddweig

**OTHERS PRESENT (signed in):** Lisa Bigley, Beth Avina, Louise Orellana, Patty Duran, Ian Adamomson, Melissa Greenfield, Pat Miller, Bill Kerns, Mark Wang, Doris Brown, Suzan Rose, Penny Coyote, Karen Gianuario, Aisha Williams, Patrick Gardner, Lee Harrison, Barbara Sharkey, Carolyn Jaramillo, Carmen Lee, Marilyn Pearson, Chip Huggins, Robert Dei Rossi, Jonathan Cantu, Deborah Barrow, Christie Fisher, Jan Allen, Laura Martinez, Michael Lim, Veronica Lopez, Eduardo Tirado, Ayanna Haysbert-Wright, Bruce Adams, Annette Sulpizio, Joshua Hugg, Diana Casey, Dorothy Christian, Marlene Ford

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

### **APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA**

► **M/S/C** Thompson/Ragins

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2016 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Recovery Commission Meeting:

► **M/S/C** Ragins/Marble

Approval of minutes from the January 19, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting

► **M/S/C** Ragins/Marble

### **Correspondence, Announcements, and Public Comment**

No Public Comment at this time.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **A. Committee for Older Adults**

**Judy Schutzman reported**

1. Minutes attached.
2. Next meeting will be held on March 2, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

#### **B. Committee for Adults**

**Josephine Thompson reported**

1. Minutes attached.
2. Next meeting will be held on March 16, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.  
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 209, San Mateo

#### **C. Committee for Children & Youth**

**Reported by Betty Savin**

1. Minutes attached
2. Next meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.  
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, conference room 201, San Mateo

### **YOUTH COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Reported by Kelly Liang

The Annual Youth Conference will be held March 9, 2016 at the College of San Mateo. The Youth Commission is looking to raise \$10,000.

### **MHSA UPDATE**

Reported by Doris Estremara

I will be back next month to present the MHSA Innovations Project and to open for public comment. We hired a new Chinese Community Outreach Worker, Phillip

### **PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

Housing Forum

The purpose today is to find out from our clients and interested parties what the situation is in terms of housing for our clients (how expensive, how difficult, what the obstacles are to finding affordable housing in San Mateo County). The second part will be next month which will include information from providers of services about what housing is available. We are very interested in this topic, as you know housing for everyone is very costly and especially for those who are low income and on fixed incomes.

If you would like to submit your comments in writing or know someone who would like to, you can submit your testimony to Chantae Rochester at [crochester@smcgov.org](mailto:crochester@smcgov.org). After the two sessions are completed our intention is to compile the results and present them in a report to the Board of Supervisors to share our clients perspective on the housing situation in the county.

One of the reasons we wanted to hold this specific hearing is the Board of Supervisors has made housing a priority and more specifically they've made what they refer to as housing our clients a priority. That means people who are involved in county services, how housing affects them. One of the things we are particularly interested in is we want to be able to communicate to the board how this housing situation is affecting families and individuals ability to maintain good mental health and wellbeing, and recovery from substance use issues.

### **Helena**

I am a wife to an amazing man and mother to two beautiful girls'; I am grateful to be given such a golden opportunity and a couple of minutes of your time to share my story. I have dealt firsthand with depression, after three months of being born my mother committed suicide and left 6 girls and my father behind. Being the baby I was given to my uncle and his wife, they had no children. The wife did not like the idea so she left my uncle and I behind. A cousin of mine came into the picture to care for me while my uncle worked. She was diagnosed with Bi-polar, when my uncle would leave for work I was abused. I was a victim of abuse for sixteen years. I always knew how to survive but I didn't know how to take care of myself. I didn't know when the right time to speak up was or where to go for help until I met my husband. He invested his time in making sure I prioritized my wellbeing. I dealt with postpartum depression and I've also been diagnosed with PTSD. I have accessed and used services from our county and meet with them on a weekly basis. My family and I have been homeless for four months. Our apartment/studio rent was raised from \$850 to \$2100 a month. Our lease changed with added new deposits of first and last month's rent totaling \$5,700.00. We had an option of living out of our broken van or a shelter; we got the assistance of Life Move Shelter. We are at the end of the time frame that they give; we have two more weeks to be asked to leave since we didn't find anything within the income range that my husband brings home. My youngest daughter is under medical care, for under- weight and failure to thrive, there is so much stress. She has numerous medical appointments and needs constant attention for her eating and feeding schedule, I have been appointed that specific responsibility.

We've accessed every door there is to help us but that one door, housing, which is the only door we need to help in my recovery. Brothers and Sisters, I have a dream and that dream is deeply rooted in the American dream. I want to be able to share that one of the greatest people you could have in your county has mental illness and some are the smartest and most hard working people and sometimes it takes our own people to help each other. I love each and every one of you and just want to encourage those who are going through hard times that there's hope.

### **Veronica Lopez and Julie**

I'm a case worker with Mateo Lodge. This is my client Julie, she was recently evicted from a place that she's been living in for 15 years. She has a section 8 voucher and she was forced to leave due to renovations that will be done to her apartment. Julie has been a good tenant, because of the challenges that she faces sometimes it's hard for her to leave the house. She has been uprooted from her home and she's stayed in several hotels. She's been a total trooper but I can tell that it's been hard on her. A person who finds comfort in her own home (her safe place) and now she has no safe place to go to now. She's a wonderful person and she should be focusing on improving her mental health and for her to have to worry about a warm place to sleep, it breaks my heart.

Julie – Section 8 needs to be equalized to what people are paying for rent now. It should up to \$3,000 because that's what the rents are going for right now. You can't find anything

for \$1,500. I've even looked for rooms and I haven't found a room yet. I'm living in a shelter. Section 8 needs to be changed.

Veronica – I'd also like to add that Julie who worked so hard to get out of the house and to engage in society, she's been pounding the pavement, she's actually been working harder on finding a place than anybody. She goes to all the housing meetings and she's looking on Craig's List. She barely knows how to use a computer but she goes to the library to find out how to use the computer. She's looking in the newspaper and really she should be focusing on making herself better.

I work with Julie and I felt it was important for her to be here to tell her story because it speaks to so many others and what we're facing as clinicians. We go out in the community with the recovery model and we can't make it happen without housing and the support of the Board of Supervisors and the community to make that more of a reality. Without the housing component the both clinicians and clients are impacted. It's nearly impossible to help someone see that hope at the end of the tunnel without the resources being there.

### **Joshua Hug**

I'm a housing advocate and I congratulate the people who have signed up to speak it's a tough task and this is such an important issue that impacts every facet of life in our county. The County is not sitting still on this issue but we have some major structural issues that are affecting us here not the least of which is Silicon Valley. Silicon Valley is still exploding, couple that limited geography and 20 cities and the county itself, it really raises the bar for even a wealthy person to live in this county. There's been a lot of discussion about building, accelerating the construction, but for people in this room and the average renter we are not going to build our way to affordability in this county anytime soon. It will literally take decades. I would encourage the Commission to, once the listening session is done, is to make some recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the primary recommendation should be tenant protections. It is not a silver bullet given some the limitations that can occur but tenant protections are really what's fundamental here. Homeowners have tenant protection; they have a 30 year mortgage, that's rent control. You have prop 13, that's rent control. Renters who comprise almost half the county have none of that and if you have special considerations that you are dealing with it's even harder. People with extremely low incomes really have two strikes against them. I would ask for two things.

- 1) Have the County have a serious discussion around tenant protection
- 2) Section 8 – there are some things that can be done to improve section 8 whether its increasing subsidies or pursuing things on the state level like source of income ordinance. The fact that you have a section 8 voucher shouldn't be an automatic filter for not accepting them.

Last thing, if you would like an additional opportunity to speak, Jackie Speier our local Congress Woman is holding a similar forum. She wants to hear from all renters across the county. The forum will take place on February 22. For more information visit her website.

### **Aisha**

I am a part of Caminar, I live there now. Before that it was really hard for me to find housing, if it weren't for them I would still be on the streets. It was hard for me to find housing because the rates were really out of my price range. I was denied housing in 2011. I was diagnosed with manic bipolar disorder 1. When my mom kicked me out (after

high school) I moved to Modesto because it was the best area for me to stay because it was cheap. Living in San Mateo County is really hard because most of your money goes to your rent and you barely have money to do anything else. It's hard to get family support when they're in the same boat you're in. I have to leave Caminar when I turn 25 so I have been house searching. I came across a person who wanted me to rent from them but I found it was a scam...I almost gave them my money. Minimum wage is only \$10 and your check is less than \$200...that money goes towards your cell phone or something it isn't even enough to work towards your rent.

**Vickie T.**

My son is at Stanford Hospital for his third or fourth time since October. He is in the Edgewood Program with TAY. After 7 months in the Eucalyptus House, he did pretty well other than the fact that they do a lot of drugs there. He did good and earned the right to get an apartment and he was working. He got an apartment in San Bruno which was down the street from us, after about a month there he became delusional. He was hospitalized and let out in a week and then hospitalized again, stable two weeks and then hospitalized again in Fremont. I argued and screamed and fought with those people and they let him out anyway. There is a problem with housing but there's also a problem with the in between. It has been detrimental to my son's recovery because all he thinks about is where he is going to go. Where is he going to go when he gets out of the hospital? My husband and I, we are not therapist and we've tried our best to keep him at home and this last bout was really bad because he's delusional. He can't seem to get the right help. The problem is everyone puts their eggs in one basket and that is Redwood House. Well Redwood House is really picky and if you are anything other than a model mental patient they won't keep you. What is the other place to go, the shelter? I really think there needs to be something in between. I don't know if my son is going to be able to get his apartment back and that is really going to cause him to hit the roof. When we begged them not to put him a shelter because it is not conducive to his recovery and it turned out it really wasn't because he can wander the streets and everyone is doing drugs. It's appalling and shameful that there is no place and I am tired of hearing about Redwood House, it doesn't work. We need some other place so that we have choices where they aren't picky about whom they put in there to a certain extent. We don't know what's going to happen with him, we filed for conservatorship this week, I had to bring him home and convince him to go back to the hospital. He needs someone to check on him constantly if he gets his apartment back and once he turns 25 he will be kicked out of there.

**Barbara S.**

I wanted to talk about how the lack of affordable stable housing has affected my well-being, mental health, and recovery. I was a single mom for 18 years I have no history of substance abuse. I've rented for 45 years. The American dream worked for my mom and the American dream worked for my sister, she had two incomes and was able to qualify for a home loan in the 70's and her house payment was \$150 a month and she's lived in the same house for 30 years. I'm estranged from this family because they have determined that I'm not just disabled I'm useless. I get social but they do not recognize my disabilities. In the 25 years since I've become a low income disabled senior citizen I never received my workers compensation of \$6500. I was denied social security disability by our government for 18 months until I was homeless. And I was denied my union disability benefit. I lost everything I worked for on this work injury when I was 36 years old. My pension is \$182 a month. I became penniless and homeless and isolated and I have tried unsuccessfully for years at my own expense to train for a new career before becoming homeless. I finally got section 8 vouchered after my only child died, then I received retro-active disability

payments, not on the basis of my physical disabilities but because of major depression. I have become chronically victimized by unscrupulous landlords. I've endured years with no heat, black mold, and currently for the last 5 years I have endured buildings and neighborhoods that are roach infested. Due to years of homeless and inadequate housing and chronic stress my health has drastically declined. I was also the defendant in an eviction trial. I believe I am the only person in San Mateo County to win two eviction trials...I got nothing for it being independent. Rental is based on supply and demand, economist say for every high income you need four wage workers, low wage workers, are needed to service their needs. America is vastly becoming a third world country with no middle class. I read that in San Mateo County there are only 43,000 housing vouchers currently being used no one will take them. A minority disabled Caucasian senior collecting \$1100 a month in social security on section 8 is at the bottom level of the poverty. We are displaced. Where do senior disabled citizens go so they have a better way of life? I think this country has failed us. I think it is the duty of this country to provide citizens with the means for food and shelter. It is the moral obligation of the United States Federal Government, the State of California and the County of San Mateo to provide safe, adequate, affordable housing.

### **Michael McHenry**

I'm a consumer of services in San Mateo County. About 3 years ago I made a stupid decision that cost me my freedom for a while. I decided at that point that I wanted to change my life. I decided to get sober. During that journey I banged my head a couple of times but I was fortunate to find some really good help and some really good people along the way. When I ended my residential treatment program there was a transitional house at that time (which no longer exist) which allowed me to stay there another 6 months. At that point I had moved on from putting my life back together to now you are homeless on the street with no tools or resources and no avenues for an approach to better your life. I was living in a 2 million dollar house with a raging drug addiction and now I try to better myself and I get sober and I'm on the street. Unfortunately I've stayed in every shelter in this county. To be in recovery and have to lay next to people with live drug addiction, overdosing on heroin, I'm going through withdrawals vomiting all over the place. This is not a safe environment for people to recover and better their lives. I'm also disabled but through a lot of love and caring people with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in particular I received a housing voucher. I'm still homeless; I've been living in a shelter for year, how am I supposed to come up with a deposit? I save have of my GA for a year to get a security deposit then it took another year of being in a shelter to find a place that would take my housing voucher. You may have noticed in the news lately, where I have been living for the past four months has now been condemned. At this point I am living hand to mouth and I am barely hanging on. I'm physically disabled, my doctors didn't want me working but we reached an agreement where I am allowed to work 20 hours per week. My mental and physical health in the past two years has been brutal. What I do part time, people come to me for support to find out what they should do to stay sober and succeed and I try to use my life experience...it is very difficult to try to explain to them that this is worth fighting so hard to get so little in the end. I was raised in this county and there is so much love here that it's sickening and the fact is that is not shared around. Bottom line is that if you have mental health issues and/or recovery issues you should have an option other than a shelter; it is not a healthy or safe environment.

### **Sniper, Florence**

I come to you from the job perspective from Daly City Partnership. I oversee a program called Community Action Response Team and we work with Child Protective Services. Housing has remained the most challenging way of assisting our families. Patterns that we've noticed is that the tough issues that our families face is intimate partner violence and we are seeing more and more of that and individuals are feeling unable to leave abusive relationships because they have nowhere to go, or they are sharing housing with multiple families and their children are being victimized. The purpose of differential response is to provide stabilization and resources to keep further Child Protective Service reports from being generated and unfortunately we have been having difficulty being able to do so because housing simply is not available. The impact around mental health and further impact on victimization is the consequence of our current housing crisis.

### **Bill Kerns**

I'm Bill Kerns I'm on the Board of Directors for NAMI San Mateo. Steve Kaplan you specifically asked a question regarding the health and welfare of our clients. Part of the problem that we've seen is that the stress of housing is a key thing in regards to their mental health. I am very alarmed at the amount of commercial vacant properties in the county. With the number of mentally ill people in this county there are other means that the county can pursue (through eminent domain). I don't think we need more stores or apartment building especially in light of our drought, it seems that as the wealth in the county increases the mentally ill or the people with low income are being pushed out. The added cost for these people on the streets (law enforcement) there has to be a trade off somewhere where if we get them into stable housing, it might trade off on law enforcement costs.

### **Carol Greenwood**

I had a lifestyle, I lived in apartments and I shared them with partners. I was an adult education teacher and I worked with people in retirement homes. I now live in a board and care with people who have a lot of serious psychiatric problems. Many have left because we wanted them gone and I've looked an apartment or two but I am caught between two worlds. I have a boyfriend and I've known him for over 20 years and he is thinking of moving to Sacramento to be closer to his mother in Folsom. I may be going too but my ship has sunk in between. Caminar was trying to give me an apartment but I would have to live in the living room and I wouldn't be able to afford anything after the rent. I'm just waiting to see what happens...I'm okay.

### **Paulette Brussell**

I am a member of Caminar. The kind of housing I've assessed in the county are halfway houses and being able to rent a room through the housing authority. They meet my needs because they've given me independence and allow me to take care of myself and I have a stable place to live which then allows me to work on my independent living skills in the community. What do I think about housing resources in the County? There aren't enough housing resources in this county. I think there should be more housing in the mental health community because stable housing helps you manage your symptoms and to interact more in society. Without stable housing many clients end up on the streets or in the hospital because they can't take care of themselves. Many clients are having trouble finding housing due to high rent. I go to Caminar and I see homeless people all the time usually they are 20-30 years old; they're kids. I pray that people can see some of this and give a little bit so that there is more housing for us.

## **Ayanna Haysbert**

My story began in 2013. I have two children and my landlord had hidden the fact that he had filed bankruptcy. I was fortunate to have housing which I maintained for 8 years but we were all of sudden thrown out on the street. From that point on we were homeless and my mental health trying to find housing at the height of the housing crisis, I couldn't help but fall into a depression and have anxiety and stress. I started a new job that was minimum work to maintain myself but it was low income. My housing voucher was taken from me. I found a place that was affordable but because of the housing rules and because of the rental amount that they wanted us to be under they denied me and that caused me to lose my voucher. From that point it was downhill. I stayed couch to couch. Finally I was kicked out from that couch and had to take my children to a shelter. That was the lowest point of my life. I had a sick child and I have a child with ADHD. The constant moving was unstable for my children. My son's grades dropped and my ability to support him declined. I finally got out of the shelter system and was able to maintain a house in May of 2015. Even though I was able to get housing through HIP Housing, it's only for a year. This coming May we will be homeless again. I've done the lived experience academy which helped me get over the stigma of mental illness which allowed me to get the help and services that I needed. I'm going to my groups and I'm doing my part of the package but it's still the mental strain and the stress and the depression that follows you when you cannot provide for your children. I'm their provider, I'm their source of stability and there is none. I am separated from my oldest son because of school. I can't have him separated from his school or take him out of what was stable for him so he has to live with my father. I'm approaching the same dilemma with my second child because he's entering into the school system but we don't know where we are going to be. There's no stability for my children or me. It's a no end situation. We were all flourishing when we had stable housing. Housing is very important to your wellbeing. I still have boxes in my house because I know that I will have to move again.

## **Candice Ali**

I had a stroke in June of 2013 and so I went from working fulltime making what I thought was a comfortable living to having nothing. Housing is critical it is the most important thing. If you don't have housing you have nothing but stress. You can't plan. I went to the Department of Rehabilitation and I was ultimately able to get a job through VRS, I work for the County but I can only work 15 hours a week. I get paid \$9 an hour and because of that 15 hours a week \$9 an hour job I lost my food stamps. You can't comprehend how doing the right thing, helping yourself to recover and move on can cause you to lose food stamps. So that's \$200 a month that is gone away. You don't know what to do or where to turn. You don't know how to survive. I use to work as a nanny, I made good money, but I couldn't be nanny now. I'm so grateful that I got my job because after the stroke I felt like I didn't have anything to offer. You feel like you're not good anymore. My job helps to feel like I'm giving back. Like I'm doing something that's important and that I'm helpful to others. So I am grateful for my job. You're almost placed in a position where you think, should I have this job where I have to spend gas for the car? You worry about everything. Am I going to have enough money to register the car? Am I going to have enough money to pay for new tires or brakes? And you're not allowed to save anything. You're not in a position where you can put money away for something that might come up. It's constant frustration. It's a constant puzzle that you can't put together because you don't have all the pieces and you don't know how the puzzle is supposed to look in the end. It's just impossible.



### **Helene Zimmerman**

I'm the Executive Director of NAMI San Mateo County. It's my pleasure to see everyone here this afternoon. I wanted to speak because many of you know that NAMI operates a warm line. Last year we received over a 1000 calls. This year, unfortunately, I'm sure the number will increase. A large number of those calls are from individuals and family members who are asking about housing. Where can my loved one live? That is one of the most difficult things I can respond to because I don't have an answer for them and the County needs to help.

### **Carmen Lee**

When SSI came about in 1977 it had good purpose but it needs to change. You have to be able to save money and get food stamps when you try to earn a living. It just really penalizes you from moving forward. I'm very blessed, I've had a section 8 for many years but there is the possibility of being evicted because the landlord saw the dollar signs from surrounding apartments. I've moved 47 times myself since I was a young woman. That was me with no movers. I threw everything away on 10 occasions. When you're moving it's like having your soul in a box. I'm hoping rent control on some level will come into San Mateo County.

### **Louise**

I'm a recovering addict. I have a husband and three kids but when I was using I didn't care about anyone but myself. When I finally got the chance to recover I went to a house and I recovered. My mind started coming back to me and I realized how selfish I was. We moved into San Mateo and our rent was \$1900. Now that my mind is clean I decided that I wanted to get a job so that I can help with my family. Four years ago our rent started going up, it is now \$3500 a month. I wanted to contribute so I went to look for a job. I kept hearing no because I have a felony on my record. I went to the WRAP group through Voices of Recovery and I found a new way to go. I knew that's what I wanted to do and I got my certificate and now I am working for Voices of Recovery. But as to the rent, we need some kind of rent control because they are raising our rent \$350 every year. I get this job and feel like I can help my family, here comes along healthcare. Our healthcare goes from \$346 to \$1025 just for two of us. We are paying \$3500 for rent plus \$1025 healthcare; we can't win.

### **Liz Downard.**

I have been a Mental Health Nurse with BHRS for almost 16 years. We have helped many people get into housing, when it was a lot easier. And now I feel like sometimes I don't even know if it's worth trying. That's how bad it has gotten but we still try and every now and then we are successful. I wanted to talk about another area where we are losing rooms and affordable hotels all along the Peninsula. We use to have affordable hotels like Sequoia Hotel, and Burlingame hotel. Now the Avalon is closing and there are hotels in Daly City that are also closed. I've worked with many people in this room and we've all helped each other when we had someone who needed a place. But now there isn't anything out there for any of us. If someone isn't a good tenant it's really hard to keep them in an apartment, the hotels were great because they could live in a room on their own and a lot of people could maintain the community and it was only about \$750.00 a month. And now all the hotels are gone and the Sequoia Hotel is no longer taking our clients because I think what's going to happen is they are going to tear it down and rebuild a luxury hotel. My colleague Robert DeiRossi had a great idea, maybe the County could purchase a hotel with a lot of rooms and we could provide case management. It's an idea worth looking into and it would give some flexibility to people who have a hard time

maintaining an apartment and need extra case management but maybe don't need a board and care.

### **Albert**

I'm the Executive Director of Caminar San Mateo I want to piggy back on what Liz was saying. She was talking about hotels and it is news to me that the Avalon is closing that is not good news. That's an issue that needs to be addressed but there's also a partner issue that needs to be addressed and that's a decrease of board and cares. My sense is board and cares are on the decline. Have you tried to run a board and care on what they get paid? It's impossible. Clearly with the decline in board and cares, the decline in hotels, single room occupancy, we have clients who can't make it in an apartment because of their symptoms or if they're in recovery they are struggling with their recovery. We need to have a creative solution to all of these issues and I'm looking to some creative engagement with the County to partner with agencies to maybe do some kind of creative financing so we can look to leverage the wealth that's in this county to create more slots for our clients, be it SRO or in a board and care we need the full suite of options available. It can't just be SRO's and it can't just be the hospitals, it has to be all of the above and then some. I don't want to have a bunch of these meetings to vent we know what the issues are; we need talk about a solution.

### **Liz Downard**

The research shows that when people are in housing they use less (alcohol and drugs) and they don't die on the street. I know other counties and states are doing Housing First. If we could look into the research behind the effectiveness of these programs, we could build our own. I would love to try to figure out that whole process. I think it would be great if we could offer that to one of the richest counties in California. Albert, Ian and I will support this.

Thank you everybody. Next month we are going to have representatives from the Department of Housing and the Housing Authority here. We want to hear from them, we need to figure out how we can partner with them and how we can work together. We have to find ways to bridge this gap. This is a very serious situation, as all of you have testified. To be candid, those of you in this room and BHRS are not going to solve this problem alone. The only way this problem gets solved is if we build coalitions and collaborations and figure out ways to leverage each other's resources in order to improve the situation.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Housing**

After the meeting in March we will compile a report to present to the Board of Supervisors.

### **Crisis Residential Center**

Our Crisis Residential Center, Serenity House, located on the corner of 37<sup>th</sup> and Hacienda is on scheduled. We finished the construction documents. We will begin solicitation for the contractors and permits. We hope to open in October.

### **Cordilleras**

Cordilleras is on schedule, we are currently working on the type of delivery for construction and architectural work. Opening date will be the fall of 2018.

### **Laura's Law**

Terry Wilcox-Rittgers is the manager in charge of Laura's Law and he is in the process of hiring staff to form our teams. We will issue an RFP for the Full Service Partnership slots. Target to date to begin services is July 2016.

**Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next MHSARC Meeting:** March 2, 2016 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Health Services Building  
225 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 100, San Mateo

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.  
225 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, BHRS Conference Room  
San Mateo, or Conference Call

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT CHANTAE ROCHESTER AT 650.573.2544 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER THE MHSARC OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three-day notice. Please call 650.573.2544.