

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION
Minutes February 27, 2013**

DATE: **Wednesday – February 27, 2013**

TIME: **5:00 PM**

PLACE: **Facilitated by Video-Conference at:
Western Slope - 415 Placerville Drive (EMS)
Placerville, CA 95667
and
South Lake Tahoe – Public Health/Mental Health Offices
1360 Johnson Blvd., Suite 103
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions

Members: Denise Burke, Michael Pickens, Ben Ehrler, Claudia Ball, Linn Williamson, Jim Abram, Guadalupe Medrano, Jan Melnicoe

Guests: Bill Ball, Larry Hartrum, Cathy Hartrum, Brady McGuire, Earl McGuire, Jackie Noren

Staff: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Lori Walker, Shirley White, Janet Stevens, Laura Walny, Doris Jones, Cheree Haffner, Ren Scammon

II. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved

III. Approval of Minutes (January 23rd) Draft on website

- November 2012 minutes are posted on the County website in draft status, but have not yet been approved.
- January minutes are not available for approval.
- November 2012, January 2013 and February 2013 minutes will be considered at the March meeting of the MH Commission

IV. Public Comment (15 minutes)

- Brady McGuire commented on the November 2012 minutes, Item VIII - Update on the Proposed Move. The minutes indicate that a total of 59 messages were exchanged between the Golden Plaza landlord and the County. Brady reports that this is not accurate, unless routine maintenance messages were included in that total.
- Linn Williamson commented on Alexis de Tocqueville's examination of participatory government in *Democracy in America*. Linn reflected on having a "de Tocqueville moment" when he realized that while Americans are now somewhat less involved in their government and their communities than was true in the early 1800s, the MH Commission is a great example of de Tocqueville-style democracy. MH administrative staff like the MH Commission – and they find the Commission a little bit annoying.

- Claudia Ball agreed with Linn's observations, and added that the word "idiot" comes from ancient Greece and originally meant "people who don't get involved in their government."

V. Department Reports

- A written update of Mental Health Department news was distributed. Departmental updates are also included as an appendix to this document [Appendix A].
- Commission members requested that the Department Updates be distributed prior to the meeting, preferably with the agenda and previous minutes. Commission members agreed that they would like the opportunity to read these updates in advance of the meeting and be better prepared for discussion. In addition, the Department Updates generated several points of discussion, summarized below:
 - Jim Abram indicated that he would like to participate in a Pro-ACT training when that training becomes available to individuals beyond the PHF staff.
 - Commission members asked about levels of care, housing needs, and how these needs are being addressed since the CRT has closed. Patricia Charles-Heathers explained that the need for the sub-acute level of care was not extensive, and that the greater need was for transitional housing. Barry Wasserman recently retired from the Department and is moving out of El Dorado County; the Department is considering an opportunity to lease his house in Placerville as an additional T-House for clients. In addition to the local T-Houses, the Department also contracts with Board-and-Care facilities in Galt to provide 24-hour supervision for clients needing that level of care. Finally, the Recovery Oriented Community Based Services Intensive Case Management (ROCS ICM) team has begun to provide intensive services for clients who are at high risk.
 - Commission members asked about the Denise Thompson House. Patricia explained that Mental Health and the Public Guardian suspended the placement of clients at the Denise Thompson House pending the outcome of an investigation.
 - Commission members asked about the intended clinician-to-client ratio for clients served by the ROCS ICM team; Laura Walny explained that the expected ratio will range from 1:10 to 1:20.
 - Commission members asked about the oversight of MHSA programs, since the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) was dissolved. Ren Scammon explained that while AB 100 removed the DMH from the MHSA Plan Approval process, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) continues to receive all County 3-year plans, annual updates, and annual Revenue and Expenditure Reports; the MHSOAC also has approval authority for County Innovation plans. Direct approval and oversight of other MHSA plans has shifted to local control, with the Board of Supervisors responsible for plan approval.
 - Ren Scammon also addressed questions about the County's Innovation funds, explaining that the County does not have to budget or spend all available MHSA funds in a given year, but noting that most MHSA allocations - including allocations designated for Innovation projects - must be expended within a three-year period beginning when the funds were first made available.
 - Linn Williamson observed that the WS has about four times the number of outpatient clients compared to South Lake Tahoe, but in the Behavior Health Courts (BHC), the number of active participants is approximately equal. Staff agreed that Tahoe has traditionally had a very active BHC program.
 - Cathy Hartrum encouraged Commission members to attend BHC proceedings to see first-hand the effectiveness of this program.

VI. Old Business

- a. Status update on Western Slope Mental Health Clinic location: Lease negotiations continue, with the clinic's current location (670 Placerville Drive) as well as the Logan Building (768 Pleasant Valley Road, Diamond Springs) both under active consideration. On Tuesday, Daniel Nielson spoke to the Board of Supervisors in closed session, providing an update on the progress of negotiations. A letter of intent has been sent to both landlords, and the County is waiting for their responses.
 - Jim Abram expressed concern about traffic and transportation issues at the Logan Building. He asked when a transportation study would be done, and pointed out that cost differences should not be the only consideration; client safety and convenience needs should also be significant factors.
 - Patricia Charles-Heathers explained that neither site is considered perfect, and the County is looking at necessary modifications at both locations. Locating a facility with adequate space and amenities for the Wellness Center has been one of the biggest considerations.
 - Linn Williamson suggested that the Wellness Center does not have to be co-located with other mental health offices. Denise Burke reflected on the experience in South Lake Tahoe, where Wellness was moved to a smaller facility separate from other mental health services, and she noted that this has created a number of problems for clients.
 - Jim Abram proposed that facility updates that are provided to the Commission about the Department's intent to relocate the WS Clinic be entered into the MH Commission minutes; this motion was approved.
- b. Laura's Law
 - i. Report on [Laura's Law] Subcommittee Meeting of 2-19-13: Patricia Charles-Heathers gave a presentation and provided the subcommittee with a 3-page summary of the pros and cons of enacting Laura's Law in El Dorado County.
 - ii. Legislative Update: Last Friday State Senator Yee introduced SB 664, which includes a number of provisions that would make it easier for counties to implement Laura's Law. Included among its provisions, SB 664 specifies that MHSA allocations may be used to fund services provided under Laura's Law, and that implementation of Laura's Law does not require the Board of Supervisors make a finding that no voluntary mental health services will be reduced as a result of implementation.
 - Claudia Ball noted that the California Mental Health Director's Association (CMHDA) generally opposes implementation of Laura's Law and that it is really unfortunate that Mental Health Directors around the state have this mindset.
 - Linn Williamson suggested that if a few more counties were able to implement Laura's Law successfully then the Mental Health Directors would be more accepting. They would see not only the costs of implementation but also the savings that result.
 - Jan Melnicoe expressed concern regarding the many unknowns and issues beyond funding that would need to be resolved if El Dorado County were to approve implementation of Laura's Law.
 - iii. Department actions: Patricia Charles-Heathers reported that the Department is working to set up a meeting with the Behavioral Health Director from Nevada

County, Michael Heggarty, to address questions about the impact and process of implementing Laura's Law. She sent out an email to members of the Laura's Law subcommittee in order to compile a list of questions that the group would like to ask Mr. Heggarty and to develop an agenda for this meeting.

- Jim Abram initially suggested involving all stakeholders – for example, other Department Heads, County Council, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney, and Probation – in the implementation meetings from the start. As the discussion progressed, Jim withdrew his motion to have wide participation in this initial meeting with Michael Heggarty. Instead, he suggested that the questions be compiled and sent to Mr. Heggarty by email. Jim noted that fairly extensive information is already available and documents Nevada County's experience – including their funding strategies and outcomes of implementation.
- Linn Williamson noted that law enforcement seems to get significant savings from the implementation of Laura's Law: while Mental Health funds programs under Laura's Law, much of the savings are seen as a reduction in jail costs.
- Patricia Charles-Heathers stated that the Department doesn't have an opinion about the relative benefits of implementing Laura's Law at this time. This is a learning opportunity and Department management is open to finding out more. The Department's priority is to provide the services that best serve the clients.

c. Bi-polar support group

i. Current status: The Bi-Polar Insights group meets in the evenings at Green Valley Church. The location is difficult to reach, especially at night when there is no public transportation. The MH Commission has previously discussed these problems, and has asked that the Department develop an alternative group to provide similar psycho-education and support, but one that would be scheduled during the day.

- The Department has a new intern starting next week. The plan is for this intern and a Clinician to co-facilitate the group.

ii. Possibility of working with Behavioral Health Court? Since many of the MH clients who attend Bi-Polar Insights are required to attend as part of their BHC requirements, it would be necessary to inform the Court and have the Judge's approval for an alternate group.

- The Department will collaborate with the BHC partners to ensure that the alternate group will satisfy the clients' legal obligations.

VII. New Business

a. Request by Senior Peer Counseling Program to make presentation: Mental Health formerly ran this program. Mental Health dropped the program a few years ago, and it was picked up by Human Services. Currently, more than 1000 people are seen over the course of the year by the Senior Peer Counseling program.

- The MH Commission voted to invite representatives of the Senior Peer Counseling Program to present at a future Commission meeting.

VIII. Determination of MHC meeting for March

- Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month; next meeting is scheduled to be March 27, 2013

Appendix A

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency Mental Health Department Update Mental Health Commission February 27, 2013 Meeting

PM II Update (Acting Position, Laura Walny):

- Program Manager II hiring interviews scheduled March 1st; 16 applicants for the position
- Manager of Mental Health Programs hiring interviews scheduled for March 8th; 8 applicants.
- 2 Mental Health Program Coordinators hired: Judy French, Adult Outpatient Services and Sabrina Owen-Balme, South Lake Tahoe; Judy to begin transitioning this week and Sabrina expected to start in March.
- Patricia Charles-Heathers and Stephanie Carlson completed the Pro-ACT (Professional Assault Crisis Training) Train the Trainer Program and will be training both Inpatient and Outpatient staff, focusing on de-escalation techniques and safety measures.
- SLT Reorganization is one of several current projects/priorities: goal is to ensure the provision of clinically appropriate assessments and interventions in a timely and collaborative manner and to establish more productive partnerships within the community.
- Alcohol & Drug is now under the Mental Health Division; under Patricia's leadership we are looking at ways to maximize resources and meet the broader needs of the community to include the development of a dual diagnosis program.
- Planning Collaborative in process between MH OP, AOD and Captain Peshon and his staff at the jail to facilitate enhanced programming and more effective transitions from jail to community for shared clients.

Adult & Children Outpatient Services WS (Laura Walny)

- Recovery Oriented Community Based Services (ROCS) Program start up in process; providing intensive case management services to small caseload of our higher risk adult clients
- Adult OP Caseload: 522 clients open as of 2.13.13 among 7.6 clinicians/workers averaging 68 clients per staff.
- Children's OP Caseload: 166 clients open as of 2.13.13 among 5.75 clinicians/workers averaging 28.86 clients per staff.
- Children's Clinician now co-located with CPS staff at Briw Road office; assigned shared CPS Caseload available for consultations with staff; goal is to foster more collaborative relationship and streamline internal processes. Completing review of children's services to determine which services will meet the greatest needs for the next FY to include meeting this week with SELPA followed by meetings with contract service providers
- Avatar/CWS (electronic medical record) Children's Outpatient went live at the end of January; Adult Outpatient goes live 2.25.13 followed by the PHF and SLT.

Adult and Children Outpatient Services SLT (Laura Walny)

- Barry Wasserman retired February 8th; Laura Eakin, MH Program Coordinator QI/UR Unit has been assisting with SLT coverage until new Program Coordinator, Sabrina Owen-Balme begins in March.

- SLT Caseload (Adult/Children combined): 164 clients as of 2.13.13 among 6 clinicians/workers averaging 27.33 clients per staff
- Extra Help Driver Recruitment in process for WS and SLT to expand pool of available drivers (Pool is shared among PHF, OP and Public Guardian's Office).

Psychiatric Health Facility (Cheree Haffner)

- Pro-Act Training (2 ½ days) scheduled for all Permanent staff March 13-15 and March 27-29. Very excited about this new model that has heavy focus on de-escalation techniques. Extra-Help staff will be scheduled into future classes.
- Current vacancies include 1 FTE RN and .8 MHW on NOC shift. Filling both with Extra Help staff while active recruitment is occurring.
- The new Cook is doing a great job.
- PHF expansion update: We have quotes for needed furniture and construction. Still waiting on quotes for updated fire system and painting the unit. Increased staffing needs have been accounted for in the current staffing patterns.
- Increased groups on the unit already happening as a result of the Cook's presence but will further increase as we move towards 16 beds and full staffing.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (Cheree Haffner)

- WS Crisis AM staff will be moving to 670 Placerville Dr. in early March to join forces with the developing ICM team. The rest of the Crisis team will stay at the PHF but will also become an integral part of the ICM team as all will share after-hours response to ICM clients on some level. NOC crisis coverage will move to on-call beginning March 9.
- WS Crisis staff continue to respond to 60+? requests for crisis evaluations each month.
- Marshall Hospital and Law Enforcement personnel continue to be strong partners in the process of crisis response.
- SLT Crisis is now managed by full-time staff Monday-Friday and continues to use extra help during after hours. Supervision will shift from WS Coordinator, Robert Bloom, to the newly hired SLT MH Coordinator.

MHSA (Ren Scammon)

- The new MHSA Program Manager, Ren Scammon, is on board and she is looking forward to working with the community on the Mental Health Services Act programs.
- MHSA Plans are required to be updated annually. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 25, 2012, the Board adopted a continuation of the FY 11/12 plans until the FY 12/13 plan could be completed, along with authorizing other items related to the PEI and Innovation components. The Board of Supervisors also acted in December relative to closing the CRT.
- Health and Human Services, Mental Health Division, is proposing to draft a FY 12/13 Plan Update, incorporating current activities that went to the Board of Supervisors this fiscal year and feedback from the public meetings that were held in 2012. It is anticipated that the FY 12/13 Draft Plan Update will be posted no later than April 1 for the 30-day comment period, with a public hearing to be held by the Mental Health Commission in May. The Plan Update could then go to the Board of Supervisors in May, followed by submittal to the State.
- Public participation for the FY 13/14 Plan will begin in April. The FY 13/14 Plan will be a full plan incorporating public input, along with any resulting changes in direction, especially in the Innovation component. Announcements will be forthcoming as to where and when the MHSA FY 13/14 Plan meetings will occur and the proposed timeline for the FY 13/14 Plan.

- Anyone who has not yet signed up for the MHSA distribution list may do so by sending an email with their contact information to MHSA@edcgov.us. The distribution list is utilized to keep interested parties informed of the MHSA planning process and other related activities.

Behavioral Health Court (Shirley White)

- Placerville Behavioral Health Court currently has 8 active participants and 1 new participant will enter the program in March 4th.
- The Placerville BHC team celebrated one successful graduation this month and anticipates another graduation in March. This current group of BHC participants has grown close and within this supportive group environment all participants have achieved positive progress in meeting their goals. Four of the group members are actively engaged in treatment for substance use disorders and are remaining abstinent.
- The next BHC hearing will be held on March 4, 2013 at 2:00 PM. The Honorable Daniel Proud will preside.
- South Lake Tahoe Behavioral Health Court was convened on 2-21-13 and currently has 9 active participants. Six participants were recognized by the court for their positive progress this month. Five of the participants have been assessed for substance use disorders and are engaged in 12-step meetings and outpatient services with Tahoe Turning Point.
- The next BHC hearing will be held on March 21, 2013 at 1:30 PM. The Honorable Stephen Bailey will preside.