

**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION**  
**Minutes May 23, 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: Bonnie McLane, Jim Abram, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Linn Williamson, Ben Ehrler, Michael Pickens
- Guests: Judge Suzanne Kingsbury, Lee Jackson, Jan Walker-Conroy, Maxine Ingram, Alison Ehlers, Bill Ball, Larry Hartrum, Cathy Hartrum, Diana Hankins, Terri Daly, Stacy Bolton, Aubrey Whitaker
- Staff: Joan Meis Wilson, Laura Walny, Carol Martin, Sophie Cabrera, Janet Stevens
- II. Approval of Agenda
- Approved
- III. Approval of Minutes (Dec. 2011, Feb. 2012, Mar. 2012)
- A Commission member suggested that a “tickler file” of action items be created, so that when an action is recommended during the course of a MH Commission meeting, that item is returned to the agenda the following month, for a report back on the action taken. Claudia agreed to track the action items for inclusion in the next agenda.
  - Minutes for December 2011, February 2012, and March 2012 were approved.
- IV. Public Comment (15 Minutes)
- On April 30, Diana Hankins, Jim Abram, Denise Burke, Prestine Skinner, Linn Williamson, and Claudia Ball met with Sheriff D’Agostini and Captain Randy Peshon,
    - 1) Regarding mental health services in the jails: Sheriff D’Agostini referred the group to the California Forensics Medical Group (CFMG) and to Dr. Baker, who is responsible for assessing, diagnosing and prescribing medication for jail inmates. Jim Abram suggested that there should be a system in place, so that when a long-term Mental Health client is incarcerated, MH staff would monitor and work with CFMG personnel to ensure continuity of care.

- 2) Regarding the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT): Sheriff D'Agostini felt that it is better to have a CIT-trained and knowledgeable person out on patrol, rather than having a full-time MDT coordinator working in a cubicle.
- Jim Abram raised the issue of Behavioral Health Court clients on the WS being mandated to attend groups offered through Bipolar Insights. These groups are scheduled in the evenings, after bus service stops for the night. Jim asked that the Department investigate offering a similar, alternate group that would be offered through Mental Health in the daytime hours. He suggested that perhaps MHSA Innovation funds could be used to provide any training necessary to start a group at the WS MH Clinic.
  - Cathy Hartrum encouraged the MH Commission to continue to advocate for full staffing of the MDT. Currently there are 23 cases pending that Sgt. Todd Hammitt has not had the opportunity to follow up on. Cathy suggested that the Commission invite Todd to a second meeting to talk about next steps to support the MDT. She also asked if Judge Kingsbury would be able to provide guidance for how the MH Commission might effectively advocate for the MDT.

V. Discussion of Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) Reform Task Force Report II.

Guest speaker: Judge Kingsbury

- Judge Kingsbury shared her personal involvement as a family member of a person with mental illness, and her professional experience in developing juvenile and adult drug courts, mental health court and dependency drug courts in El Dorado County. Judge Kingsbury also participated in a Statewide task force that was convened in 2008 to improve practices and procedures in cases involving adult and juvenile offenders with mental illness. Discussion with Judge Kingsbury included the following:
  - 1) There is a need for creating a continuum of care to address the needs of individuals who do not meet 5150 criteria but nevertheless have mental health issues that are not well controlled.
  - 2) It is cost effective to support mental health case management and housing programs to reduce the criminalization of mental illness, because it is more expensive to incarcerate the mentally ill than to provide community-based treatment and support services.
  - 3) There are people who believe the current LPS system is working, and that individuals with a mental illness have the right to refuse to take medication.
  - 4) Advocates who want to change the current system can be most effective if they find a legislator who is willing to work with the community to push the plan forward. In addition, advocates can present information that demonstrates that the proposed change makes sense, saves money, and saves lives.
  - 5) Independent of reform in the LPS law, it is incumbent upon us to create a system that works in El Dorado County. One problem that we have experienced and can address is follow-through between the time that an individual with a mental illness is released from jail and establishing mental health care after release.
  - 6) Larry Hartrum asked Judge Kingsbury for suggestions on how to best garner support for restoring Todd Hammitt's assignment as a full-time MDT coordinator. The MDT handled more than 200 cases last year and within the first three months of 2012, the MDT was able to remove 77 guns from the homes of people with mental illness. Judge Kingsbury reiterated that advocates can best make their case by demonstrating that the proposed change

saves money (for example, Workman's Compensation costs, the costs of settlements for adverse events, etc.) and saves lives.

- 7) Judge Kingsbury suggested that a 23-hour crisis facility would improve services to clients who may not meet 5150 criteria but are experiencing an emotional or psychiatric crisis and would benefit from services, including crisis intervention and stabilization, emergency medications and mental health assessment. She recommended this as a good use of Innovation or other MHSA funding.

#### VI. Department News and Updates

- The Department provided a written summary of news and updates, as well as an updated organizational chart for mental health. These documents were not available for the South Lake Tahoe Council members but will be provided. Departmental updates are included as an appendix to this document.
- Joan will follow up on progress being made to establish a support group for Behavioral Health clients that will meet their requirement for attending Bipolar Insight groups, but be offered during the day.
- A progress report and count of Behavioral Health Court clients will be included with the Departmental news and updates provided to the Commission at the next meeting.
- Claudia asked about the training topics available to clinical staff through E-Learning. In particular, she wondered if training is available to inform clinicians about issues related to developmental disabilities co-occurring with mental illness, and about issues related to hoarding. This information will be included in the Departmental news and updates for the next meeting as well.

#### VII. Commissioner's Comments

- Jim Abram thanked the Department for the written updates and the organizational chart. He appreciates Joan's responsiveness to the concerns of consumers, family, and Commission members, and is pleased with recent changes in the Department.
- Several members of the Commission expressed their gratitude to Judge Kingsbury for her expertise and willingness to share her knowledge with the Commission.

#### VIII. Adjournment

**Appendix**  
**Mental Health Commission**  
**May 23, 2012**

**Department Updates**

**SLT -**

- **Move to Sr Center Completed on 5/17.** Installation of workstations, phones, and computers completed, furniture moved out of stored areas, and staff moved to new locations.
- **MH staff completed Culinary Certification class and passed test.** Now awaiting receipt of Certificate in mail. Meanwhile, simple snacks are being provided despite lack of kitchen access.
- **Cross training with Public Health staff.** Support staff (Jackie and Erin) are cross training with equivalent Public Health staff to improve our ability to provide back-up for both programs. Also, MH and Public Health clinical staff met for joint staff meeting this month to review safety procedures and other common issues. Joint meetings will continue in the future. The managers and supervisors of these two programs are meeting monthly to review issues of common concern.

**MHSA**

- **11/12 Summary to post** - A review of the current approved programs and expenditures
- **12/13 Community Planning meetings** - Initial meetings held in SLT, Georgetown, Cameron Park, Placerville and El Dorado Hills. Additional component meetings being scheduled for June.
- **MHSA Advisory Board** - Representatives from county agencies, providers, community partners and consumers are being invited. Board is advisory to the MHD, will make recommendation on funding allocations, programs and implementation.

**Adult Outpatient Services**

- **Adult OP Clinician List:** provided (e-mailed to Claudia for distribution): currently 7 clinician allocations; 2 vacant, 1 leave. Recruitment closed last week, awaiting list from HR to begin interviews. Coordinators carry reduced caseload; 2 MH Workers also carry caseload.
- **Adult OP Caseload:** 441 clients open to service managed by 4.6 clinician equivalents with 2 MH Workers; caseload average 66 clients per staff.
- **Worker of the Day:** Program started in January having Clinicians from Children's and Adult Units available to address unanticipated situations during business hours. To date, WOD has responded to 71 situations: 21 requests for service, 39 urgent situations (defined as "without timely intervention likely to result in immediate psychiatric emergency), 11 information only calls, 7 crisis situations.
- **Adult Registration (formerly Tuesday Intake):** Continue to streamline process, reduced by 1 hour to date; implementing triage protocol to facilitate more efficient access to needed services and will continue to assess to ensure barriers and inefficiencies. Averages for last 4 weeks: 15.75 Registrations per week, 6 "no shows/cancellations", 6.75 assigned to clinicians, 3 referred out to community partners

### **Clinical Management Unit**

- **Hours of Operation:** To better serve clients Heatherstone (formerly named the Club House) opens for clients to come in starting 12:30 pm as well as the Front Desk Reception is open all day from 8-5 pm.
- **New Hire:** June 4th a new Medical Office Assistant II will join our team. The new staff member is bilingual adding a valuable resource to our team to help assist clients and families.
- **Community Calls:** Our staff receives 15-25 calls per week from new or returning people in the community seeking our services and requesting resources. The person is entered into the computer system and invited to attend our Welcome to Registration Day (formerly known as Intake).

### **MHSA Innovation**

- **Innovation Plan Community Meetings:** Community Meetings to review Fiscal Year 2011/12 MSHA Innovation Plan, solicit feedback on current programs, and community needs and initiate conversations that will inform our Fiscal Year 2012/2013 MSHA. We encourage client/consumers, family members, providers and individuals interested in participating in discussion regarding the future of community mental health attend.
  - **Meeting Schedule**
    - Thursday, May 24, 2012, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, Placerville, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville
    - Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, South Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe Public Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe