

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION  
Minutes October 24, 2012**

**TIME: 5:00 PM**  
**PLACE: Video Conference at:**  
**Western Slope – Mental Health**  
**415 Placerville Drive (EMS)**  
**Placerville, CA 95667**

**South Lake Tahoe – Public Health/Mental Health Offices**  
**1360 Johnson Blvd.**  
**South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions

Members: R.S. Lynn, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Jan Melnicoe, Bonnie McLane  
Jim Abram

Guests: Bill Ball, Stacy Bolton, Cathy Hartrum, Brady McGuire, Stan Paolini,  
Jackie Noren, Craig Therkildsen

Staff: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Lee Jackson, Sophie Cabrera, Janet Stevens,  
Laura Walny, Doris Jones, Robert Evans, Bill Campbell

II. Approval of Agenda

Approved with the addition of “Appointment of the Nominating Committee” as  
Item V.

III. Approval of Minutes (September 26, 2012)

Postponed: Minutes were not available.

IV. Public Comment (15 Minutes)

- Jan Melnicoe reported that NAMI coordinated a training session for volunteers who are working with the Placerville homeless population. Jackie Noren, Todd Hamlin, and Josh Sprague from the Sheriffs Department, as well as Lee Jackson from Community Services and Robert Bloom from Mental Health also participated in the session, which was warmly received.
- Dr. Lynn noted that he received no constructive notice of this meeting.
- A situation in which a volunteer was asked to pick up a homeless person from Marshall Hospital was described. This individual was reported to have had a blood-alcohol level of 0.42 and had no place to go after release from the hospital. This situation raises concerns for the safety of both the individual and the volunteer.
- Claudia Ball read an email that she received from Ron Sachs, coordinator of Hangtown Haven. The Placerville City Council extended their use permit, allowing the encampment to remain open through November 15, 2013. Mr. Sachs provided details on a number of issues and problems experienced by individuals living in the camp, and requested help in getting services for residents who appear to be in need of mental and/or physical health care treatment.

V. Appointment of the Nominating Committee (added to the Agenda)

Bonnie McLane and Jan Melnicoe expressed their interest and were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

VI. Update on Proposed move of Mental Health

- A Letter of Intent has been sent to the property managers of the current Mental Health Clinic site (Golden Plaza I at 670 Placerville Drive) as well as the proposed new site (the Logan Building, 678 Pleasant Valley Road, Diamond Springs), initiating negotiations towards securing a 10-year lease.
- Dr. Lynn expressed concern that the MH Commission has not been allowed to complete their fiduciary duties because the Department and the County have not provided Commission members with the necessary information.
- Jim Abram reminded the group that they had passed a motion during the previous meeting for a presentation by the County's Facilities Manager, in order to get that necessary information and to have the opportunity to ask relevant questions. The Facilities Manager was not in attendance at this meeting, and did not send a representative.
- Brady McGuire, one of the managing partners of the Golden Plaza site, expressed frustration with the County's processes. Mr. McGuire indicated that the partners were originally instructed by the County to negotiate with one brokerage firm. They then received a second letter from Mr. Scott Kingston, indicating that he had left the original brokerage firm, but would continue to represent the County in this negotiation. Mr. McGuire expressed concern about dealing with this individual when there was no indication that the County had a contract with Mr. Kingston's new firm.
- Dr. Lynn informed the Commission of ongoing tension between those who use the South Lake Tahoe Senior Citizens' Center and Mental Health staff and clients. Dr. Lynn said that he learned that the agreement between the City of South Lake Tahoe and County Mental Health was signed on January 3, 2012. The MH Commission did not learn of the move until their meeting on January 25, 2012. Dr. Lynn concluded that those negotiations must have been ongoing for months prior to January 2012, without the knowledge or participation of stakeholders.

VII. Department News and Updates: A written update of Department news was distributed. Departmental updates are also included as an appendix to this document [Appendix A].

VIII. Update on CIT by Lt. Jackie Noren

- Many more Sheriff's deputies are requesting mental health and crisis intervention training. Rob Evans and Lee Jackson provided training on 5150 criteria to deputies at their morning briefings; they noted the officers' sincere compassion for the mentally ill adults with whom they interact.
- It was suggested that the MH Commission include the Placerville Police Department in discussions about addressing mental health needs in the homeless community.

- IX. Presentation of Children's Services by Department  
Postponed due to time constraints.
- X. Commissioners' Comments  
No comments.
- XI. Adjournment

**Appendix A:**  
**Health and Human Services Agency: Mental Health Departmental Update**  
**Mental Health Commission**  
**October 24, 2012 Meeting**

**Program Manager 2 Comments (Patricia Charles-Heathers)**

- Moving forward with the process of closing the CRT and expanding the PHF. Notice was posted regarding the CRT closing and Claudia Ball, MH Commission Chair will host the Public Comments on November 8th at 670 Placerville Drive, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.
- Data collection has begun on the Western Slope. Looking forward to sharing the October results in November and having valid data with which to make informed program decisions.
- Process Testing has begun with the CWS Data System and staff is excited about the information that would be available in the future to better monitor and assist clients.
- The decision has been made to utilize Pro-ACT (Professional Assault and Crisis Training), which is the industry standard on De-escalation and Restraint Techniques. Pro-ACT has a strong de-escalation focus and this will greatly assist the PHF staff with continuing to reduce restraints. Two staff will be trained as Trainers in the near future.

**Outpatient Services (Laura K. Walny)**

- OP Staffing: 2 Clinicians, 1 for Adult OP and 1 Children's OP are in the hiring process; start date TBD; leaves 1 vacant Clinician position in Adults. Sharon Colombini, Adult MH Program Coordinator, has announced her retirement effective January 25, 2013. We are reviewing the Adult OP Unit to assess its needs for the future not only in consideration of the Coordinator's role, but also in terms of the Recovery Oriented Community Based Services (ROCS) the intensive case management model we have developed.
- Adult OP Caseload: For September 2012, 458 clients served by 6.5 FTE, 2 p/t extra help staff and Coordinators = average caseload of 61 clients.
- Adult Clients in Placement: Effective September 14, 2012, MH Adult OP is working with 85 clients in a variety of placements:
  - 26 clients placed in an IMD/MHRC/State Hospital (Institute for Mental Disease/Mental Health Rehabilitation Center)
  - 13 clients placed in an Adult Residential Facility (5 in Placerville at The Denise Thompson House)
  - 34 in an Out of County Board and Care (22 Sacramento, 12 Galt)
  - 12 clients in Transitional Housing or Independent Apartments in Placerville
- Adult Registration (formerly Tuesday Intake): Telephone Triage protocol in place and being tested by Adult Worker of the Day staff. Beginning November, 2012 we will begin testing daily appointment availability for registration with the goal of eliminating Tuesday Registrations early in 2013. Averages for last 4 weeks: 14 Registrations per week, 4 "no shows/cancellations", 5 assigned to Clinicians, 5 referred out to community partners.
- Children's OP Caseload: For September, 2012, 199 clients served by 4.5 FTE, 1 p/t extra help staff and Coordinators – average caseload of 36 clients.

- Children's Placements: At this time, there are 25 children's placements ranging between a Level 10 and Level 14 placement.
- Co-Located Staff: We are working with HHSA Children's Protective Services (CPS) to have a MH OP Clinician co-located with CPS staff by January, 2013 to include clarifying role, responsibility, caseload, etc.

### **MHSA (Sophie Cabrera)**

- On October 9, 2012, the MHD posted, for a 30 day public comment period, a MHSA CSS plan update which proposes the elimination of the Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) facility. The notice will post through November 7, 2012, the public is invited to comment. A public hearing hosted by the Mental Health Commission will follow the public comment period. The proposed plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- We are in discussion with Pacific West regarding development of permanent supportive housing. If successful, using MHSA housing funds, we will secure 5 (maybe 6) units in the housing complex.
- The MHD has added a Suicide prevention site on it's website. The site includes the signs that might indicate that someone is contemplating suicide, the EDC crisis numbers and links to several resources.

### **South Lake Tahoe (Barry Wasserman)**

- The SLT Clinic is in transition. Sally Williams has moved on to work with our neighbors at Probation.
- Barry Wasserman is on vacation until mid-November and he anticipates retiring early in the new year.
- Robert Bloom is assuming temporary supervision of the clinic in addition to his existing role as Supervisor of Crisis Services. Bill Campbell, who is based in Tahoe, is available to assist Robert as necessary.
- Patricia Charles-Heathers is meeting with staff and reviewing program operations as she considers the best options for the future. Despite all the administrative changes, business goes on as usual thanks to a very competent and experienced staff.

### **Inpatient (Rob Evans)**

- In process of closing the CRT and the associated notifications.
- Posted the position to hire a Cook.
- Completed the interviewing process for Mental Health Worker positions. Moving forward in the hiring process with 1.0 FTE and two .8 FTE positions; hiring for specific shifts to have consistency for better program integrity. Will hire in the near future a Nurse Supervisor for Nursing Services.
- The Nurses started a nightly group called, "Ask the Nurse."
- Developing a "floor schedule" which will identify specific employees to manage and provide services to designated areas of the PHF; this will increase safety and monitoring of all inpatient areas.
- Began tracking on a weekly basis, data pertaining to census, discharge, benefits, referrals, grievances and various personnel issues; will report this data to the Mental Health Commission monthly. Example of data - from 10/5 thru 10/11: there were 22

referrals, 19 were out of county, 2 out of county accepted and 17 denied due to bed availability, 3 admissions and 4 discharges. There were no restraints and seclusions during this week.

- Created a draft of “Frequently Asked Questions” for Parents and Family Members. Doris Jones, Patient Rights Advocate, will elicit feedback from family members and a draft document will be presented to Claudia Ball and other interested Commission Members for review and feedback.

### **Crisis Services (Rob Evans)**

- In September, 43 evaluations were completed and 9 were dropped.
- Began tracking on a weekly basis, data pertaining to 5150 evaluations and non crisis 5150 evaluations.
- PES is currently covered by 1 Licensed Clinician in the AM, 1 Licensed Clinician in the PM and a Mental Health Worker trained in Acute Psychiatric Evaluations in the NOC Shift.