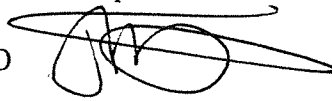


March 9, 2015

TO: Internal Operations Committee of  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Janet Marshall Wilson, JD



RE: The Need for Public Comment and Brown Act Issues

As you may know, I retired as Director of Patients' Rights in September of 2013 for medical reasons, but have kept up some with Contra Costa County mental health issues. Your Committee meeting is critical today, and I would like to stress the following three points:

1. The Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup [CPAW], this County's body which gives input into Mental Health Services Act [MHSA] planning and expenditures, has not allowed public comment at [at least] its Housing Committee. I refer you to the December 17, 2014 draft meeting minutes and Stan Baraghin's comments, transcribed by me and witnessed by Connie Steers on 1/19/2015 [included]. No meeting which treats consumers as Mr. Baraghin was treated [and he is a Shelter, Inc. County housing client] should be allowed. As a matter of fact, Mr. Baraghin's statement should be appended to the 12/17/2014 minutes. At the 1/21/2015 Housing Committee, Chair Lori Hefner indicated that the draft minutes could be revised. It is important to me that [although Lori Hefner has resigned] the minutes do get revised.
2. I have been personally advised to give community input on issues of major concern; but if there is no place on the agenda for public comment, then why should I take the trouble to get to meetings knowing that there is no way to give input?
3. I hope that your Committee will recommend to the full Board of Supervisors that the Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup [as well as any other county policy-setting bodies] be covered under the Brown Act, with agendas posted and public comment agendized. The least among us [the beneficiaries of the Mental Health Services Act] must attend, and be heard.

Thank you for considering my input.

Enc: Draft CPAW Housing minutes, 12/17/2014  
Stan Baraghin's statement

# DRAFT

## Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup (CPAW) Housing Committee

MHSA CPAW Housing Committee

Meeting Date: January 21, 2014

Time: 9:00am - 10:30am

Location: 1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 200, Conference Room, Martinez, CA



Charge of Committee: (Revised Charge Approved by CPAW on: 4/1/10)

Charge #1: To help the community develop opportunities for advocacy, innovation, and a variety of partnerships for improving, expanding and transforming housing options for persons with mental health needs.

Charge#2: Disseminate information on mental health housing to consumers, family members, and the broader community.

Charge#3: Develop/engage in ongoing dialogue with the BH Department and housing experts related to meeting housing needs for Contra Costa consumers & family members.

### A G E N D A

TOPIC	PRESENTER	DESIRED OUTCOMES	TIME (Minutes)
1. Welcome, Introductions, Sign-in, Acknowledge any possible Conflict of Interest.	Lori Hefner, Chair	Call to order	5
2. Amend/approve agenda (Sent out January 11, 2015)	All	Add/remove items	5
3. Correct/approve December 17, 2014 month's meeting minutes.	All	Correct items as needed	5
4. Request from the CPAW Committee: Any re-writes for charge?	All		2
4. Sandy's Report	Sandy Rose	Informational	10
5. Jenny's Report-	Jenny Robbins	Informational	10
6. Special Meeting: Children's Housing Discussion	Vern Wallace Louise Bourassa Jennifer Tuipulotu Stephanie Stovall Kathi McLaughlin & Others	Informational	45
7. Next Steps	All	Informational	7
8. Agenda items for Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Please send items to Lori Hefner. Due 2 weeks before each meeting.</li></ul>	All	Informational	1
Next Meeting: Proposed February 19, 2015. New Location			90 minutes

January 19, 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

My name is Stan Baraghan and I cannot read or write. I have been coming to the Housing Committee for about 5 years. Victor Montoya always wanted me to come, and Sandy Rose invited me personally.

With Connie Steers and Janet Marshall Wilson I have reviewed the minutes of the December 17, 2014 Housing Committee meeting. My comments made at the meeting are not in the draft minutes.

I want you to know that:

1-I felt very humiliated at the last Housing Committee meeting, so much that I felt like crying.

2-I felt like I couldn't return to the meetings because I wasn't welcome and don't know how or when I will be able to express my concerns. I know the Chair should have told me when I could speak if she felt I was interrupting a speaker on the agenda, but I had my hand up and Lori Hefner recognized me and I was not interrupting anyone. Where is the place for me to speak on the agenda???

3-I speak for many consumers who can't come and make comments for themselves. I said this at the meeting.

4-Consumers are what MHSA funds are all about and consumers like me, who meet other consumers face to face, need to have a voice. As I said, "These monies are supposed to be for us." I don't know where the money is going but it's not to consumers. I said this at the meeting.

5-What happens to consumers when they aren't prepared for their own place, or don't know how to advocate for themselves affects their ability to stay in their apartments, makes them recycle to the hospital and makes them fail. We need to be keeping consumers from failing. I said this at the meeting. For example, a new tenant just moved in to my building and has no heat in the apartment. Why isn't the non-profit teaching consumers like this one where are the resources. If I've been in a psychiatric hospital about 20 times, do you think I know where to apply for assistance??

The minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup> Housing Committee should include every word of what I said.

THIS WAS TRANSCRIBED WITH MY COMPLETE APPROVAL FROM THE MEETING THIS MORNING WITH CONNIE STEERS AND JANET MARSHALL WILSON.

Signed,

witnessed

*Connie Steers*

*1-19-2015*

Stan Baraghan

*Stan Baraghan*

**CPAW Housing Committee  
December 17, 2014  
9:00 – 10:30am  
1340 Arnold Dr, Ste 112, Martinez, CA**

Chairs: Lori Hefner

Members attending: Lori Hefner, Tess Paoli, Stan Baraghin, Connie Steers, Annis Pereyra, Richard Collier, Lauren Rettagliata, Fanshen Thompson, Tom Gilbert

Staff attending: Stephanie Stovall, Jane Yoo, Jenny Robbins, Sandy Rose, Chad Pierce

Excused from Meeting:

TOPIC	Information/Conclusions	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
1. Welcome, Introductions, Acknowledge any Possible Conflict of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and introductions made around the table.</li></ul>		
2. Amend/Approve Agenda Sent Out December 10, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved agenda</li></ul>		Committee Members
3. Correct/Approve November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes reviewed.</li><li>• Minutes approved.</li></ul>		Committee Members
4. Sandy's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capital Projects - Apartment buildings built with MHSA funds. Name change Walnut Creek, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Ave to Arabella. Pre-application to fill apartments.</li><li>• Sandy will be attending lease up meetings.</li><li>• Ohlone Project located in El Cerrito will have 5 units. 60% completed with construction, pre-</li></ul>		Sandy Rose/Jane Yoo

TOPIC	Information/Conclusions	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
	<p>application process begins in February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabora Gardens in Antioch, Older Adult housing, applying for funding in July.</li> <li>• Board &amp; Cares Incidents reported to CCL.</li> <li>• Jane – Crestwood has started renovation December 1. Jane will follow up with Travis at Crestwood.</li> <li>• ANKA housing – Opened Juett House in Pittsburg. Currently two residents, third resident chosen but has not moved in as of yet and a fourth opening not filled yet – reviewing applications.</li> <li>• Final offer on third home in Concord on Esperanza Dr</li> <li>• Update on Capital Projects money.</li> </ul>		
<p>5. Jenny's Report Homeless Information Management System (HIMS) Exit Review 1<sup>st</sup> Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exit information implementation agreement with Shelter Inc with intakes and modified short intakes in HIMS with exits. Waiting approval from Vic Montoya to use program with MHSA funding units. MHSA scattered housing. Housing outside Shelter Inc contracts.</li> <li>• ANKA Behavioral Health and Homeless Programs expanding quarterly housing meeting and</li> </ul>		<p>Jenny Robbins</p>

TOPIC	Information/Conclusions	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
	<p>focusing on the problematic side of housing issues..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing approximately 30 people with MHSA funds in 2014.</li> <li>• CCIH meetings</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary teams -- communication with partners across the table.</li> <li>• Working with Task Force Team with Health Services through CCRMC to look at a pilot project in West County.</li> </ul>		
6. Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half of the Housing Issues Tracking Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred to next meeting</li> </ul>		
7. Question/Answer Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below market units within Contra Costa County. Apartments building in Walnut Creek – units available in 2017 are looped out – taxes paid up front, no below market rent or section 8 available.</li> <li>• Families have behavior challenges – destroying property – apartment owners do not want to rent to certain people.</li> <li>• Walnut Creek has below market properties available through the city of Walnut Creek.</li> </ul>		

TOPIC	Information/Conclusions	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting			
9. Next Meeting	Wednesday, January 21, 2014		
10. Adjournment			

#### Notes from Discussion

Lori Hefner, Chair made a number of comments after chairing this committee for ten months. She asked several questions as to what the Committee called success and what outcomes they wished to see. The members responded by saying: 1) Decent housing, 2) Hearing what others have to say about MHSA housing 3) Improving supports and skills to consumers once moved into housing and 4) Assuring that consumers know how to escalate their issues and concerns to their housing managers and providers.

Lauren advocated that CPAW Housing be present in Sacramento at the MHSAOC meetings. This was discussed at CPAW and we encourage those in appropriate roles to do that. CPAW Committees are not authorized to do that without CPAW coordination.

Lori said we focus on MHSA housing dollars so we can have tangible outcomes. Mental Health Housing is an enormous problem nationally and we ourselves cannot solve national problems. Important but ancillary things like the direction of the national economy and rising rents nationally are outside of the scope of this committee. Much can be discussed but this will result in informational discussions and very few outcomes.

While CPAW use to micro-manage things like “Have the showers at Crestwood started renovation?” We, CPAW, now agree the role of CPAW is not micro-managing these details. The purpose of CPAW is to be advisory to the Director of Behavior Health.

We must keep the duties of the County’s Mental Health Commission for inquiry and investigation separate from CPAW approaches. There appears to be an attempt by some MH Commissioners to bypass their own committee structure in favor of using other committees, such as CPAW committees, to address issues that the Commission has either chosen not to address, or that they have specifically refused to address such as housing “site visits.” We note these are delicate relationships we must positively manage so providers continue to work with us. Sandy and Jenny have these responsibilities along with Community Care Licensing. We are not to interfere. If concerned Vic has advised us to call Community Care Licensing.

We have been directed by BOS to bring MHSA three-year plan in line with revenues. We are not growing programs. MHSA monies will be reduced in year three of the plan. See Three Year plan on the web site [cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhsa/pdf/mhsa-3-yearplan.pdf](http://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhsa/pdf/mhsa-3-yearplan.pdf).



We are currently in a program evaluation stage so accountability, efficiency and effectiveness are to be studied, analyzed and reported on. This stage requires as much creativity and dedication as was required in the early days so our consumers benefit the most from our limited resources.

We value stakeholders. Yet many of our providers are not comfortable speaking in the meetings and feel they need to “stay off the radar.” That hurts everyone because we have much to learn from the providers about how difficult their jobs and pressures are. This also keeps members of this committee ignorant about the complexities of mental health housing.

We recognize that members of this committee want more data, reports, and analysis but we are short on BHA upper management and administrative time. Staff positions were not designed by their managers to give lengthy accounting reports. Again this will require a fine balance. Please “do not let the perfect get in the way of the good.” We must work together successfully building on what each person can bring to the table.

The committee expressed a desire to meet for 2 hours each meeting. The first 90 minutes will be as it has been in the past and the other 30 minutes is for those who wish to stay and discuss matters in a less structured, free flowing way. Lisa C will locate a new meeting room.

Lori thanked everyone for their input and dialogue., and advice.