

**Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Florida Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse**  
**June 23, 2000**  
**Tallahassee, FL**

**(10:05 a.m. )** Commission Chair David Shern called a brief business meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present were:

Allen, Terry  
Haines, John  
Holmes, Patricia  
Kang, Rodney  
Lestage, Daniel  
McCampbell, David  
Morris, Charlie  
Murman, Sandra  
Parks, Sallie  
Pomm, Ray  
Sharpe, Bob  
Singleton, Jeremiah  
Slate, Risdon  
Sloyer, Phyllis  
Spellman, Michael  
Steele, Diane  
Vernon, Buckley (for Senator Clary)  
Williams, Irvin

Absent were:

Cohen, Jeri  
McKinnon, Mary  
Schuck, Laura  
Williams, Bob

A quorum was present. Business meeting minutes and content notes from the May 19 Commission meeting were approved as written.

Regarding the Commission's upcoming final report, Michael Spellman suggested that the Commission ask the various governmental departments that deliver mental health and/or substance abuse services to keep the Commission apprised regarding their budget timetables so recommendations can coincide with budget requests to the extent possible.

Risdon Slate asked that the Commission hold more discussion of mental health and criminal justice issues, as referenced in his June 22 e-mail to Commissioners asking for follow up on several issues.

Dan Lestage suggested that Commission meeting agendas be reformatted to focus more on workgroup meetings held earlier in the day. He suggested that workgroups report back to the Commission mid-day, followed by themed speakers and public testimony. This plan, he feels, will emphasize the importance of workgroup activities and encourage workgroups to be accountable for meeting objectives.

Dianne Steele recounted her recent visit to Boulder, Colorado, which purports to have a working and integrated mental health and substance abuse system. She noted that the Commission's final report is due on December 1 and asked fellow Commissioners to "get down to earth" and deal with more concrete issues than has been the case to date, in her view. She also expressed the concern that system components currently are not getting all available federal monies, and she noted that the closing of G. Pierce Woods State Hospital is a critical issue that merits the Commission's attention.

Sandra Murman suggested that the Commission focus on the G. Pierce Woods closing at its July 21 meeting. Dianne Steele asked if consumers would be involved in this presentation.

David Shern told Commissioners that he and Nancy Bell had been discussing the merits of holding two-day Commission meetings this fall (September through November) around the state for several purposes: 1) allowing persons who have not had the opportunity to testify at weekday Commission meetings to speak to the Commission; 2) to publicize preliminary findings and recommendations and allow members of professional, advocacy, and consumer communities to comment and react to these ideas; and 3) to engage Florida citizens in the Commission's deployment strategy and "build a train" of informed, committed citizens who understand and support the Commission's work. He asked Commissioners to respond to this idea.

Nancy Bell gave tentative meeting dates and locations for September through November. Several Commissioners asked that Jacksonville and West Palm Beach be included, and Sandra Murman asked that the November meeting be held November 10, after election day. These suggestions are all being given careful consideration in planning the Commission's meeting schedule for the rest of the year, which will be disseminated shortly. The next two Commission meetings will be held on July 21 in Ft. Myers and August 28 in Pensacola.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bell, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

