

**DRAFT**

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION  
Minutes: June 26, 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: Ben Ehrler, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Jim Abram, Jan Melnicoe, Bonnie McLane, Craig Therkildsen, Guadalupe Medrano

Guests: Vincent Cornish, Bill Ball, Michael Lazar, Alison Ehlers, Laurie Marchant, Rebecca Nylander

Staff: Jan Walker-Conroy, Don Ashton, Laura Walny, Ren Scammon, Janet Stevens

II. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

III. Approval of Minutes (April/May 2013)

- Approved

IV. Public Comment (15 minutes)

- Acknowledgement was given to Diana Hankins for coordinating a meeting with the California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) management to discuss issues with the medication services provided to El Dorado County jail inmates who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Diana's handling of the meeting was reported to have been very diplomatic. An update on medication issues at the jail, including a report out from this meeting with CFMG, will be included on the Mental Health Commission agenda for next month.
- Rebecca Nylander of Hangtown Haven spoke of wanting to bridge the gap so that residents of the Hangtown Haven community can have easier access to Mental Health services when community volunteers cannot adequately address their needs. Laurie Marchant, also from Hangtown Haven, described a situation in which a resident who had serious impairments was turned away from the Marshall Emergency Room for not meeting 5150 criteria. The wait to schedule an outpatient mental health assessment was more than a month, and volunteers did not know how to provide help for the individual until services could be secured.

## V. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Plan Update Public Hearing

- The Public Hearing to consider the County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 2012-13 Plan Update was originally scheduled on May 29, 2013, but was rescheduled and is included in this meeting of the Mental Health Commission.
- Ren Scammon provided a brief overview of the review process for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 2012-13 Plan Update. The Plan Update was posted on the County website for public review and comment from April 26 through May 28, 2013. Substantive recommendations received during the review period are included in the updated document, which is available on the County website at <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/MentalHealth/MHSA.aspx>. Comments, questions, and recommendations include the following:
  - Are there MHSA funds available in regard to the move of the Placerville Mental Health Division to Diamond Springs relative to client access to services?
    - Under Community Services and Supports (CSS), "Project 2a: Outreach and Engagement Services," outreach and engagement activities are provided to individuals with a serious mental illness. Funds from the Outreach and Engagement project will be utilized to assist clients in accessing services at the new location of the West Slope Mental Health Clinic and Wellness Center. This information has been added to the description of "Project 2a: Outreach and Engagement Services" for clarification purposes.
  - Are there MHSA funds available to relocate the Wellness Center in South Lake Tahoe?
    - MHSA funds support costs associated with the Wellness Center in South Lake Tahoe. MHSA funds will continue to support the Wellness Center upon its relocation.
- **MOTION:** The Mental Health Commission supports approval of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 2012-13 Plan Update. Motion approved; the Plan Update will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review and final approval.

## VI. Discussion/Review/Vote on Mental Health Commission Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

- Commission members commended the current draft of the Mental Health Commission Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. One Commission member asked that the report clarify staff positions when individuals who are no longer employed by the Mental Health Division are cited.
- **MOTION:** The Mental Health Commission accepts the current draft of the Mental Health Commission Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors with the update noted above. Claudia Ball will clarify staff positions and forward the report to the Board of Supervisors. Motion approved.

## VII. Questions/Comments regarding the Mental Health Division (MHD) Monthly Report

- A written update of Mental Health Department news was distributed. Departmental updates are also included as an appendix to this document [Appendix A].
- Jim Abram noted that Jessica Solomon is an awesome addition to the Adult Outpatient staff. Jim was also pleased to see that the Bipolar group is starting again.

- Jan Melnicoe noted that Children's Services is requesting to present a program overview of the changes, challenges and plans for FY 13/14 within the next quarter. Jan agreed that an update from Children's Services would be valuable and requested that this be included on the Mental Health Commission Agenda for next month.
- Denise Burke noted that the MHD Monthly Reported did not include an update on progress to relocate Mental Health/Wellness services in South Lake Tahoe.
  - The Mental Health Division representatives indicated that the County Real Estate Broker and Facilities Manager are still looking at potential facilities.
  - Dennis Plunkett has been working with Sabrina Owen-Balme to assess the space needs of the South Lake Tahoe Clinic.

## VIII. Old Business

- Laura's Law Committee 6/18 meeting update:
  - Committee members worked to develop a flow chart of what needs to be done to move the discussion of Laura's Law along toward consideration by the Board of Supervisors.
  - Jim Abram had accessed sample forms from the Treatment Advocacy Center to assist in the development of documents necessary for the implementation of Laura's Law. He sent these to Mental Health Division administrators.
  - Committee members noted that Laura's Law requires that clients receive treatment in the "least restrictive setting" – which allows clients more freedom than they would have under a conservatorship.
  - Scheduling of the next meeting of the Laura's Law Committee and suggested topics of discussion will be included on the agenda for the Mental Health Commission July meeting.

## IX. Determination of next Mental Health Commission meeting for July (24<sup>th</sup>)

- Next meeting of the Mental Health Commission is scheduled for 5:00 PM on July 24, 2013.

## X. Commissioners Comments

- Jim Abram thanked Don Ashton for his assistance with the Mental Health Commission agenda, and particularly for providing clarification about the rules and regulations with regard to closed-session debate.

## XI. Adjournment to Closed Session.

**Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) – Public Employee Appointment:**  
Discussion/Recommendation on candidates for Director of Health and Human Services Agency

- The Commission voted to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that Pamela Knorr be selected to fill the vacant Director of Health and Human Services vacancy. The vote of the Commission was unanimous of the members present.

**El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency  
Mental Health Department Update  
Mental Health Commission  
June 26, 2013 Meeting**

**PM II Update (Laura K. Walny)**

Staffing Changes/Updates:

- Manager of Mental Health Programs: PHF – Cheree Haffner
- MH Program Coordinator: Special Projects: Jamie Sambocetti
- MH Program Coordinator: Adult OP: Jessica Solomon
- MH Workers: Adult OP: Felicity Gazowsky and Cristina Nunez-Rodante
- MH Clinician Linda Bingham in SLT resigned: hiring an extra help clinician into this vacancy and recruiting for additional extra help.
- MH Program Coordinator Jenyn Darnell of Children's Unit has accepted a position with Sierra Child & Family Services.

**Recruitments (June/July):**

- Psych Tech: closes 6/30 - Adult OP Clinic Vacancy, ICM Position for 7/2013 & Extra Help
- Clinical Nurse: PHF interviews in process
- MH Aides: closed 6/20 Adult OP Vacancy, 1.6 ICM Positions for 7/2013 and Extra Help
- MH Clinician: PHF, AB 109 Funded position, ICM Position for 7/2013
- MH Program Coordinator: PHF and OP Services

**Victory Mine Relocation Update**

- Cynthia Kjellin, PM II HHSA is the Project Manager working with Mental Health and the move team to facilitate move planning and implementation. Meetings are held weekly for the internal planning team and representative MH Commission members have been invited to participate in these meetings to ensure clear communication throughout the process. Current tasks include: hiring an engineer to begin working on parking lot expansion and transit stop, researching sound masking options, phones/data needs, furniture needs, etc. Floor plans have been finalized and Committees established in the following areas: Children's, Clubhouse, Garden, Grand Opening, Notification, Transportation, Safety.
- If anyone is interested in joining a committee or has any questions regarding the move, please contact Laura Walny (621-6238) or Cynthia Kjellin (642-7266).
- Small group tours of the building are being scheduled to provide staff and committee members an opportunity to see the building prior to construction and then again post construction. We welcome your feedback and hope you will join one or more committees!

**WS Children's Outpatient Services:**

- Given that many of the prior MH Commission meetings have focused on broader issues, we were never able to complete the full presentation to the Commission Children Outpatient Services. If possible, we would like to conduct this presentation during the next quarter and provide an overview of the changes, challenges and plans for FY 13/14.

**Outpatient Services (Dennis Plunkett)**

**I. WS Adult Outpatient Services:**

- 465 adult clients open to services as of 6/21/13. Continue with staffing challenges to fill vacant positions reported last period. Currently waiting for 1 full-time Clinician to start. Continue utilizing PHF staff to assist with medication support in O/P Clinic.
- Continued urgency in staffing and caseload management. Plan to utilize licensed clinicians from other areas, i.e., PES, Children's Services, and QA/UR to cover current 'Request for Services' and 'Intake Assessment needs until staffing stabilizes.
- Bipolar Substance Abuse: start date July 9 led by Jerri Shrader/Judy French.
- Transition group continues with strong attendance (15-20) average attendance. Availability for guest speakers/topics if appropriate. Contact Ken Jones at 530-621-6178.

**II. South Lake Tahoe:**

- 146 clients (adult/youth) open to MH services as of 6/21/13.
- Continuing to address space issues within the Clinic and Wellness Center as a temporary measure pending future location of MH in SLT.
- Staff continuing to adjust to new Electronic Health Records (Avatar), fully integrated into all aspects of the clinic.

**Psychiatric Health Facility (Cheree Haffner)**

- Construction and painting is well under way at the PHF. The area previously known as the CRT is remodeled and painted. A temporary way separates it from the main unit while we prepare to paint the unit area. We are very excited with the fresh paint look. Furniture for the expansion is expected to be arriving the first of September, which is our current projection for official expansion to 16 beds. If anyone would like to tour what we have done so far you can give Cheree Haffner a call at (530) 621-6357 to arrange a visit.
- We continue to run at our full capacity of 10 on most days. In the past month we have needed to utilize contract hospitals in Sacramento on a number of occasions. This further supports our vision to expand so we can serve our clients in their community.
- PHF staff are in full swing using AVATAR, our electronic medical record. We are already seeing the benefits of improved coordination of care with the shared records between inpatient and outpatient.

**MHSA (Ren Scammon)**

- **FY 13/14 MHSA Plan Community Planning Process:** The FY 13/14 planning process is continuing. We have received a number of exciting recommendations for new Prevention and Early Intervention programs, and the MHSA staff is compiling that information.
- **Sunset Lane Apartments:** Sunset Lane Apartments has undergone a name change by Mercy Housing. The new name is "Trailside Terrace". Applications to determine MHSA-eligibility are posted online and an email will be going out to the MHSA Distribution List regarding the availability of the MHSA apartments. They anticipate construction will be complete at the end of June, with the move in date to be determined. Mercy Housing will work with us to identify a date and time after construction is complete for a site tour.
- **Workforce Education and Training:** Program Coordinators are being registered for DSM-5 training in July. They will bring back the information from the training to

## Appendix A

their units.

### **Behavioral Health Court (Shirley White)**

- Placerville Behavioral Health Court celebrated one(1) successful graduation in the month of May and anticipates three(3) graduations on July 1,2013. South Lake Tahoe successfully transferred one Behavioral Health Court Client down to Placerville for services and support, client has done well in the transition. Placerville currently has 16 active participants in the Behavioral Health Court program. Next hearing will be held on July 1, 2013 at 1:30 pm. Graduates are celebrated by being called first on the court calendar in the afternoon, the public is welcome to attend.
- Tahoe Behavioral Health Court has 12 active participants currently and are assessing two more potential participants for eligibility. Participants have been actively attending weekly check in and process groups, and treatment compliance has been very high in the last month. Next hearing will be on June 20, 2013 beginning at 1:30pm.

### **Patient's Rights Advocate (Doris Jones)**

- **PHF:** continue to meet with clients and staff daily.
- **Patients' Rights & Client concerns:** continue to work with clients and staff to facilitate timely resolutions; recommendations are brought to administrative staff.
- **Annual Patients Rights training** for Mental Health staff with Jan Melnicoe is scheduled for Wednesday June 26, 2013 @ 8:30 am.

### **Facility Safety**

- MH Sites Safety Coordination meetings are held monthly which include representatives from each site; fire drills are completed quarterly; site inspections have been conducted; County-wide Safety Committee meeting attended; Injury Illness Prevention Program document reviewed and comments submitted; safety training/webinar information shared with Leadership staff; Victory Mine Building toured; safety plans are being formulated; follow up tasks are being documented and prioritized.