

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS (COMIO)

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/comio/index.html>

MINUTES

March 19, 2014

**LOCATION: Hyatt Regency Resort & Spa
1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey, CA 93940
Room Spyglass I**

IN ATTENDANCE AT 1 Old Golf Course Road, Room Spyglass I

COMIO Council Members

- **Vice Chairperson:** Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., Director, Sonoma County Mental Health
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
- David Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret), Humboldt County
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County (via conf line)
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge

CDCR Staff

- Tim Belavich, Ph.D, Director (A), Division of Health Care Services and Deputy Director, Statewide Mental Health Program, CDCR
- Nicholas (Nick) Weber, Attorney, Office of Legal Affairs, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- Fu Yiu (Yoyo), Statewide Mental Health Program, DHCS, CDCR
- Pamela Michel, Associate Health Program Advisor, Statewide Mental Health Program, CDCR (via conf call line)

Interested Parties

- Joseph V. A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- Munir Sewani, Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- Andrey Carlson, Monterey County Behavioral Health
- Robert Jackson, Monterey County Behavioral Health
- Robert Haro, San Joaquin County

AGENDA ITEM 1 -Introduction/Welcome – Manuel Jimenez

The meeting was called to order at 11:10am. Introductions and welcoming were done by Manuel Jimenez.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Adoption of Minutes (January, 2013)

Minutes from the January 23, 2013 meeting to be deferred since no quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Public Comments

- 1) Mr. Joseph Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, shared some information/books with COMIO members and participants.
 - Senator Loni Hancock introduced new legislation to revise and reform solitary confinement conditions and procedures in California's prisons. For more information, contact her staff Paco Torres at 916-651-4009
 - Stanford Law School's Criminal Justice Center Issued in Jan. 2014 "Voices from the Field: How California Stakeholders View Public Safety Realignment"
<http://www.law.stanford.edu/publications/voices-from-the-field-how-california-stakeholders-view-public-safety-realignment>
 - Little Hoover Commission issued in Feb. 2014 "Sensible Sentencing for a safer California"
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/219/report219.html>
 - *A Silver of Light: Three Americans Imprisoned in Iran* by Shane Bauer, Josh Fattal, & Sarah Shourd.
- 2) Mr. Manuel J. Jimenez Jr. Vice Chairperson, shared that there will be a hearing held on April 22, 2014 to discuss Public Safety Committee Grants; however, Mr. Jimenez does not have details.

3) Monterey County representative announced that they are holding CIT training on Oct 13-15.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Chair Report

The COMIO Chairperson, CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard, was not present at the meeting; there was no Chair Report.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Housekeeping and conference updates

The Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) is hosting this conference. Awards to be given on March 19th are “Innovative and Promising Award” which is a new category of this year. Mr. Munir Sewani, Forensic Mental Health Association of California, suggested COMIO members and participants to explore the conference. Some of the interesting topics include emotional regulation, psychotherapy with different patients, forensic expert testimony, sex offender’s issues in justice system, and some of the forensic implications of the transition to the DSM-V.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Old Business

a) COMIO Website Update

There was a discussion regarding updating the COMIO web page. Fu Yiu (Yoyo) still waiting for some COMIO members to submit their biographical information to her for the website; photographs of the members will not be included. Yoyo will continue to replace old COMIO information with new information. In addition, the new CDCR designated COMIO mailbox has been installed and is in use.

- **Dave Lehman**-requested that Yoyo remove an entire line of incorrect information regarding the Annual Report that is submitted to the CDCR Secretary on our webpage. In addition, Mr. Lehman reported that the Annual Reports are to be submitted to the State Legislature, a requirement that has never changed.

b) Strategic Plan for 2014

Yoyo will replace the 2014 Strategic Plan to the one that is currently on the COMIO webpage.

c) Workgroup Update on Procuring a Part-Time Executive Director for COMIO

Mr. David Lehman discussed two recommendations: (1) Utilize the Rebound Program, which links to State Retired Annuitants for hire. (2) Contract out for the Executive Director position if funding is located. Mr. Lehman stated that COMIO can also reach out to Warner and Pank, lawyers who are experts at State legislation and are associated with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), possibly contract with Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) or non-profit organizations that supply these services to other entities.

Mr. Lehman stated that the individual who is sought for the COMIO Executive Director position should have at least a Masters Degree in Public Administration, as well as a strong knowledge level in California law enforcement departments, State/Federal legislation, mental health offenders, impact of mental illness on public safety, and State departments such as the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the Department of State Hospitals (DSH).

Mr. Jimenez reported that he had not received any response from Secretary Jeff Beard to his second letter regarding the Council’s request for a full-time or part-time Executive Director for COMIO. There was a suggestion that the Council members send a letter to both Governor Brown’s office and to the State Legislature. However, Mr. Jimenez stated that he prefers to send another letter to CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard, Mr. Cliff Allenby, DSH Director, and Mr. Toby Douglas, DHCS Director, before taking that route. It was recalled that Ms. Sophie Cabrera, from DSH and Ms. Rita McCabe, the representative from the DHCS showed interest at an earlier meeting in helping to get a new COMIO Executive Director in place, so perhaps they could aid in this effort.

d) Action Items Updates

- Council members to provide Yoyo with short bio-***In Process***
- Yoyo will provide draft of COMIO statement of function/purpose and members’ bios to Council Members before next meeting-***Done and has been reviewed during meeting***
- Yoyo to request a Designated Mailbox for the COMIO website
 - **CDCRCCHSCOMIO@cdcr.ca.gov**
- Yoyo to post 2014 Strategic Plan to COMIO website-***Ready to Post***

- Yoyo will organize conference calls between meetings for Council to draft the agenda items-**Done**
- Yoyo will post 12th Annual Report on the COMIO website and distribute to the members when Nick Weber has finalized it-**In Process**
- Nick Weber provide will 12th Annual Report to the State Legislature and correct COMIO website citation that Annual Report is only provided to the CDCR Secretary-**In Process**
- COMIO Workgroup (Mr. Lehman, Mr. Walters, and Mr. Sweeney) to seek at least a part-time Executive Director-**In Process, Mr. Lehman shared some ideas during the meeting**
- Council members will add 2 to 3 recognition awards to Best Practices award ceremony in March-**Done, two Innovative and Promising awards were selected and will be presented at the conference.**
- Mr. Jimenez will send the letter to Executive Director of the CA POST Commission and Yoyo will send copies to the Council members – Letter has been sent. **Manuel Jimenez reviewed the response letter that the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) sent to COMIO.**
- Mr. Jimenez sent a letter to Senator Darrell Steinberg requesting legislation for juvenile justice competency standards
 - Per Mr. Nick Weber, CDCR attorney, the statute places COMIO in the CDCR, therefore, all COMIO letters must be checked in advance by the CDCR Legislative and/or Legal Office. The Council members could send individual letters, representing themselves (no COMIO) directly to Senator Steinberg.

e) Relationship with FMHAC

Ms. Molly Willenbring, Executive Director of FMHAC, discussed that COMIO Council member and Superior Court Judge Stephen V. Manley will present the Innovative and Promising Awards at 7:00pm on March 19.

f) Final Annual Report

Mr. Nick Weber reported that the 12th Annual Report is currently in review at the CDCR Office of Legal Affairs, and will be posted to the COMIO website when it is finalized.

g) Innovative and Promising Award

The first award goes to Hollywood4WARD, part of Hollywood Property Owners Alliance, an organization that manages the Hollywood Entertainment District Business Improvement District (BID) under contract to the city of Los Angeles. The Hollywood Entertainment District BID has taken the lead in Hollywood to bring agencies, nonprofits, faith community, law enforcement, and businesses together to work with the homeless population in southern California in an effort to end homelessness.

The second award goes to the MOST team of Santa Cruz County. The MOST team is a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment program (FACT) that combines an evidence-based program of wrap around mental health services inclusive of case management, psychiatry, psychotherapy and employment skill development with additional supports specific to the criminal justice system involvement such as probation, court discharge planning and disposition, liaison relationships with law enforcement and jail correctional staff.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – New Business

a) Innovative and Promising Award Guideline for 2015

The Council members requested that Yoyo write a draft of guidelines for this new award category. FMHAC would like to post the new guidelines for this award on their website prior to next year's annual March conference.

- **Charles Walters**-advised that the Council discussed the annual awards during last meeting and the members agreed that all the data and research required for the Best Practices Award were too stringent for many applicants due to the fact that they were low budget, nonprofit organizations. Mr. Walters stated the purpose of creating Innovative and Promising Award was to make it easier for those programs, which are low in budget or labor, to apply for the Best Award and be worthy of recognition.
- **David Lehman**- suggested to the group that they use the Best Practices Award model without the data/research component as a guide for Innovative and Promising Award. Mr. Lehman asked if Yoyo will be the only support staff assisting in the process of creating the guidelines since Ms Alicia Aguilar had helped last time.

- **Tim Belavich**-stated that if needed, Ms. Alicia Aguilar can be of assistance.

b) Working Binders for Members

Mr. Lehman requested that COMIO meeting binders be made and provided to the Council members, to include the following:

- Enabling Legislation
- Members bios and contacts
- Support contact information and areas of responsibility
- Meetings agendas, travel reimbursement information, and contacts
- Support documents for meetings
- Strategic Plans
- Meeting protocols and procedures
- Standing subcommittees
- Important reports and documents to be shared among COMIO members
- Legislation important past and current initiatives
- Key Links and affiliate contact information
- Important Dates and guidelines for new members
- Others

c) Senate Bill 1054

Mr. Jimenez discussed Senate Bill 1054, Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grants, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tem, Darrell Steinberg, in the 2013/2014 Regular Session. Approximately \$50 million would be appropriated with half to be spent on programs for juvenile offenders and half for adult offenders, as discussed at the previous COMIO meeting by Ms. Darby Kernan, special assistant to Senator Steinberg. Mr. Jimenez said that the total appropriation might be raised to \$100 million (doubled).

- **Munir Swani** suggested that they give an award to Senator Darrell Steinberg for all the work he has done in the area of Mental Health.

d) Special Announcement from Manuel Jimenez, COMIO Vice Chairperson

Mr. Jimenez announced that he will be taking over as the new Director of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. His start date will be in mid-April or May, 2014

e) Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Jimenez adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Action Items

- 1) Yoyo will follow up with COMIO Website update
- 2) Yoyo will work on guidelines for Innovative and Promising by using Best Practices model
- 3) Mr. Jimenez will send another letter to CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard, Mr. Cliff Allenby, DSH Director, and Mr. Toby Douglas, DHCS Director regarding the request of an Executive Direction for COMIO
- 4) Mr. Jimenez (with the help of Mr. Patrick Dwyer, SME in CIT training) will send another letter to POST requesting information regarding their training program, specifically dealing with the mentally ill population

***Next COMIO Meeting – May 22, 2014, 11:00am to 1:00pm
1515 S Street, Executive Conference Room 502-South
Sacramento, CA 95814**