

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes for July 7, 2011**

TIME: 5:00 pm
PLACE: Joint Council by videoconference at -

**Western Slope - El Dorado County Health Services Department,
Mental Health Division
670 Placerville Dr.
Placerville, CA 95667**

**South Lake Tahoe - El Dorado County Health Services Department,
Mental Health Division
1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions:

Members: Bonnie McLane, Maria Quintero, Guadalupe Medrano, Claudia Ball, Lori Shepherd, Jan Melnicoe, Denise Burke

Guests: Bill Ball, Michael Bischoff, Michael Pickens, Diana Hankins, P. Brad Williams, Rebecca Inman

Staff: Sophie Cabrera, Shirley White, Barry Wasserman, Janet Stevens, Jackie Norlie

II. Approval of Agenda

New Business was moved up on the agenda to accommodate the participation of Sgt. Williams and Officer Inman from the South Lake Tahoe Police Dept.

III. Public Comment:

Claudia raised a concern that clients who go to peer support groups will be encouraged to stop their use of psychotropic medication due to the side effects of these drugs. Claudia heard this information from a person that she trusts but did not feel comfortable identifying; she is concerned for the welfare of the clients and also for the way this recommendation may reflect on the MH Commission. The MH Commission has an ad hoc Client/Consumer subcommittee, and Claudia's concern is that if peer support groups are advocating against the use of medication, people might believe that the Client/Consumer subcommittee and therefore at least some part of the MH Commission also advocates against the use of medication.

IV. New Business

A. Grand Jury Request for Reply

Denise read the recommendations included within the Grand Jury's report on "Prevention and Intervention for Mental Health Crises." The MH Commission was among those required to respond to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations; the Commission will have 90 days from the report release date (June 30, 2011) to submit a response.

One of the Grand Jury's recommendations was that the BOS appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a plan for prevention and response to emergency health crises; the MH Commission was agreed that Commission representatives from both the WS and SLT would want to participate on the committee.

Sgt. Williams and Officer Inman from the South Lake Tahoe Police Department commented that the formation of a BOS ad hoc committee would help to improve interagency communication with regard to crisis situations, but would not help officers on the street. They went on to describe the officer time required to respond to a call for involuntary MH assessment (5150) and the impact this has on a small police force.

The MH Commission will meet again on July 27 in joint session to further discuss their reply to each of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

B. Discussion of Consumer Leadership and Peer Support Training

On February 24, 2010 the MH Commission approved the formation of a Client/Consumer ad hoc committee. Commission by-laws call for ad hoc committees to be reestablished annually; however some Commission members questioned the need for a Client/Consumer ad hoc committee given that peer support activities exist within the WS and SLT Wellness programs, and peer leadership development is included in the MHSA Workforce Education and Training (WET) plan. Denise asked for a copy of the goals and expected outcomes proposed at the time the Client/Consumer committee was originally established, as well as an update on committee activities and revised plans for the future. It was suggested that ad hoc committees should report back to the MH Commission annually before being reconvened. Lori agreed to prepare a report on the Client/Consumer committee for the next MH Commission meeting and to include both the original and revised committee goals and plans.

V. Approval of Minutes:

- June 2, 2011: Deferred until next meeting
- May 25, 2011: Approved
- April 27, 2011: Approved
- March 23, 2011: Approved

VI. Continuing Business:

None

VII. Mental Health Division Reports:

A. Program Updates

- BHC: Shirley White reported on BHC programs in SLT and on the WS. There are 13 clients active in the Tahoe program and three on the waiting list. In Placerville, one client successfully completed the program and nine are active. BHC staff are completing benchmarks for progression through the BHC program, to include designated phases and checkpoints to measure client progress.
- Quality Improvement Committee (QIC): Update was deferred until next meeting.
- MHSA Capital Facilities/Technological Needs (CTFN) Plan: The MH Department expects that the CTFN plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at the July 17 meeting. No substantive changes have been made since the plan was posted to the County website on May 3; however, public comments received and the Department's responses to those comments will be included in the documents presented to the BOS.
- The Department is beginning to implement the recently-approved MHSA Innovation plan, and will be hosting consumer and stakeholder gatherings in both SLT and on the WS.

B. Budget Updates: Final State appropriations for several programs are still pending; consequently no further budget updates are available at this time.

VIII. Brief Reports:

None

IX. Commission Comments/Open Discussion:

Lori responded to the public comments regarding the concern that peer groups will advocate against the use of psychotropic medication. She noted that this fear does a great disservice to self-help initiatives and indicates a need for greater public awareness efforts in the County.

X. Adjournment

Next Meetings:

Joint Council: July 27, 2011 at 5:00 PM; location to be determined.