

## Summary Report

### California Association of Mental Health Boards & Commissions

Quarterly Conference – Ontario, CA 4/19-4/20/2013

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#### Overview

My attendance at the CA Association of Mental Health Boards & Commissions was my first and discovered how valuable it is for our Board to attend these conferences. Sharing ideas, practices, and realities with other Boards was enlightening. I am pleased to share that our County possessing unique resources such as Director Nancy Pena and Judge Manley is a model that all other Counties recognize. I was somewhat dismayed with the lack of sophistication of other County Board awareness.

#### Conference

The Conference was a combination meeting of the California Mental Health Planning Council and our state Board association. It is very interesting that other Mental Health Departments are very far behind in statistical evaluation, QA, and self analysis. Given the timing of Santa Clara's effort in QA, I feel very good at the new work being performed by our Mental Health Department.

The main Conference themes included:

- Local Board responsibility
- Regional training for Board members
- Advocacy
- Training the Board of Supervisors
- Reviewing Contracts and participating in the RFP process
- Issue of site visits by individual members – contracting agencies

All of the large counties in the State were represented with very rich examples of Board process and monitoring. Examined was the California External Quality Service Review Organization (CAEQRO), a division of APS Healthcare. I obtained the Final CAEQRO Report, FY 11-12 for San Joaquin County. CAEQRO reviews draws upon prior year's findings, including sustained strengths, opportunities for improvement, and actions in response to recommendations.

The primary focus of the conference, however, was dealing with the question of how can an advisory Board member be effective, what are our responsibilities, what is our role in advocacy, how can we and the Mental Health Department use reliable statistics to create policy which in turn results in programs being funded and succeeding.

Conclusion – Believe that we have much to contribute to this Association and can learn from other Boards best practices and services. I look forward to future participation and collecting examples of best practices that other counties are experiencing.

Respectfully Submitted,

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