

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION  
Minutes August 4, 2011**

**TIME: 5:00 PM**

**PLACE: Video conference at:  
Western Slope –  
El Dorado County Health Service Department,  
Mental Health Division  
931 Spring St.  
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: Maria Quintero, Guadalupe Medrano, Claudia Ball, Lori Shepherd, Jan Melnicoe, Denise Burke, R.S. Lynn, Ernie Klindt

Guests: Bill Ball, Michael Pickens, Tracy Bolton, Brenda Bailey, Kim Kerr, Lori Borrelli

Staff: Neda West, Sophie Cabrera, Janet Stevens, Chris Kondo-Lister

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Discussion of the Grand Jury Task Force (Old Business) and the PHF (New Business) was moved up to ensure sufficient time for discussion and to accommodate the participation of Kim Kerr from the Chief Administrative Office.

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

Jan Melnicoe attended a DMH-sponsored Community Mental Health Stakeholder meeting on Tuesday 8/2 in Sacramento. The presenters at this meeting raised several important questions about the impact that AB 100 will have on the delivery of mental health services, particularly with regard to leadership and oversight. For a future agenda, Jan would like the Commission to consider how they will address the following issues in El Dorado County:

- What are the five most important [mental health] functions/activities/programs to be performed at the state level? and
- What are the five most important [mental health] functions/activities/programs to be performed at the local level?

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

SLT – June 2, 2011: Approval deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

## **V. Old Business**

- A. Possible Consumer Leadership Committee: Discussion of the ad hoc Consumer Leadership Committee addressed the relevance of the Consumer Leadership Committee as one of the ways in which the voices of consumers of mental health services may be heard as well as a means to encourage consumer participation. Lori Shepherd explained that these goals are separate from peer support and self-help activities that exist within the Wellness programs. There was some discussion as to whether the Consumer Leadership Committee was being excessively scrutinized, whether ad hoc committees in general must be reconvened annually, and whether the Consumer Leadership Committee should be required to report on their activities and goals before being reconvened. Commission members also generally agreed that any sub-committee reports would need approval from the Mental Health Commission before being publicly distributed or submitted to another organization. A motion was introduced and approved to maintain the status of the ad hoc Consumer Leadership Committee and to request a brief update on Committee goals, activities and plans for the future by October, 2011.
- B. Children's Committee: No update.
- C. Grand Jury Task Force: Claudia Ball read the Grand Jury findings and recommendations from the 2010-2011 report, "Prevention and Intervention for Mental Health Crises". While Commission members generally agreed with the majority of the Grand Jury findings and recommendations, there was some debate about which Department should lead the proposed ad hoc committee, and about whether implementation of the Incident Command System in response to a mental health crisis would be appropriate. It was also suggested that the ad hoc committee be directed to address the unique problems experienced by children in crisis and their families. Commission members agreed to send their responses to Jan Melnicoe no later than August 18, 2011. Jan will compile the responses and send out a draft response document to the Mental Health Commission prior to the next Council meetings of Aug. 24 (WS) and Sept. 1 (SLT).

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Board of Supervisors – Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF): Kim Kerr, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), reviewed the security and staffing issues at the PHF that were presented to the County Board of Supervisors on July 19 and presented an update of actions that have been initiated since that meeting. Representatives from Telecare conducted an operational audit of the PHF, including interviews with management and staff, review of policies and procedures, and an assessment of the physical layout of the facility. Telecare will provide the County with a written report of their findings and recommendations in the near future. In addition, panic buttons are now operational, and both staffing and procedural changes have been implemented to decrease reliance on law enforcement.

Members of the Mental Health Commission also suggested that the CAO include the perspective of PHF clients in their report to the Board of Supervisors; people who were or are in the PHF may have valuable suggestions for improving safety.

## **VII. Program Updates**

- A new psychiatrist, Gia Lanzano, has begun working Wednesday mornings at the PHF and Wednesday afternoons in WS Adult outpatient.
- Marlena Reese, who was the Department's Medical Administrative Officer, has left the County for a position in the private sector.
- The California External Quality Review Organization (CAEQRO) issued its findings of the external quality review of the County's mental health program conducted in April 2011. The final report is available online at [caeqro.com](http://caeqro.com) and includes an assessment of the strengths in the Mental Health programs, practices, and information systems as well as recommendations and opportunities for quality improvement.
- The Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) met on August 4. The QIC received the Department's QIC Plan for FY 11-12 and were presented with a summary of the CAEQRO findings and recommendations. In addition, the QIC discussed feedback from the most recent Consumer Focus Groups, the Cultural Competency Subcommittee Report, and plans for FY 2011-12 Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs).
- MHSU Update: The County's CTFN (Technology) plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on August 23. Funds for this project have been released by the State and implementation will begin once the Board has approved the final plan. The Department is also organizing community and consumer focus groups to guide planning for the FY 2011-12 MHSU Plan Update. Commission members advised that focus groups for family members be included in MHSU planning; NAMI leaders may be able help identify family members interested in participating.
- Fiscal close is scheduled for August 19; shortly thereafter the Department will have more complete information on the fund balances that will be carried over into the FY 2011-12 budget addenda. In addition, the Department expects updates to EPSDT and Medi-Cal Managed Care distributions from the State. The Board of Supervisors' Budget Addenda Hearings will begin September 19.
- Commission members asked for an update on recruitment for a Mental Health Aide in to work in Tahoe; Chris will check with Hector and report back at the next Commission meeting.

## **VIII. Commissioners Comments**

- A Commission member suggested that the Department updates be provided in written format. Department management agreed to consider the request.
- St. Patrick's Church in Placerville is planning a health fair for September 24 and would like to include a representative from Mental Health. Event organizers should contact Chris Kondo-Lister to facilitate this request.

## **IX. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: West Slope, 5:00 PM on August 24, 2011**