

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

Behavioral Health Administration
 Department of Health, State of Hawaii
 Queen's Medical Center: Conference Center
 May 12, 2009
 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: **Buffenstein, M.D, Alan; Cabatbat, Arthur; Cattaneo, Liesje; Durant, Mike; Hack, Randolph; Hansen, Donna; Kaneaiakala, Alva; Kilion, Ku'ulei; Miyoshi, Sandra; Morelli, Ph.D., Paula; Sandal, Candace; Tsark, Amy; Watters, Maile; Wilcox, Noelani; Young, Carol.**

Members Absent:

Members Excused: **Shiraki, Ph.D., Steven**

Guests Present: **Barrientos, Mauricio; Causey, Carrie; Gonzalez, Peter; Harris, Jonathan (J.T.); Ishi, Akiko; Zaran, Sarah**

Staff Present: **Clarke, Judith; Crockett, Judy; Haitsuka, Stacy; Hill, Michelle; Michels, M.D. Stanton; Nazareno, Jocelyn; Pak, Sandra; Sturgis, Anne.**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DATE DUE
7. Membership to the SCMH	<p>Ms. Kaneaiakala commented that the Council has not decided that the whole Council should preview all of the applicants when there is an existing committee to do this process. Do we have clarification on the membership?</p> <p>Ms. Kilion motioned that the Membership Committee be allowed to do their job and then bring results to the Council. Ms. Kaneaiakala seconded.</p> <p>Ms. Kilion commented on Ms. Wilcox's letter to the Membership Committee and said she finds it very unfriendly and very unfair to the committee. The Membership Committee has been hard at work and in Ms. Wilcox's letter it looks like we haven't been doing any work. There has been several applicants that the committee has looked at and as a Membership Committee what we do is when we receive an application one of us gives the person, first we look at what's on the application, we determine if it's to be looked at, to be discussed because the first step is, is this person applying for the State Council? Such as in the case of the person from Kauai. She is applying for both the State Council and Kauai Service Area Board. So right there, as a Membership Committee we know that a person cannot apply for two positions in the same year. Therefore we send that application back to Judy and Judith and tell them the reasons. Next we</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DATE DUE
	<p>call or interview that person, ask them why they are interested? We also check their references and we also check.....well we talk story with them because if it is a family member of someone, then we want to find out more about their involvement in the mental health system. Is it with the private system? Is it with the state system? There are many steps that we take and I think to bring this to the Council and to have Ms. Wilcox write such a letter to us it was insincere to the Membership Committee. We also know that the Governor has said we would get interim appointments. We are not going to just recommend people because they put in an application. Now we are looking at these applications today, right now, there is no opportunity to interview the person, there's no opportunity for the Council to hear from their references, it's not the way to go about it.</p> <p>Ms. Wilcox - The letter was meant to say what some of the issues have been in terms of the Membership Committee and the ability to have the whole Council membership vote on candidates who are coming on board. To look at a much more structured process than has been occurring. This was not meant to say that people didn't have, you know, were working hard or anything like that. It was to get the Council as a whole to keep in mind what the various constituencies are that need to be represented. Just to make sure what we are talking about; it is the letter dated May 1, 2009 to the Membership Committee. So one of the issues would be to then look at what the applicant information is.</p> <p>Questions to people need be structured and has to have meaning for why people are serving on the Council. Questions such as "Do you know so and so and if you know so and so oh well maybe the impression is given that you shouldn't serve on the Council." These are not legitimate questions. So I want to have us all look at the process more closely.</p> <p>Ms. Hansen – Have two things of concern. (1) The Board is not balanced equally, and (2) Not very comfortable with any Council member whether it would be the Chair or somebody else making decisions and changing rules and not going through the proper channels.</p> <p>Ms. Sandal – we would like the positions filled. Applicants have been hanging on for a long time and it is not fair to keep them waiting, and it's not fair to keep positions open. Something has to be done to make the</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DATE DUE
	<p>application process move speedily. If an applicant is not qualified for the position, a letter should be sent to the applicant explaining the reasons why.</p> <p>Ms. Kilionia restated her motion – That the Membership Committee be allowed to do their work rather than the issue on the table.</p> <p>Ms. Cattaneo asked for clarifications on what does the Membership Committee do?</p> <p>Ms. Kilionia – What happened in the past is, the committee does bring the information to the Council as far as the decision that has been made. If the person can be present that’s wonderful then they can reply to the questions. The main thing the Membership Committee does is seek out people as well as receive membership applications and go through them through the steps that we make as well as checking with them also if they have any criminal back ground and any unpaid taxes, that right there will take them out of the.....so there is a thorough back ground check before we</p> <p>Ms. Kaneaiakala – Because there is one member here that says you are not telling the truth. Justin does all the background checks.</p> <p>Mr. Hack – The Council does not appoint its members, we merely make recommendations to the Governor’s Office of people that the Council favors for membership.</p> <p>Ms. Cattaneo – Does the Membership Committee provide all the names of the applicants and the attendant checking information to the State Council as a whole?</p> <p>Answer: Normally No.</p> <p>Ms. Kilionia – Only the ones who have passed the....like an intake interview and then we present the rest to the Council.</p> <p>Ms. Sandal – What is your intake interview and how do we know if it is fair?</p> <p>Ms. Young asked – What is the timeline that the Membership Committee is</p>			

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DATE DUE
	<p>operating on?</p> <p>Ms. Crockett – The Membership Committee normally should have all their recommendations into the Council by December 31st, so they can then be sent up to the Governor and to the Legislature in a timely manner – that did not happen this year.</p> <p>Ms. Crockett – I would like to make a few clarifications. One of our problems to the Membership Committee is that we need to develop some guidance for the committee members. First of all, they don't do anything other than review the applications and make a recommendation(s) to the Council. The recommendations are included in a memo that we send to the Deputy Director, the Director of Health to the Office of Boards and Commission. The Office of Boards and Commissions do the background checks. We may check references in the Office of Planning but that is the extent of it. The Membership Committee has really never had any clear mandate or advisory action to interview people; they merely look at the applications. I think it has moved into them taking upon themselves to interview people, but we really need to clarify that because at some point it does need more clarity.</p> <p>Mr. Hack called for the votes on the motion on the table:</p> <p>Yes – Ms. Kaneaiakala, Dr. Morelli, Ms. Tsark, Ms. Hansen, Ms. Kilonia, Mr. Cabatbat.</p> <p>No – Ms. Young, Ms. Sandal, Ms. Wilcox, Mr. Durant, Ms. Miyoshi, Ms. Watters, Ms. Cattaneo, Mr. Hack.</p> <p>Motion failed.</p> <p>Quorum lost at 11:55 a.m</p>			