



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Teleconference

Members Present: Dave Meyer, Allison Stanley, Molly Willenbring, Cynthia Lermond

Members Absent: Mark Grabau, Ron Kaufman, Jane Lovelle

Opening: A meeting of the FMHAC Board of Directors was called to order at 3:30 p.m. on June 30, 2010 by Molly Willenbring.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda, as outlined in email exchanges prior to the meeting, was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes reviewed or approved at this time.

C. Open Issues

<i>Agenda Item and Discussion</i>	<i>Action/ Outcome</i>	<i>Follow-up</i>
<p>○ <u>Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court</u></p> <p>By way of review, Dave Meyer explained that in the case of Coleman/Plata v. Schwarzenegger, the panel of the 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals handed down a decision which, in effect, validates the appointment of the 3-judge panel to address the issue of overcrowding in the prisons. The State of California has appealed this decision to the US Supreme Court, taking the position that the three-judge panel does not have the authority to order prisoner releases to alleviate overcrowding. The case will be heard in the Supreme Court this fall.</p> <p>Dave was approached by Michael Bien, the lead plaintiff attorney in this case, about FMHAC providing an Amicus brief to the Supreme Court. As such, Dave is putting the matter before the board to discuss and vote on whether to proceed in providing said brief to the court in this matter.</p> <p>To that end, a discussion was held regarding FMHAC's stance on the issue of overcrowding, which included concerns previously put forth by members not present, Mark Grabau and Ron Kaufman. The impact of overcrowding on staff and inmates was discussed, particularly the safety of staff and quality of care they are able to provide in the overcrowded prisons. There was also a discourse regarding how the release would impact community mental health, CONREP, parole, and medical resources. It was noted that while supporting the reduction of prisoners would improve conditions for FMHAC members working in correctional facilities, this stance might not represent the members working in other settings who might be impacted by the release.</p>	<p>Present board members voted unanimously to provide the Supreme Court with an Amicus brief in the matter of Coleman/Plata v. Schwarzenegger.</p>	<p>○ Dave Meyer will pursue avenues for funding and generating the Amicus brief.</p> <p>○ Molly Willenbring will provide absent board members with an overview of the discussion and the board's decision.</p>

<p>However, after much discussion, Dave Meyer explained that the only issue before the court at this time is whether the federal court has the power to appoint the panel. The impact of the panel's directive to reduce the population of prisoners is not the matter at hand at this time, and is outside the purview of this case. Dave also focused the discussion on what information FMHAC could offer in this matter in an Amicus brief.</p> <p>Ultimately, the issue before the Board was whether FMHAC would provide an Amicus brief to the court that would address the impact of overcrowding upon the forensic mental health professionals working in the prison system and whether this represented the interests of FMHAC members.</p>		
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D. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled as a teleconference on Monday July 19, 2010.

E. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Molly Willenbring at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Lermond on July 20, 2010.