1. Call to Order

Chairperson Sohrakoff called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m., and he welcomed everyone to the meeting including guest speakers Danette Harrison, John Floe, Rupi Dail and Sue Shaffer. Subsequently, self introductions were offered.

2. Roll Call

The Executive Secretary called the roll and the following members were present: Sutter County Supervisor Stan Cleveland, Chairperson Nick Sohrakoff, Charles Clement, and Margery Hubbard. Also present was the Mental Health Director Tom Sherry and the Executive Secretary Jean Stump.

The following Board Members were excused: Yuba County Supervisor John Nicoletti, Board Secretary Alma Amaya, Joginder S. Pardesi, David Markland, Patricia Stutte, Ardythe Price, Mark Myers and Keith Pinckney.

3. Action Items

a. Approve February 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes – In the absence of a quorum the minutes of February 21, 2008 could not be considered.

4. Program Presentation

Subsequently the MHSA Resource Specialists for Housing, Vocational, Parenting and Client Self-Help Activities were individually called upon to present their reports.

Danette Harrison – Vocational Resource Specialist: Services provided under this program are referred by Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services (SYMHS). This program enables an individual to work in integrated settings in the community. Unique to this program element is the support staff/job coach, whose role is to assist the individual by providing job site training and follow along services to ensure retention of employment. Starting off on the right foot is important to future success. Vocational services also focus on building on those initial job search skills to secure and retain a job. With vocational support and the support from community employers, people develop the necessary skills to become self reliant while building self esteem and confidence.

Currently, staff is working with 15 participants to locate vocational positions within the bi-county community and is currently collaborating with Sutter County One Stop to provide a class at Mental Health entitled “Success 101”. This class will be an instrument to prepare participants for future employment.
John Floe – Parent Educator Resource Specialist: The Parenting Educator Resource Specialist offers parenting skills training based on evidence-based best practices including the Nurtured Heart Approach which is a set of strategies developed specifically for children with challenging behaviors. Often parents have tried many parenting techniques only to become discouraged when they do not work well. This approach works with children who have not responded well to traditional techniques, and will facilitate parenting success. Children whose parents learn to energize them are much more likely to do well in school, have healthy self esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior and avoid high-risk activities such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity.

The Fathers Support Group is designed to provide education, training and support to fathers with various roles in their children’s lives. Children with involved loving fathers are much more likely to do well in school, have healthy self esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk activities as compared to children who have uninvolved fathers. The importance of the Fathers role in child development is discussed and the group is lead by the Parenting Educator Resource Specialist and a Therapist. The curriculum is based on a 16 week course designed to help the fathers develop as parents.

Currently, the Parent Educator Resource Specialist is providing outreach activities including the Nurtured Heart Parenting Classes at various rural areas including Wheatland Family Resource Center, Camptonville Family Resource Center and Challenge Leaves of Learning. To date, a total of 173 parents have been trained in Nurtured Heart since February 2007. Each parent was given an opportunity to give feedback at the end of each session and 100% of the parents rated the class as outstanding saying they would recommend the parenting class to other parents and felt that the content of the training was useful to help them make changes to achieve more success as a parent.

Rupi Dail, Housing Resource Specialist: This program offers multiple housing resources to SYMHS clients. The goal is to provide clients with safe, affordable and stable housing. The Housing Specialist acts as a liaison with local property management, landlords, federally funded programs, and the Housing Authorities in both counties. This position requires collaboration with various local public and private agencies to ensure housing resources and information. Current partners include: California Rural Legal Association, Cold Weather Shelter Project, Interagency Council, Continuum of Care, Yuba Co. Office of Education, Sutter Co. One Stop, Sierra Pacific Mgt, Select Property Mgt, Wicks Werely House, FREED, Senior Legal Center.

Plans underway include development of a housing curriculum and educating consumers about their housing rights and continue with outreach to programs under SYMHS.

Sue Shaffer, Client Self-Help Resource Specialist: The role of Client Self-Help Resource Specialist is to encourage and support consumers and family members to participate in wellness and recovery activities at SYMHS through trainings and employment opportunities, and to participate on SYMHS committees and boards.

This program continues to develop, support and maintain a Parent Partner/Mentors Program which includes 10 departments with 20 Parent Partners or Mentors. The Parent Partners and Mentors (Peer Empowerment Team) meet twice a month and the Mentor Managers meet monthly to discuss progress, changes and challenges.
All of the activities listed are intended to encourage and support increased consumer and family member involvement in the services provided by SYMHS whether through the Parent Partner/Mentoring program, trainings, or advisory committees or boards.

Along with other Resource Specialists, the Adult Outpatient Program Manager and Sutter County One Stop, a training course is being developed for consumers who want to pursue careers in the mental health field. It is expected that this will be a foundational curriculum for current and future Parent Partners and Mentors and other paraprofessionals who may be interested in entering the mental health field. It is planned to have Parent Partners and Mentors coordinate and communicate with others in California that are providing the same kinds of services in other counties.

Presently, the program is developing policies and procedures for hiring, supervision and training of all of the paraprofessional staff members and a 24-week training course for consumers and family members has been developed that focuses on Strengths in Recovery.

At the conclusion of the reports, a brief period of question and answer ensued. In conclusion, the Chair thanked all the Resource Specialists for a job well done.

5. Mental Health Director’s Report – Tom Sherry, MFT

The Mental Health Director Tom Sherry was called upon to present his report. Subsequently he provided an overview of the following activities currently underway:

TAY (Transitioned-Aged Youth) Capacity - there are 23 clients in the program with 11 from Yuba County and 12 in Sutter County. This successful program is helping keep young clients from being hospitalized.

Town Hall meetings were held on March 3, March 5 and March 10 to gather community input regarding development of a social host ordinance.

Gauche Aquatic Park is now smoke-free due to an ordinance passed by the Substance Abuse Steering Coalition.

The Run Drugs Out of Town 5K Walk/Run event will be held on April 26 and has become the area’s largest running event.

First Steps held their 80th graduation on February 29, 2008.

Youth Services has been struggling with reduced clinician/physician time due to illness.

The Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) Stakeholder meeting will be held at Yuba County Human Services building on Packard Avenue on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 starting at 5:30 p.m. A TV will be set up so individuals attending the meeting can watch the televised documentary “Crystal Darkness” being shown at 6:30 p.m.

Planning continues with the new MHSA “Wellness & Recovery” Program which involves a number of staff from CSS, Day Treatment, Psychiatry, Nursing and staff from the HOPE, BEST and Urgent Services programs.
The Latino Outreach program has been available at both the Richland and Lindhurst clinics on a regular basis to provide outreach and family counseling.

The Hmong Outreach program is at capacity with approximately 14 clients participating twice a week.

A Welcoming Training “Creating Welcoming-Based Culture in Organizations and Communities” for staff was held on Wednesday, March 19th and Thursday, March 20. This training focused on cultural competence, healthy workplaces and strength-based services.

Staff is working with the Sutter County Housing Authority to do shared housing with MHSA funds and is currently in the process of putting together a housing project.

Staff is currently developing the budget for FY 2008-09.

In the last quarter, Mr. Sherry said the State Maximum Allowances (SMA) which is the rate we can charge for services under Medi-Cal has been reduced by 2.5%; which reflects the elimination of the COLA that was granted earlier.

Mr. Sherry also reported that federal government is now requiring that providers be paid before we can submit billing for the services they provide – this means we have to pay our Providers upfront and wait for reimbursement. This also means that language in our Provider Agreements will need to be amended to reflect this change.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss

8. New Business

Appoint Ad Hoc Committee to Develop the Annual Report for FY 07-08. The Chair appointed himself, David Markland and Margery Hubbard to develop the Annual Year-End Report which is due on June 19, 2008. In the meantime, the Executive Secretary will forward a copy of last year’s report to the Ad Hoc Committee.

9. Other Items of Information/Correspondence

Informational flyers regarding the following were distributed:

- MHSA Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Community Survey
- MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Stakeholder Meeting scheduled be held on March 26, 2008 from 5:50 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Yuba County
- Sacramento Bee Article RE: United Against Meth announcing the televised documentary “Crystal Darkness” to be aired on March 26, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
10. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Stump
Executive Secretary