

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 6, 2010

Contact: Karen Rizzolo: Mental Health Branch, Administrative Secretary
Mendocino County Health and Human Services

Phone: 707- 463-5481

Email: rizzolok@co.mendocino.ca.us

Mendocino County Mental Health Board April 21st Meeting in Ukiah

The Mental Health Board (MHB) regular monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of each month will be held on April 21st, 9:30 a.m., in Conference Room C of the County Administrative Building, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. Members of the public are encouraged to attend these open MHB meetings to ask questions and give testimony during the public comment segment of the meetings.

The MHB's annual report will be discussed at the meeting in order to present it to the Board of Supervisors in May which is Mental Health Month, and during which the Supervisors will issue a proclamation. MHB focus this year has been on the need to provide treatment to mentally ill persons rather than incarcerate them or send them out-of-county. This will require a better crisis response mechanism in the county involving Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) of law enforcement personnel and various housing options for persons suffering a crisis of their chronic mental illness.

Each of the five districts in the county has three seats on the MHB, which is a mandated body by the State of California and conforms to the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Brown Act. Currently, the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Districts each have one vacant seat on the MHB for which applicants are sought. Mileage reimbursement is available to Board members.

MHB members attend regular monthly meetings which include bi-annual meetings of the MHB and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Committee. MHB members also serve on board committees of their choice to review county mental health services, provide advice to County mental health administration, and participate in the preparation of a public annual report with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

In addition to seeking MHB applicants, the board is accepting consumer and consumer family member membership in the board's MHSA Committee. Members of the committee attend county system of care (Children and Families, Adult and Older Adult, and Community Health) workgroups that include topics about changes affecting county mental health services. To apply to become an MHSA committee member please send a letter of interest to MHSA Committee Chair Joe Mortz, by email to joemotz@hotmail.com , or by mail to 756-B E; Rio Street, Ukiah CA 95482. For more information call him at 467-9261.

To apply to fill a District seat on the MHB, complete an application and return it to either the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office or the Mental Health Branch Administrative office, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah CA 95482, or fax it to 707-463-4245. The application

can be found in the Mendocino County website at
<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/pdf/APPLICATION.pdf>.

Upon receipt by the Clerk of the Board, applications for a seat on the MHB go to its Chair to schedule applicant interviews with the board which makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for appointments to the MHB.

For more information about the MHB application process contact Sandra O'Connor, Mental Health Board Chair by calling 707-459-3677, or email lairdsmith@comcast.net .

#