

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION  
Minutes April 25, 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 #103  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

- I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions

Members: Bonnie McLane, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Linn Williamson, Guadalupe Medrano, Maria Quintero, Ben Ehrler, Jim Abram, Michael Pickens

Guests: Bill Ball, Jim Abram, Shama Chaiken, Diana Hankins

Staff: Laura Walny, Joan Meis Wilson, Carol Martin, Sophie Cabrera, Janet Stevens
- II. Approval of Agenda

Approved with the addition of Agency News.
- III. Approval of Minutes

Deferred
- IV. Public Comment (15 minutes)
  - A question was raised about the status of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. The MH Department used to convene quarterly meetings with this group and post minutes of the proceedings. Members of the Advisory Committee consisted primarily of representatives from partner agencies and other service providers, and the group contributed to MH program planning.
- V. South Lake Tahoe Updates
  - a. Offices at the Senior Center: Cubicles were set up for clinicians who will be stationed at the Senior Center last week. The design of these workstations was less than ideal, and the installers have been asked to return to make changes. Gail St. James and Keith Taylor will continue to work out of the Johnson Blvd. Mental Health offices until the changes at the Senior Center are complete, and the space is more useable.
  - b. Wellness Center: MH Commission members voiced concern that clients are not attending since the move occurred in February. Barry reported that client counts have averaged between 10 and 15 clients each day in March and April, which is equivalent to the count of clients in January. Denise reported on her experience visiting the Wellness Center; she saw people checking in and leaving, very limited space available for client activities, and no one engaged in creative endeavors. While transportation to the Wellness Center is provided, there are continuing concerns that clients who wish to attend other groups are not able to do so. Barry reported that the

Department is working with BlueGo to develop a mechanism for supported transportation.

- c. Kitchen Use at Senior Center: Two SLT staff members have been approved to take the Food Safety class on Saturday, April 28. This will enable the Wellness group to use the Senior Center kitchen after the workers who prepare and serve senior lunches are done for the day. Currently, the Wellness group has use of a refrigerator and microwave; participants have been provided with snacks that do not require kitchen facilities to prepare.

## VI. Agency News

- Updates from the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) include the following: Law enforcement has been called to the PHF only three times in the past seven months; clinicians are now assigned to the PHF during daytime and evening hours; and recreational activities such as art and music, as well as AA groups are now available for clients. In addition, 99.3% of occupied beds are funded by insurance; this compares to 46% of occupied beds that had been paid previously.
- Biweekly meetings between inpatient (PHF) and outpatient staff have been scheduled to better facilitate the continuity of care for clients leaving the PHF.
- The WS outpatient clinicians from both Adult and Children's Services are now staffing a "Worker of the Day" function to assess urgent situations, including both walk-ins and calls. This shared activity provides for a more immediate response to critical mental health needs, as well as strengthening the collaboration between Adult and Children's staff.
- The new client intake process is being tested on the WS. "Welcome to Registration" will be scheduled on Tuesdays; the goal is to offer registration at another day and time to facilitate the new client assessment process and expedite community linkages for clients who do not qualify for specialty mental health services.
- WS Adult Outpatient Staffing Updates: Sharon Colombini will coordinate programs for the lower-risk adult clients and the Wellness community; Dennis Plunkett will coordinate services for clients who are at higher risk, including those on LPS conservatorship.
- Janice Hanna and Rhapsody Flores have moved to the Spring Street offices to facilitate their work with the Public Guardian and Adult Protective Services.
- The contract with Denise Thompson that would fund housing and supportive services for clients in Placerville is still in process, but the expectation is that the contract will be operational by July 1. The facility is licensed for six, but Denise is willing to consider expanding the facility to house nine clients if she could obtain a conditional use permit from the city. Commission members asked for the number of clients currently living in Board-and-Care facilities in Sacramento or Galt; Laura Walny agreed to report back at the next MH Commission meeting.
- Sophie Cabrera reported on MHSA meetings being held in South Lake Tahoe, Cameron Park, Placerville and Georgetown to report out on FY 2011-12 activities and begin community conversations about the FY 2012-13 Plan Update.
- Carol Martin reported on MHSA Innovation meetings that will be held in May to gather ideas and feedback from community members. While the Department had originally planned to fund 2.0 FTE Community Navigators at an estimated cost of \$120,000 and several community mini-grants totaling \$50,000 these plan components were not implemented during FY 2011-12. The Innovation community meetings will open the discussion for the development of a comprehensive Innovation Plan for implementation in FY 2012-13.

VII. Membership Committee Report and Vote on Jim Abram

- Lee Kaplan resigned from his position on the MH Commission
- Vote on the membership application of Jim Abram was approved.

VIII. Discussion and Vote of MHC Report to BOS

- Claudia will send the MH Commission Report via email to the commission members for final comments.

IX. El Dorado County Jail Problems

- a. West Slope: Commission members discussed problems of jail inmates getting psychiatric medications that have been prescribed by County Mental Health or other treatment providers. CA Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) is responsible for providing medical care for jail inmates. However, the problem with inmates getting their medications appears to exist even for those who go into jail with their prescription medications; family members have had to be very vocal, organized, and persistent to ensure that psychiatric medications will be dispensed as prescribed.
- b. South Lake Tahoe: The medication issue has also been problematic for South Lake Tahoe inmates. Representatives of the District Attorney's office, the police department, judges, and the inmates themselves have complained about what appears to be a CFMG practice of removing inmates from all psychotropic medical in order to conduct a new assessment while the inmate is medication-free. Advocates feel that this practice is detrimental to the inmates, as they are penalized for disruptive behavior that occurs while they are off medication. It is felt that if inmates were maintained on their prescribed medication, the disruptive behavior would be less likely to occur.

X. Status of MHC Recommendation to BOS regarding CIT/MDT program

Deferred until the next meeting of the Mental Health Commission, due to time constraints.

XI. Commissioner's Comments

None

XII. Adjournment