

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH JOINT COMMISSION
Minutes: January 22, 2014**

TIME: 5:00 PM

**PLACE: In person and councils connected via tele/video-conferencing:
Western Slope – Health and Human Services Agency – Sierra Room
3057 Briw Road
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

Mental Health Commissioners: Jim Abram, Claudia Ball, Denise Burke, Ben Ehrler, R.S. Lynn, Steven Mannheim, Bonnie McLane, Guadalupe Medrano, Jan Melnicoe, Maria Quintero, Craig Therkildsen

Mental Health Commission Associate Members: Diana Hankins, Stephen Clavere

Guests: Steve Ehrler, Chris Stedeford, Stan White

HHSA Staff: Don Ashton, Brandi Reid, Jamie Samboceti, Jan Walker-Conroy, Chris Weston

II. Approval of Agenda

- **MOTION:** A motion was made by Jan Melnicoe, seconded by Claudia Ball, to approve the agenda with the following changes:

Move item from V to VII

Yes: 11 – Abram, Ball, Burke, Ehrler, Lynn, Mannheim, McLane, Medrano, Melnicoe, Quintero, Therkildsen

III. Approval of Minutes (November 2013)

- **MOTION:** A motion was made by Bonnie McLane, seconded by R.S. Lynn, to approve the minutes from the November 2013 meeting with the following changes:

1) Correction of the spelling of name for Steven Mannheim

2) Correction to motion in item VIII to reflect Denise Burke reappointment to South Lake Tahoe Council, not West Slope.

Yes: 11– Abram, Ball, Burke, Ehrler, Lynn, Mannheim, McLane, Medrano, Melnicoe, Quintero, Therkildsen

IV. Public Comment (15 minutes)

- Jan Melnicoe announced NAMI's Family-to Family education program will be starting in Cameron Park on Thursday January 23, 2014.

V. Election of Mental Health Commission Officers

- Jim Abram reminded the Commission of the recommendations presented by Claudia Ball at the November 2013 Mental Health Commission meeting. The

recommendations received for West Slope: Chair - Jim Abram; Vice Chair - Jan Melnicoe and Guadalupe Medrano; Secretary - Linn Williamson. The recommendations received for South Lake Tahoe: Chair – Denise Burke; Vice Chair – R.S. Lynn; Secretary – Steve Manheim.

- Jan Melnicoe withdrew her name from consideration for West Slope Vice Chair
- **MOTION:** A motion was made by Jim Abram, seconded by R.S. Lynn, to elect the Mental Health Commissioners as follows:

South Lake Tahoe

Chair – Denise Burke

Vice Chair – R.S. Lynn

Secretary – Steven Mannheim

West Slope

Chair – Jim Abram

Vice Chair – Guadalupe Medrano

Secretary – Linn Williamson

Coutywide Chair – Jim Abram

Yes: 11– Abram, Ball, Burke, Ehrler, Lynn, Mannheim, McLane, Medrano, Melnicoe, Quintero, Therkildsen

VI. Discussion on Commission vacancies and recommendation to authorize the Chair of the Mental Health Commission to work with the Clerk of the Board to post vacancy announcements.

- Jim Abram stated that there are currently two vacant Commission seats in South Lake Tahoe and one vacant seat on the West Slope. The Commission needs to vote to allow the West Slope Chair to work with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to post vacancy announcements.
- There was a discussion to invite Jane de Felice, whose term expired on January 1, 2014, to participate on the Commission as an Associate Member and encourage her to be involved on committees.
- Jim Abram announced that he received an e-mail from Cathy Hartum announcing her resignation as an Associate Member from the Commission.
- **MOTION:** A motion was made by Jan Melnicoe, seconded by R.S. Lynn, to authorize West Slope Chair, Jim Abram, to post vacancy announcements and to invite Jane de Felice to be an Associate Member of the Mental Health Commission.

Yes: 11– Abram, Ball, Burke, Ehrler, Lynn, Mannheim, McLane, Medrano, Melnicoe, Quintero, Therkildsen

VII. Questions/Comments on Mental Health Division 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).
- Jan Melnicoe asked about the progress on the cover at the Wellness Center. Don Ashton advised that the patio is behind schedule awaiting approval on the snow load. The bus stop is scheduled to be completed this week. He also advised that since the move to Diamond Springs, there has been an increase of 76 clients receiving outpatient services and the Wellness Center has seen an increase of approximately 6 clients per week.

- Jan Melnicoe reported that the clients like Dr. Moghaddas and overall like the facility.
- Jim Abram stated that the van transportation for clients is excellent and should continue with future expansion to other County departments. Don Ashton advised that there is a stakeholder group to look at the short and long-term transit needs of the County for their Transportation Plan update. We are also working with a group that has developed from the AB109 team who is working with El Dorado Transit to propose a bus route that would connect County offices.
- Claudia Ball asked about the status of a permanent psychiatrist. Don Ashton stated that there was a prospective permanent psychiatrist who had accepted the position at the new approved Board of Supervisors psychiatrist salary, but Folsom Prison countered with a higher offer and he accepted the position there.

VIII. Goals/Topics/Issues for 2014

- a. Review/Update of Commission Bylaws (form committee) –
 - R.S. Lynn will chair and Claudia Ball and Stephen Clavere agreed to participate on the committee.
- b. Evaluation Committee to review Mental Health Division programs
 - Craig Therkildsen will chair and Claudia Ball, Denise Burke, Diana Hankins and Jan Melnicoe agreed to participate on the committee. This committee will need to decide what areas will be evaluated and formulate questions that need to be addressed. The committee will meet and report back at the next MHC meeting which two areas will be evaluated for the next six months.
- c. Additional Topics/Issues to be considered/discussed in 2014
 - Continuation of Laura's Law will be revisited in 2014.

IX. Old Business

- a. Health and Human Services Agency update on South Lake Tahoe Mental Health office relocation
 - Don Ashton that the County is in final negotiations with the landlord.
- b. Laura's Law
 - Don Ashton stated that there have been internal Agency conversations regarding privacy issues between the Mental Health Division and the jail and stated that the process for sharing information is not as clean and easy as he had originally hoped. He also stated that there are some pros and cons with the potential roll out of Laura's Law as there is a varying degree of support among members of the Board of Supervisors and the constituents.
 - The next meeting for Laura's Law will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Thursday March 6, 2014.

X. Commissioner's Comments

- Denise Burke asked why Supervisor Briggs' name was not listed in the previous minutes. Jim Abram stated there will be a committee discussion at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 28, 2014.
- Stephen Clavere stated that there will be a MHSA community input meeting in El Dorado Hills January 23, 2014 (tomorrow) from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Jim Abram stated that he will contact the Mountain Democrat to see if they will write a story for the newspaper about the Mental Health Commission. He will collect stories from family members who are willing to share their experiences.

XI. Determine next Mental Health Commission meeting date

- The next regular meeting of the Mental Health Commission is scheduled for 5:00 PM on February 26, 2014.

XII. Adjournment

**El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency
Mental Health Division Update
Mental Health Commission
January 22, 2014 Meeting**

Assistant Director Update (Patricia Charles-Heathers)

- I cannot speak enough about the wonderful collaboration we continue to have with NAMI, who is always willing to lend a hand and provide support to our clients. Thank you for all you do!
- We continue to improve our services in the Mental Health Division. West Slope has added some very talented and passionate Clinicians who have already begun providing services to our clients. South Lake Tahoe's Intensive Case Management Team is off to a wonderful start, with 2 new Clinicians and solid leadership from the Mental Health Program Coordinator, Sabrina Owen-Balme.
- Dr. Price and I continue to work diligently at recruiting Psychiatrists. Dr. Moghaddas continues to work 4 days weekly in our West Slope Outpatient Clinic, we added Adult Telepsychiatry with Dr. Malik in South Lake Tahoe 2 x weekly and we added 1 day of Child and Adolescent Telepsychiatry to the West Slope with Dr. Krishnamoorthy. We are continuing to recruit for full time Psychiatrists with the goal of having Dr. Price provide more support to the community with a strong focus on Primary Care Integration and less direct service.
- We will begin developing the FY 14/15 Budget over the next month with support from our HHS Fiscal Staff. Our goal is to clearly define which staff are providing what type of services, so that we create a greater balance between MHSA and Traditional Services.

Adult Outpatient Services (Dennis Plunkett)

- December was an exciting month at the Wellness Center with Grand Opening events held during the week of December 9th. Representatives from many of our community partners attended as did members of the community, Mental Health Commission, NAMI, and the Board of Supervisors from the County of El Dorado.
- A special thanks goes out to Supervisor Veerkamp and MH Staff Darlene Bratton for participating in the 'Ribbon Cutting' Ceremony.
- On December 18th, EDC Mental Health hosted a client holiday party for Mental Health clients that featured a bountiful spread of traditional holiday food, drinks, gifts and fun!! Utilizing the resources of our beautiful Wellness Center, several turkeys, hams, and all the fixings were served and a good time was had by everyone who attended!!! Special thanks to NAMI for their support in hosting this event.
- The majority of tenant improvements have been completed at the new location with the addition of lower parking lot in late November. The pad for the bus stop is also in place; however, the bus stop shelter/structure is currently being manufactured and will feature solar lighting.
- Other major items still in progress include the cover for the outside deck and steps from the lower parking lot.
- The internal shuttle continues to be a productive option for transportation. Since the average weekly transport numbers continue steady, MH will continue running the

internal transport and review possibility of including this option in the upcoming budget.

- Several new Clinicians joined the team – Welcome to:
 - Emma Curtis – WS Adult Outpatient Services Team
 - Mary Gough – ADP team, Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment
 - Lorena Elliott – WS Utilization Review Team
 - Laura Neimark-Gizara – WS Utilization Review Team
 - Angie Moxey – WS Intensive Case Management (ICM)
 - Elana Berman – WS Intensive Case Management (ICM)
 - Trina Brown – SLT Intensive Case Management (ICM)
 - Chandra Bomben – SLT Intensive Case Management (ICM)
 - Arturo Rangel – WS AB109

Groups

- Several new groups began Nov/Dec
 - Medication Management - Mondays 11am - Noon (begins 1/27/14)
 - Anger Management - Mondays 2pm - 3pm
 - DBT Therapy/Skills - Tuesdays 10am - Noon (2 groups due to size)
 - DBT Bipolar - Wednesdays 10am - 11:30am
 - Mindfulness/Stress Reduction - Thursdays 10:30 - Noon
 - DBT Anxiety/Depression - Friday 10 am - 11:30 am (begins 1/24/14)

Staffing:

- Current Recruitments:
 - Mental Health Clinician WS (replacement for Eileen Ramirez) Juvenile Hall
 - Mental Health Worker WS Clinic
 - Mental Health Aide WS (ICM)
 - Psychiatric Technician WS (ICM)

South Lake Tahoe:

- ICM team staffed with 2 Mental Health Clinicians hit the ground running and have already made impact in providing Community Based Services.
- Anxiety Group (new)
- Men's Group (new)
- DDx Group (new) Tallac - TAY group co-facilitated by Alcohol and Drug Program and Mental Health
- DBT Group Wellness (new)
- DBT Group Clinic - upcoming

Continuum of Care: Current Placement Statistics

- 59 LPS conservatorships
- 1 Temporary Conservatorship pending

Placement: Transitional Houses/Cottage/Apartment

- 24 beds
- 23 active residents,
- Transitional Skills meeting/House meetings/daily activities
- Minimum of 4 check ins during week (ICM Team)

Board and Care/IMDs/Secure Placements

- 70 out of county placements

Children's Outpatient Services (Jamie Samboceti)

- We are expanding our services with Contract Providers for Children's Services. Our UR unit will complete all intake assessments to determine Medical Necessity and when appropriate will refer to our Contract Providers.
- Mental Health Outpatient Services continues to provide Medication Services to children who are open to our clinic including a few medication only cases and children referred to Contract Providers who need medication services.
- We have Dr. Krishnamoorthy one day a week to provide service to WS and SLT via Telepsychiatry. There have been some issues around equipment compatibility which have resulted in some challenges in providing service. Those issues are now resolved.
- Summitview has a Psychiatrist and is serving the needs of those children referred to their clinic. Other Contract Providers are considering hiring for psychiatry services as well.

Psychiatric Emergency Services (Jamie Samboceti)

- HHSa has applied for a three and a half year grant to improve crisis triage services. The proposed program includes Crisis Clinicians available to be stationed at the hospitals in the evening (8:00 pm to midnight) and follow-up services with individuals after their crisis episode. Grant award notifications are anticipated by the end of the month.
- Crisis is now integrated into the Intensive Case Management Team (ICM). SLT has already started their ICM Team activities, working in the field with our FSP/crisis clients, as they are fully staffed. WS is still in need of an ICM Clinician which we are in the process of hiring at this time.
- The ICM/Crisis Team will primarily work in the field from 8am to 8pm daily. Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) in SLT from 8pm to 8am will be staffed with Extra Help Clinical Staff. Clinicians for these positions are in the process of being hired.
- WS PES is covered by full time staff from 8am to midnight. In the next few weeks, PES midnight to 8am will be covered on WS by the PHF NOC Shift staff. WS is also hiring Extra Help Clinical Staff to cover PES weekends, holidays, sick time, and vacation time. The Extra Help recruitment will remain open.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) (Jamie Samboceti)

- The Crisis Intervention Team is expanding its communication. CIT is a multi-disciplinary team of people from various agencies and community members who are focused on consumer and community safety. The team works together to problem solve issues around our high risk population and provides resources and follow up. Officers are trained and have improved understanding of mental health issues and how to respond in crisis situations.

- In Tahoe we have our first organized meeting coming up on 1/28. Sabrina Owen, MH Program Coordinator in South Lake Tahoe, has already met with the Sheriff and Police to begin the process. We are providing the officers with our crisis cell phone numbers to improve our communication from 8am to 8pm daily.
- The Placerville Team has been working together for several years and have recently made some improvements. I receive all crisis assessments and provide disposition information to the CIT coordinator, Michael Seligsohn. He then assigns the case to one of his CIT trained officers to do a home visit. CIT officers have been doing the follow up when they have time, but they recently received a grant that will help them identify shifts for follow up services.
- We are currently looking at grants to add a Clinician to conduct follow up services with officers. We meet quarterly at this time and are considering monthly. We also meet in emergency situations as needed.

Psychiatric Health Facility (Cheree Haffner)

- Big Thank You to NAMI for providing the Christmas bags for patients again this year. Our patients are always so delighted by them on Christmas morning!
- Cheree Haffner and Jamie Samboceti became Certified Pro-ACT Trainers. Currently making plans for yearly renewal trainings for PHF staff as well as ongoing training for new staff across the Agency.
- Crisis Intervention was integrated into the Graveyard team at the PHF.
- Recruiting for 1 vacant RN position and staff to increase our extra help pools, but otherwise all positions are filled.
- Excited about beginning integration with Alcohol and Drug Program for assessments, referral recommendations and groups delivered in the PHF.

MHSA (Ren Scammon)

- On December 10, the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY 13/14 MHSA Plan. The MHSA team is drafting agreements for services (for sole source programs identified in the Plan) and developing Requests for Proposals (for competitive procurement programs identified in the Plan).
- The Community Planning Process for FY 14/15 Plan for underway. We are scheduling public meetings and offering community organizations the opportunity to host meetings for their clients, staff and members. The dates and times of the public meetings are being added to the MHSA webpage (<http://www.edcgov.us/Government/MentalHealth/MHSA.aspx>) under "List of MHSA Community Meetings Scheduled." We also published a survey to learn the preferred days of the weeks and times of public meetings, along with the identification of potential meeting sites. The survey closes January 20 (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FY1415CPP>).
- The Barton Hospital Community Advisory Committee hosted a forum on mental health services in South Lake Tahoe on Friday, January 10. Individuals from the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, South Lake Tahoe Police Department, HHS Mental Health Division, and Barton were on a panel to discuss the strengths of mental health services in the Tahoe basin and opportunities for improvement in services and/or collaboration. Audience members included health care providers,

mental health providers, law enforcement, education and NAMI, along with others. The forum provided the community with the opportunity to hear about programs currently underway (such as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) through EDSO or the Intensive Case Management (ICM) team through the Mental Health Division). There was also good discussion around the connection between the Alcohol and Drug Program and Mental Health Services, and the privacy issues that exist with the two service areas.

- MHSA is planning to host three suicide prevention trainings in the coming months: safeTALK and ASIST, and a safeTALK Train-the-Trainer event. Similar to Mental Health First Aid, these programs are designed to help individuals identify the warning signs of suicide and help a person who may be contemplating suicide until professional assistance is available. More information about these opportunities will be available on the MHSA Suicide Prevention web page ([http://www.edcgov.us/Government/MentalHealth/Suicide Prevention Info and Resources.aspx](http://www.edcgov.us/Government/MentalHealth/Suicide%20Prevention%20Info%20and%20Resources.aspx)).

Behavioral Health Court (Shirley White)

- Placerville Behavioral Health Court currently has 10 active participants and one new referral pending assessment to determine eligibility. One client successfully graduated and had a job upon graduation. Next court proceedings will be held on February 3, 2014 at the Main Street Court. Proceedings begin at 2pm.
- South Lake Tahoe Behavioral Health Court has 12 active participants. One client was acknowledged by Judge Bailey and the team for his successes during his 15 months of participation. This client will be receiving the reward of having his legal fines and fees completely dropped. Two new referrals are in the assessment process to determine eligibility. Next court date will be on January 23. Proceedings begin at 1:30pm.

Patients' Rights Advocate (Doris Jones)

- PHF: Working and collaborating daily with clients, their families and support systems and staff, providing advocacy, assistance, information and referrals.
- MH Site Safety: All sites are current on quarterly emergency drills and Site Safety Coordinators Meetings. Attended the December County-Wide Safety Coordinators' Quarterly Meeting which included an introduction to TargetSolutions, the County's online training and records management system for streamlining training management.
- Member of HHSA Strategic Plan Committees: Staff Safety, Retention, Development/Training.
- Scheduled Trainings:
 - February 26, 27, 28, Sacramento, CA: The 2014 annual training for County Title 9 Patients' Rights Advocates which will include the most current information available regarding laws, regulations, best practices and ethics in advocacy.
 - January 30 - March 6, 2014: TargetSolutions Academy webinar series, a 6-part online risk management training system for Site Safety Coordinators.