

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION  
Minutes November 2, 2011**

**TIME: 5:00 PM**

**PLACE: Video conference at:**

**Western Slope –**

**El Dorado County Health Service Department,**

**Mental Health Division**

**931 Spring Street**

**Placerville, CA 95667**

**South Lake Tahoe –**

**El Dorado County Health Services Department,**

**Mental Health Division**

**1900 Lake Tahoe**

**South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

**I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions**

Members: R.S. Lynn, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Jan Melnicoe, Bonnie McLane, Lee Kaplan

Guests: Bill Ball, Diana Hankins, Maureen Focht, Cathy Hartrum, Lori Borrelli, Denise VanMeter, Stacy Bolton, Jannell Clanton

Staff: Daniel Nielson, Joan Meis-Wilson, Sophie Cabrera, Rob Evans, Chris Kondo-Lister, Janet Stevens, Prestine Skinner

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda was approved.

**III. Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

- Maureen Focht presented two requests on behalf of the Community Resource Center (CRC). The CRC serves impoverished individuals, and 35-40% of their clients experience mental health problems. Some clients are discharged from the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) and present to the CRC without a follow-up plan. To assist these clients, Maureen presented two requests:
  - 1) Can an individual be identified at the Mental Health Division to be a point person to contact to get mental health assistance for their clients? and
  - 2) Can the CRC get copies of the Mental Health Division release forms so that they can be completed allowing the Mental Health Division staff to talk to the CRC staff regarding shared clients or referrals?
- Bonnie McLane noted that it appears that the Behavioral Health Court is now mandating that some clients attend the Bipolar Insights group. If participation in Bipolar Insights is required as a part of a County program, then the qualifications of the group should be verified. Further, a fee is required for group attendance and this should be covered by the County if attendance is mandated by the court.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of minutes for the Commission meeting of 9/28/2011 was deferred.

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

- A. Consumer Leadership sub-committee update: Lori Shepherd has resigned from the Mental Health Commission, and Lee Kaplan will be continuing on as chair of the Consumer Leadership sub-committee. Lee has been contacting others who might be interested in participating, and both Sabita Kumar and Denise VanMeter have indicated their interest. Claudia requested anyone who may be interested in participating on a subcommittee fill out and forward their application to her. Claudia is responsible for appointing members to Mental Health Commission sub-committees. Lee agreed to provide an updated report on the Consumer Leadership sub-committee goals and plans at the next meeting of the Mental Health Commission.
- B. Multidisciplinary Team update: Cathy Hartrum reported that from her experience, the Emergency Room at Marshall Hospital is doing a wonderful job in responding to the needs of psychiatric clients.
- C. Appointment of Nomination sub-committee: Claudia has appointed Bonnie Mclane and Maria Quintero to the Nomination sub-committee. Others who may be interested should contact Claudia.
- D. Mental Health First Aid Overview: Stephanie Carlson was going to present information on the implementation of Mental Health First Aid in El Dorado County. Stephanie was not able to be present, and the overview was deferred.

**VII. Department update**

- The Board of Supervisors gave their approval for the merger of the Health Services Department with the Human Services Department to create the Health and Human Services Health and Human Services Agency. Daniel Neilson was appointed Director of the newly-formed Agency. Daniel advised the Mental Health Commission that there will not be immediate structural changes within the Health and Human Services Agency, but he does expect a transition period of 18 to 24 months as well as some reorganization and co-location of staff.
- Rob Evans is the new manager of the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) and Crisis services. Rob's focus will include addressing safety concerns at the PHF and improving the client transitions from inpatient to outpatient care. In addition, Rob has been assessing inpatient facilities in nearby counties, including Placer and Butte, to improve understanding of local and industry standards for the care psychiatric patients. Rob has been collecting ideas from clients and staff about characteristics of the PHF that are liked as well as those that are disliked, and plans are underway to have the facility painted. Prestine Skinner, Patient Advocate, noted that clients and staff appreciate being consulted about their ideas and preferences.
- Expansion of the PHF from 10 to 16 beds would make the facility more financially stable and would allow El Dorado County to provide inpatient psychiatric care under contracts with other counties. This cannot happen immediately as any expansion of the PHF would displace Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) beds.

Daniel noted that the community sees great value in the CRT, and he is committed to maintaining the CRT facility until Mental Health can develop residential services at another location within El Dorado County to address the needs of clients requiring this level of care.

- A Commission member asked about the status of the comprehensive audit that Kim Kerr was completing on the PHF. Daniel Neilson responded the report is still in progress and that several staff members from the Health and Human Services Agency have been actively involved in updating information on the progress that has been made since problems at the PHF were identified. The Agency expects to provide the Board of Supervisors with an update on the status of PHF training, staffing and procedures at their November 15 meeting.
- A Commission member asked about the number of transitional houses that are available. Currently there are four transitional houses on the West Slope, but none in Tahoe.
- Laura Walny has just been hired as the manager of Children and Adult Outpatient services.
- The Quality Improvement Committee will be meeting from 10 AM until noon on November 3, 2011. The meeting will held by video conference at the EMS conference room in Placerville and at the Public Health Clinic in Tahoe.
- Dr. Stone has taken over as the new telepsychiatrist in South Lake Tahoe, replacing Dr. Sagan who has left on maternity leave. The Mental Health Division is also looking for a new child and adolescent psychiatrist for the West Slope.
- Sophie Cabrera provided an update on implementation of the MHSA Innoation plan. She reported an adjustment in the focus of the two staff Health Navigators, who are now mapping supports available in the communities of El Dorado County. Sophie has met with all of the area collaboratives and will be attending community meetings. The scope of the RFP for Community Navigators is in development. Sophie expects that the RFP will go out in December, with selection in January and Community Navigators in place to start work in February.

#### **VIII. Commissioners Comments**

- Dr. Lynn requested additional information for the FSP contract that he believes was intended for Turning Point. He wants to be provided with a copy of the proposed RFP and for the proposed or draft RFP to be shared with all members of the Budget and Planning sub-committee. Claudia clarified that this will be an RFP, therefore an open application process, and not intended for any specific provider. She reported that Tom Michaelson had provided her with the draft of this RFP, and she thought that she had distributed it to other Mental Health Commission members. She will check her email. Dr. Lynn reiterated his belief that procurement measures need to go through the Mental Health Commission, and that El Dorado County has a record of not consulting with the Commission prior to developing and awarding contracts.

#### **IX. Adjournment**