

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
South Lake Tahoe
Minutes for February 4, 2010**

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,
West Slope Members: Claudia Ball, Lori Sheperd
Associate Member: Diana Hankins
Guests: Joan Worman, Sheree Smail
Staff: Chris Kondo-Lister, Sally Williams with minutes by Jackie Norlie

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Public Comment – After introductions Lori spoke about her background and experience with Mental Health. She has helped many counties create self help groups. Lori is interested in clients developing a larger voice. She would like to form a consumer commission (client council). She gave her permission for clients to phone her about the council.

Minutes – Minutes from the joint meeting on the January 27th have not yet been completed.

Old Business –The West Slope has new topics for their BOS report - the Wellness Center and the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT).

Director's Report and Discussion Regarding Updates - Chris explained the T-house (temporary housing) situation in Placerville. Mental Health was given a 30 day notice from Choices, the organization that was contracted to run two T-houses for the County. We are in a six month pilot period with mental health aides helping the residents. Each consumer has their own lease with the landlord. The housing could eventually be temporary or permanently shared. Client needs have to be identified and combined with what staffing is available (capacity and resources). Board and Care and a two year transitional period are other options. Currently there are four T-houses in the Placerville area. The two that were previously run by Choices, the Debbie Lane house and the Patterson house.

Joan asked why the West Slope has four T-houses while South Lake Tahoe has none. Chris replied that there are capacity issues and time is needed for development. It is on the Department's wish list. Options are being looked at such as available rental units and putting together a group of clients that would be a good fit. Some housing subsidies have been paid with MHSA funds. This is done client by client with each arranging their own lease with the home owner.

Lori Sheperd volunteered to speak with business owners about the housing issue. With the current economic climate, owners may be more willing to work with Mental Health.

Lisa brought up that the clients have said they miss the community meetings. She would like to see more community involvement with activities. She believes there are two groups of College students that could possibly volunteer once a month for a community meeting type event.

Sally and Chris spoke about launching the Clubhouse. Keith Taylor has been hired full time as a mental health aide to oversee the Clubhouse. He will coordinate volunteers and provide outreach and engagement - especially to those clients who have become disengaged. Chris will address the development of the Clubhouse at the staff meetings.

Chris addressed the delay in getting the Wellness Center started. It was a long process to fill the position for the Clubhouse. She then clarified the issue about Mental Health occupying the building on Lake Tahoe Blvd. The lease is for a few more years. There are vacant offices, even with drug and alcohol staff sharing space. If another County Department could utilize the empty office space and share in the rent, more money could go to client services instead of overhead costs. The County wants mental health services to continue in South Lake Tahoe and is working to keep them going. The mental health aide position was originally in Placerville but Chris had it moved to Tahoe. Caseloads for the South Lake Tahoe caseworkers are comparable to those on the West Slope. The West Slope building has its own issues to contend with – staff share office space and private meeting places with clients can be a challenge.

The Club house is in a refinement stage. The Club house is intended to be the safety net allowing individuals who do not meet the criteria for specialty mental health services to access peer support and some activities. The Commission members would like to brain storm ideas for a community meeting, perhaps by providing carrots incentives to bring clients in. Perhaps Keith could come to the next meeting to let the Commission know of any needs for the Club house/Community Meeting. It would be nice to get the community meetings going again by April. Word of mouth about Club house activities will go far.

Sally spoke about how important it is to have outreach for those clients who have become disengaged. She would like client names and will send staff out to problem solve. Both she and Chris would like to have a point person for problems with people in the community that there are worries about.

Diana asked if there were problems with medical records located in Placerville and the information getting to Tahoe. Chris explained that Intertrac carries all of the records electronically and can be accessed by computers in the South Lake Tahoe office.

There are three areas for feedback that Chris would like to implement. 1) more focus groups 2) satisfaction surveys such as the one the State created and one for the local community 3) feedback from a suggestion/comment box in the lobby.

The Quality and Improvement Committee needs more representation from Lake Tahoe. Ideal participants can come from NAMI, Commission members, clients and family members of clients. The next meeting will be May 6, 2010 from 10:00 to 12:00. Jackie Norlie is the contact for anyone that would like to join the committee from Tahoe. Lisa volunteered to attend.

The South Lake Tahoe Clinic is continuing psychiatric services with Dr. Tran. He sees the clients via video conference on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He comes to Tahoe every other Thursday and meets personally with the clients. The webcam will be operating in the near future. A room has been set up but there has been a problem with an echo. This problem is being addressed by IT. Recruitment is continuing for a full time psychiatrist. The Health Services Department is also talking with CMG – the company that provides the tele-med services for Barton Hospital.

Commissioner's Comments. None

Adjournment

Next meeting 12:00 to 1:00 - March 4, 2010 at the Mental Health Clinic, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd.