

EL DORADO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2014-2015

PLACERVILLE OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY INSPECTION

Case GJ-14-04

INTRODUCTION

The El Dorado County Mental Health Department is a division of the County's Health and Human Services Agency. It operates a licensed residential Psychiatric Health Facility in Placerville and outpatient facilities in both South Lake Tahoe and Placerville. This report addresses the condition and management of the Outpatient Mental Health West Slope Facility in Placerville.

BACKGROUND

The El Dorado County West Slope outpatient mental health facility occupies several spacious office spaces in a newer building at 768 Pleasant Valley Road in Diamond Springs. The facility staff provides counseling and medication evaluation and treatment services to both adult and juvenile clients.

METHODOLOGY

Grand Jurors conducted an on-site inspection of the facility on October 15, 2014. Mental Health staff was available during the inspection and provided information regarding treatment and counseling services.

DISCUSSION

Mental health assessments, including drug and alcohol screening, are provided at this facility to determine outpatient needs for both children and adults. Assessments can also be made at the county jail or after inmates are transported to the hospital.

Outpatient mental health services are contracted to community agency providers including Summit View, Sierra Children and Family Services, New Morning, Rim Vista and Tahoe Youth and Family Services. A crisis intervention team deals with acute mental health incidents including alcohol abuse, suicide prevention, and hospitalization. Team members qualify after participating in required three day training.

The Wellness Center is open daily from 1-4 pm providing supervised activities and group sessions in a home living room setting with comfortable seating. Clients can use the reading library, watch television, play games and cook in the complete kitchen.

A 2013-2014 Grand Jury report recommended the covering of the exterior stairway to ameliorate safety concerns in inclement weather. There is now a new covering over the outside stairs. The same Grand Jury report recommended installation of outdoor direction signs. There

are now recently placed signs to provide direction to parking and the various departments. There is ample Americans with Disabilities Act compliant parking for both staff and clients.

FINDINGS

1. The exterior stair way has been covered.
2. There are new signs showing parking and the locations of various departments.
3. There is ample ADA compliant parking.

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

RESPONSES

Responses to both findings and recommendations in this Report are required by law in accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Address responses to:

The Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court
1354 Johnson Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

This Report has been provided to the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency for review and response, and to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

The Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court requests that responses be sent electronically as a *Word* or *PDF* file to facilitate economical and timely distribution. Please email responses to the El Dorado County Grand Jury at: courtadmin@eldoradocourt.org