

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
South Lake Tahoe
Minutes for January 7, 2010
Approved**

TIME: 12:00 pm

PLACE: South Lake Tahoe
El Dorado County Mental Health Clinic
1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Call to Order -

Members: Denise Burke, Lisa Corthell, Bob Bartley, R.S. Lynn,

Associate Member: Diana Hankins

Staff: Hector Reyes, Sally Williams with minutes by Jackie Norlie

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Public Comment – None.

Minutes –Approved with changes. Correction of name (Lovell) & the additional information that the City Police were asked to attend the community meeting but they did not have to come. This was not a forensic meeting.

Old Business –BOS Report. Dr. Lynn says his printer is not working but will get tech support to help. He would like to change the term “Sac Port” so the Board will not get confused with the Sacramento program. El Dorado County calls the program “Life Skills University”. For the report he would like to explain how the modules were created & how our County came to receive them. Lisa asked Dr. Lynn to make adjustments on the electronic version of the report. Information about the Women’s Group should be added.

Gail did not share much about the DBT (Dialectical behavior therapy) because it was so new. Lisa will follow up with her for an update.

Lisa asked who was in charge of the Clubhouse. It is mainly Keith with Arlene & Gail substituting when necessary. Diana brought up that it is sometimes closed. Sally replied it does close for holidays & snow. Lisa asked about increasing the hours for the clubhouse versus the Wellness Center. Chris said that it is still being decided upon & also what modules to use. There are staffing issues. Lisa asked what Mental Health means when it is deciding what to do & when. Lisa wants the BOS to know that MH needs staff. Clients have said they need a place to hang out with out having to role

play or other structured activities. Diana said that if a program is only one hour then the money for transportation is an issue. We have to report what is happening now not what is planned.

Denise would like recommendations regarding outreach. She also questions if the people being released from MH are the ones that can benefit from services. Diana will check to see if other counties are releasing clients as EDC is. She emphasize that stabilization along with meds are needed. Denise added that consistent & constructive activities are important. Sally replied that clients are not just let go. They have three month authorizations to transition from MH services. Denise said that those who leave MH service have no where to go for support & counseling, even if they see Dr. Rupp at Barton. Denise would like to see MH focusing their energy on taking care of clients instead on modules that the clients can't relate to. The modules take too long to complete. Diane said there are other "evidence based" programs out there. Sally brought up that Carla has started a group called "Recovery International" that is evidence based.

Hector was asked if MH is invited to the Public Health substance abuse group. He replied no because the group is targeted to certain cliental. The group may be opened up in the future. Currently there is no dual diagnosis program with PH & MH. This could possibly change because there is a problem with Sierra Recovery Center having been bought by Vitality Center. This new company is Nevada based & does not have a California business license. PH would like to step in & partner with other community entities to fill this substance abuse counseling need (70% of the mentally ill have a dual diagnosis). Hector will keep the Commission informed. He added that the Environmental Health Dept. approved the MH kitchen for clients to cook.

Lisa will add a few things to the report & send it to the West Slope Commission to read before the joint meeting later in the month. Dr. Lynn will do the editing.

Diana brought up a concern about Dr. Tran writing prescriptions for clients. She feels he does not know them. Hector replied that it was important to have an avenue for information to get to Dr. Tran so he can receive feedback.

Lisa brought the conversation back to the BOS report. She said the next goal is to have a revision a week from this day (Jan. 14th). Diana reminded the group that the report can go directly to the Board; it does not have to go through the Mental Health Dept. Dr. Lynn wants the clinicians to go over the report to make sure they are not misrepresented. Lisa will email the report to Dr. Lynn on Monday & send it to the rest of the Commission on Thursday.

Diana voiced another concern. She says that clients who just see the psychiatrist are also being released from MH services. Chris replied that is not the design of the MH

program. Individuals are assessed case by case to see if they meet criteria for MH specialty services.

The written summary for the focus group (MH Task Force meeting held on 11/24/09) was passed out to Commission members. Lisa agreed that issues brought up in the summary are same that are consistently brought up.

Director's Report – Chris let the Commission know about recent updates. Dr. Tran retired as the full time Medical Director for MH. He will continue to work part time to meet with the SLT clients in person & via teleconference. Dr. Price has taken over the Medical Director position. There is also a Physician's Assistant that works with the Dept. on the West Slope. MH will continue to recruit for a psychiatrist. MH has also consulted with a couple of agencies for possible tele-psychiatry services. Unfortunately there is a huge shortage of psychiatrists. The County is open to many scenarios – even using residents out of UC Davis. Until something changes, Dr. Tran will continue to meet with clients in SLT on Tues. & Thurs.

Commissioners Comments. None.

Adjournment

Next meeting for the SLT Commission will be a joint one with the West Slope on Wed., Jan. 27th at 5:00 pm. This will be by teleconference with the SLT members meeting at the Public Health office on Johnson Blvd.