

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION
Minutes: April 24, 2013**

TIME: 5:00 PM

**PLACE: Video-Conference at:
Western Slope at 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: R.S. Lynn, Denise Burke, Michael Pickens, Claudia Ball, Jim Abram, Jan Melnicoe, Craig Therkildsen, Linn Williamson

Guests: Diana Hankins, Bill Ball, Larry Hartrum, Cathy Hartrum, Jackie Noren, Maureen Focht, Jonathan Gainsbrugh

Staff: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Jan Walker-Conroy, Ren Scammon, Don Ashton, Lee Jackson, Janet Stevens, Shirley White, Laura Walny, Doris Jones, Cheree Haffner, Dennis Plunkett

II. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes (Minutes from March in Draft on website)

- Minutes were approved, with a correction to the reference to Welfare and Institutions Code 5604.2 on page 4.

IV. Public Comment (15 minutes)

- May has historically been named Mental Health Month. The Board of Supervisors will consider a Proclamation to recognize May 2013 as "Mental Health Month" in the County of El Dorado.
- Jan Melnicoe and Cathy Hatrum attended a community meeting with Sheriff D'Agostini; Jan reported that the meeting went well and lead to positive dialog.
- A guest shared his experience and difficulties trying to obtain mental health treatment for his adult daughter after his wife passed away, as well as his current struggle to find appropriate housing for her when she is released from the PHF. After the trauma of losing her mother, he feels that it would not be healthy for her to return to the family home, nor is she able to live independently at this time. Representatives from NAMI and from the Mental Health Department offered their support and assistance to help him with housing options and strategies.

V. CIT/MDT report and update

- Jackie Noren reported that Todd Hammit has requested to be reassigned off of CIT. Cathy Hartrum expressed appreciation for Todd's leadership and all that he has contributed to the development and success of Crisis Intervention Training and the MDT. She added that his resignation from CIT is a great loss to the program.

- Jackie Noren reported that the application for a Federal grant to increase funding for CIT deputies and to offer CIT training to all El Dorado County first responders, submitted by the Sheriff's Office, has passed its initial review and will be scored.

VI. Old Business

- a. Status update on Mental Health Clinic location/relocation: The Department has not yet received the "best and final" offers from landlords of the properties under consideration (670 Placerville Drive and 768 Pleasant Valley Road). Don Ashton reported that the Department will not have the information necessary to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the April 30th meeting, and that the soonest this item will go to the Board will be May 7, 2013.
 - There was discussion about when the best and final contract offers would be made available to members of the Mental Health Commission, with several members advocating that the Commission be provided the information in advance of the public posting to the BOS website. Commission members expressed concern that they may not have adequate time to prepare a recommendation, and that if contract negotiations are presented to the Board of Supervisors with the Department advocating a move to Diamond Springs, the decision to move will pass without consideration of problems identified by the Commission members.
 - Don Ashton explained that once both landlords have submitted their best and final contract offers, Russ Fackrell will present the information to the Health and Human Services Agency. The Agency will analyze the information, make its recommendation to the Board, and all documentation will be posted to the BOS website 72 hours in advance of their meeting. Once the contract information is public, the Commission can prepare a statement or request that the Board continue the item to allow the Commission time for additional analysis
 - **MOTION:** "The Mental Health Commission will select a representative to attend the April 30th meeting of the Board of Supervisors, and present a letter requesting that once all contract negotiations are complete, the Board of Supervisors shall postpone their final decision for a period of two weeks in order to allow the Mental Health Commission time to review and evaluate the proposed facility contracts, and present their recommendations to the Department and the Board for consideration." Motion was approved; Jim Abram and Craig Therkildsen agreed to represent the Commission at the April 30th BOS meeting.
- b. Laura's Law Discussion: Commission members had previously requested that the 28-page document of questions and answers prepared by Michael Heggerty of the Nevada County Behavioral Health Department be distributed to the all Commission members. Copies of this document were available at the Placerville meeting and will be emailed to Commission members in Tahoe.
 - The Department plans to meet with Commission members on the Laura's Law subcommittee in the next 4 to 6 weeks.
 - There was discussion about whether meetings to discuss Laura's Law should be limited to the Mental Health Commission and representatives of the Health and Human Services Agency, or whether a wider group of stakeholders (e.g., the Sheriff's Office, County Counsel, and Probation) should be included. Stakeholder participation in these meetings will not be expanded at this time,

but may be expanded later when internal budgetary and implementation issues are better understood.

- The Board of Supervisors are aware of discussions around Laura's Law, and Board members are waiting to see what state-wide legislative changes will be approved.

VII. New Business

- a. Discussion of Mental Health Commission duties related to the selection of a new Director of the Health and Human Services Agency per California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604.2, item a.#6.
 - The position of Director of the Health and Human Services Agency will be posted for a period of four weeks; as of 4/24/13 the opening was not yet posted.
 - Jan Walker-Conroy reported that the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Terri Daly, has expressed interest in having a member of the Mental Health Commission participate on the hiring panel for the selection of the new Director of the Health and Human Services Agency.
 - Cathy Hartrum noted that in prior years, final applicants for the position of Mental Health Director would interview with the full Commission.
 - **MOTION:** "The Mental Health Commission will submit a request to CAO Terri Daly, asking that once the top candidates for the position of Director of the Health and Human Services Agency have been selected, those top candidates will interview at a special meeting of the Mental Health Commission." Motion was approved.
- b. Discussion of which MHC members will be able to attend Board of Supervisors meeting when final recommendations regarding the location/relocation of the Western Slope Mental Health Clinic is presented for approval by the BOS.
 - Representation at the April 30th meeting of the Board of Supervisors was addressed under Old Business, item (a).
 - Once best and final contract information is available, the Commission may hold a Special Meeting to decide their next steps. Commission members may also choose to speak as individuals at the BOS meeting.

VIII. South Lake Tahoe Mental Health Department Outpatient Wellness Center/Clubhouse location

- Users and advocates for the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center presented their concerns and perspectives on problems that have occurred since February 2012 when Mental Health began sharing space at the Tahoe Senior Center. As a result, the City Council voted to invalidate the lease agreement with County Mental Health. The County has been advised to relocate the Wellness Center as well as other Mental Health services by June 30, 2013.
- The Mental Health Department reported that this issue is being addressed by County Counsel. The Board of Supervisors also met in closed session to conference with Legal Counsel regarding exposure to litigation concerning the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center. No action was reported out of this meeting.
- Commission members from South Lake Tahoe reported on the anger and hostility towards Mental Health clients that was expressed at the City Council meeting and is evident to clients who participate in services at the Senior Center. Commission

members expressed disappointment that no one attended the Council meeting to advocate for clients, or to dispute negative stereotyping.

- Commission members expressed frustration with the Department's lack of transparency and unwillingness to involve stakeholders when the Tahoe Mental Health Clinic was moved out of the Tata Lane facility in February of 2012. The problems currently evident at the Senior Center might have been avoided if the Commission and larger Tahoe community had been given the opportunity to be involved in that decision-making process. In addition, some Commission members noted that problems with co-locating the Wellness group at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Mental Health managers, but have not been resolved.
- Jan Walker-Conroy reminded Commission members that the SLT Clinic move was necessary due to fiscal constraints. Mental Health services in Tahoe were relocated to County-owned property in order to save on facility rental costs; if the Wellness program were to be moved back to a rented facility, other mental health services in Tahoe would have to be cut. At this time, the Department is awaiting direction from the Board of Supervisors before proceeding with any specific plans to move from the Senior Center.
- Denise Burke noted that the location of the Placerville mental health clinic has been in discussion and negotiation for about a year, without resolution. It will be necessary to locate a new facility quickly in order to preserve the Tahoe Wellness program; the fear is that the Wellness program will be discontinued. Denise encouraged the Department to confer with Tahoe local residents, consumers and the Commission and to find one location to house all of the Mental Health programs in SLT.

IX. Mental Health Department Update/Questions

- A written update of Mental Health Department news was distributed. Departmental updates are also included as an appendix to this document [Appendix A].
- Ren Scammon asked that the Mental Health Commission host the Public Hearing that is required to occur after the 30-day comment period of the FY 2012-13 MHSA Plan Update. The plan update was posted on 4/26/2013 and the comment period ends 5/28/2013. Commission members agreed to host the Public Hearing on 5/29/2013 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.
- Commission members ask that the Department provide statistics on total staffing numbers and a breakdown of management compared to clinical/direct service staff.
- There was discussion about providing refresher training and/or setting a time to hold a business meeting of the Mental Health Commission to talk about procedural issues, requirements under that Brown Act, and Commission By-Laws.
- The Quality Improvement Committee will meet tomorrow (4/25/2013) at 10:00 AM.
- Pro-Act training sessions are scheduled on May 8, 9,10 and May 22,23,24. Commission members who want to participate in this training should contact Patricia Charles-Heathers.

X. Determination of MHC meeting for May 2013

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 5:00 PM

XI. Adjournment

Appendix A

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency Mental Health Department Update Mental Health Commission April 24, 2013 Meeting

PM II Update (Laura K. Walny):

- Staffing Changes/Updates:
 - Acting Program Coordinator II: PHF - Jessica Solomon
- Recruitments:
 - MH Program Coordinator II: Adults OP - in process
 - MH Program Coordinator II: Special Projects - in process
 - MH Clinician positions: reference checks in process; anticipate offering 2 adult OP, 1 children's OP, 1 SLT and 1 extra help SLT clinician/crisis
 - MHSA Analyst Position: in process
 - Extra Help Drivers: 1 driver beginning next week, 2 in hiring process
- Mental Health/Public Health Collaboration:
Monthly Division All Staff Meetings on Western Slope and SLT - provides an opportunity to not only better understand the resources available for clients on both sides of the house, but also fosters collaboration as we often serve the same clients.
- Children's Outpatient Services:
 - 170 clients open to services as of April 3rd; 4.5 Clinicians with 1 vacancy; 1 extra help MH Worker Sharon Simonson leaving this week.
 - Planning reorganization of children's services for FY 13/14 - concentrated effort to streamline services in house and contract out with providers who have the expertise to ensure access to continuum of care/range of services while ensuring the quality of services provided in house

Outpatient Services (Dennis Plunkett):

- Adult Outpatient Services:
 - 423 clients open to services as of April 3rd; staffing challenges with 1 retirement, 1 resignation (picked up by Sac County), 1 maternity leave; Jamie Sambocetti from QI assisting Adult Team at this time. Staffing/caseload coverage is priority at this time.
 - New T-House "Mallard House" opened as scheduled; 3 clients moved in and potential for this to become female only T-House.
 - Bipolar Substance Abuse Group and Transitional Group started; off to a good start; between 18 - 20 participants in Transitional Group.
- South Lake Tahoe:
 - 150 clients open to services as of April 3rd; 5.2 clinicians/workers not including extra help staff averaging 28.85 clients per staff
 - Working on limited space issues within our control in SLT; addressing privacy issues in clinic and providing more user friendly space for clients
- Psychiatric Emergency Services (Dennis Plunkett):
 - Working to add additional extra help clinicians to reinforce the quality of services in both SLT and WS

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- Integration of CWS moving forward on schedule; SLT at 3 weeks into “Go Live,” PHF staff currently undergoing CWS training

Psychiatric Health Facility (Cheree Haffner)

- Update on 16 Bed Expansion: Currently working with the California Department of Social Services for approval to move forward with construction plan. Contract for construction project is almost completed. We anticipate construction to begin May 2013.
- New Program and Activities Schedule is going very well. Still working with staff and patients to get feedback and make adjustments where appropriate. Please feel free to email me if you would like a copy of the schedule.
- Staffing: In the process of interviewing for 2 vacant Mental Health Worker positions and will be starting another recruitment for a Mental Health Clinical Nurse very soon.
- PHF staff started training in the CWS electronic record program. GO LIVE date for the PHF is May 13th. Clinically it will be fantastic to share electronic records throughout the system of care. PHF has, up to this point, only had paper records.

MHSA (Ren Scammon)

- Transforming Mental Health Care Booklets: The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) published the booklet “Transforming Mental Health Care,” along with the associated Resource Directory, which discusses the Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention Programs of Suicide Prevention, Student Mental Health, and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction. The booklet and resource directory will be provided as handouts at the MH Commission Meeting.
- FY 12/13 MHSA Plan Update: The FY 12/13 MHSA Plan Update is being reviewed by Department Leadership and posting of the plan should occur within the week. This document is an update only; reflecting Board of Supervisors’ actions taken this fiscal year and providing a restatement of current projects. Comment on the Plan Update will be open for 30 days from the posting date, after which time the Mental Health Commission will hold a public hearing. The Plan Update will be updated as necessary based upon community feedback, and then taken to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.
- FY 13/14 MHSA Plan Community Planning Process: The FY 13/14 MHSA Community Planning Process will be starting April 23. A list of the scheduled meetings will be provided as a handout at the MH Commission Meeting. These meetings are to review current MHSA activities, solicit input on unmet needs in the community, identify potential projects, and provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions regarding MHSA. Information from these initial meetings will be developed further and taken back to the community for additional input prior to inclusion of the projects in the FY 13/14 MHSA Plan.
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for MHSA Children’s Services: The RFQ is under development concurrently with the FY 12/13 Plan Update. This will minimize the amount of time that passes between the Board of Supervisors’ approval of the FY 12/13 Plan Update and the release of the RFQ. The Department would like to request one member

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from the Mental Health Commission to serve as a representative on the RFQ response evaluation team.

- MHSAs Advisory Board: At the March 2013 MH Commission Meeting, it was requested that the Department look into reinstating the MHSAs Advisory Board. The organization and membership of the MHSAs Advisory Board is currently under review. Should there be any historical information that you wish to share about the MHSAs Advisory Board, please contact Ren Scammon at ren.scammon@edcgov.us or 530-621-6340.
- MHSAs Services for Seniors: At the March 2013 MH Commission Meeting, it was requested that the Mental Health Division look into why services for Seniors are not included in the MHSAs Plan. Seniors are included within the current Community Services and Supports (CSS) programs for adults, although there is not a specific project identified for Seniors. Seniors are included specifically under the PEI program of "Wellness Outreach Program for Vulnerable Adults." However, programs for older adults in our community is a topic for discussion during the FY 13/14 MHSAs Plan Community Planning Process.

Behavioral Health Court (Shirley White)

- South Lake Tahoe Behavioral Health court has seen an increase in participants this month. Total number of active clients is now 15. Four (4) clients have been referred to Alcohol and Drug Programs and have successfully completed the assessment process and have been engaged in substance use disorder treatment. One (1) client successfully graduated from the program within the last review period and 1 client has been transferred to another County. Next Behavioral Health Court proceedings will be held on April 18 at 1:30 pm.
- Placerville Behavioral Health Court has 10 active participants. Three (3) new clients were welcomed in to Behavioral Health Court this month and 1 participant is scheduled to graduate in May. Next Behavioral Health Court in Placerville will be held on May 6 at 1:30 pm.

Patients' Rights Advocate (Doris Jones)

- The PHF patients have been providing positive feedback regarding the new programs/activities taking place at the PHF.
- New duties:
 1. Problem Resolution Coordinator for Mental Health: Grievances are received, acknowledged, documented, assigned, tracked & disposition/outcomes reported.
 2. Safety Coordinator for all Mental Health facility sites: Assist Department Head with Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) related issues, manage activities associated with the IIPP and attend the quarterly County-Wide Safety Committee.
- NAMI "Family Release and Information Form (5150)" is now available on EDC MH website at the bottom of the page in the "Resources" table at <http://www.edcgov.us/MentalHealth/>