

El Dorado County Mental Health Commission

2014 Annual Report

Meetings and Officers

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission held eleven (11) regular joint council meetings and four (4) special meetings of the joint council. South Lake Tahoe Council held one (1) special meeting.

South Lake Tahoe Council

- ◆ Denise Burke, Chair
- ◆ R.S. Lynn, Vice-Chair

Western Slope Council

- ◆ Jim Abram, Chair
- ◆ Guadalupe Medrano, Vice-Chair
- ◆ Linn Williamson, Secretary

Countywide Chair

- ◆ Jim Abram, Chair

Commission Activities and Actions

This report is a general overview of the activities that the Mental Health Commission participated in over the course of the year 2014. Specific details can be viewed at the El Dorado county Mental Health Commission web page in the agenda and minutes archives.

Special meetings:

April 22, 2014: The South Lake Tahoe Council held a Special Council meeting to discuss South Lake Tahoe's representation on the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission.

May 7, 2014: A special meeting of Joint Councils was held to review and discuss the opening of an in-county Adult Residential Facility (ARF.)

July 16, 2014: A special joint commission meeting was held to review and discuss the proposed changes to the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission bylaws.

July 16, 2014: A special joint commission meeting was held for a public hearing on the Draft Fiscal Year 2014-15 Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Plan Update.

August 18, 2014: A special joint commission meeting was held to review and discuss the outcome of solicitation, to privatize the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF).

The details and actions of each of these special meetings can be read in the next section of this report: **Meetings-Topics, Discussions, and Actions.**

Mental Health Commission Evaluation Committees:

In August 2014, the Commission formed three (3) AdHoc committees to evaluate:

1. Jail services on both slopes related to mentally ill inmates and medication policies.
2. Mental Health Division intake process for individuals who require mental health services.
3. Children's Services

The results of these evaluations were not completed in 2014.

California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commission (CALMHBC):

Two Commission members were appointed to act as representatives for the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission at quarterly CALMHBC meetings.

Meetings-Topics, Discussions, and Actions

- **Laura's Law (LL) / Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT):**

January 23, 2013: The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission (MHC) passed a motion requesting that the El Dorado County Mental Health Director take all necessary steps to support Laura's Law to the Board of Supervisors. Throughout 2013 and 2014 the Mental Health Commission has continued to support Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment's implementation. The MHC has held extensive meetings and discussions moving forward to its implementation. The Commission continues to hold its resolve to see Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment implemented in 2015.

January 22, 2014: the Mental Health Commission (MHC) Joint Councils held a meeting that discussed the impacts of LL / AOT and the need for support of stakeholders (Sheriff, Police, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, Judiciary, Mental Health Division) and the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

May 28, 2014: The MHC Joint Councils held a discussion on the direction and plan for the implementation of LL / AOT, when to present the program to the

BOS and funding of the program. Senate Bill 585, signed by California's Governor, clarified that Mental Health Service Act Funds can be used to fund the Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient program. A motion was passed reaffirming that the MHC still supports implementation of Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment in El Dorado County and requested that the Health and Human Services Agency continue to work with the Mental Health Commission to bring a proposal to the Board of Supervisors for the implementation of Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment in El Dorado County.

September 24, 2014: The MHC Joint Council continued its discussion regarding bringing Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment program presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval of its implementation. The Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) presented the idea that the county can do a pilot program for LL / AOT which would set specific size and funding limitations on the pilot project and allow the opportunity to measure the outcomes of the program's implementation. The Commission requested the HHS include stakeholders in future planning for the implementation of LL / AOT. Funding of the program has been a challenging issue discussed at most meetings.

With the passage of Senate Bill 585, allowing for the use of Mental Health Service Act Funds for funding LL / AOT, the question of how to fund seemed to be answered.

The Health and Human Services Agency, Mental Health Division Mental Health Service Act 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 Fiscal Year Plan included funds for the implementation of Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment in the Community Service and Support (CSS) Project 2D section of the plan and the entire plan was approved by the Mental Health Commission by motion at the July 16, 2014 Public Hearing for the MHS Draft Fiscal Year Plan Update. The plan was subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors.

- **South Lake Tahoe Mental Health Office Relocation**

January 22, 2014: The Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) reported to the Mental Health Commission (MHC) that the county was in final lease negotiations with a landlord for the new location of the South Lake Tahoe Mental Health Division Offices.

February 26, 2014: The Health and Human Services Agency reported to the MHC Joint meeting that lease had been signed for 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., but that significant improvements to the building would have to be made prior to occupancy.

A temporary facility was provided to relocate clients from the Senior Center until moving into the new location.

July 23, 2014: The HHSA reported to the Commission that the South Lake Tahoe Mental Health Office was scheduled to move in September.

August 27, 2014: The HHSA reported to the Commission that the Mental Health Office move-in date to 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd. was September 8, 2014.

- **Psychiatric Health Care Facility (PHF) Privatization:**

April 23, 2014: The Health and Human Services Agency made a presentation to the Mental Health Commission Joint Council on the comparison of the El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) operation, staffing, and cost to other counties operations and private companies' operations of PHF's. The purpose of the comparison was to determine the best way to improve the PHF. The Health and Human Services Agency was going to seek the Board of Supervisors' approval to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be able to make a comparison between what potential private service contractors might propose and the PHF's current service operation.

The two anticipated options were to 1) add staff to the PHF or 2) contract out PHF services. It was reported that this item was on the Board of Supervisors' meeting agenda on April 29, 2014.

At the May 28, 2014 Mental Health Commission Joint Council meeting, the Commission asked questions about the process, the time line, and what the Commission's involvement would be in review of the service provider to be chosen, whether it would be county vs. private, comparison of services and costs. HHSA reported that RFP's were due in July and that HHSA would bring the proposed contract to the MHC before presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

August 18, 2014: The MHC joint Councils held a special meeting for a presentation on the outcome of the solicitation to privatize the Psychiatric Health Facility and discussion relative to making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners, guests, and local representatives were provided with the opportunity to speak and ask questions.

The Commission made and passed a motion to move the privatization of the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) operation through an agreement for services with Telecare forward to the Board of Supervisors.

On August 26, 2014, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed the Health and Human Services Agency to negotiate with Telecare Corporation and return to

the Board (BOS) for execution of the contract. The Telecare operated Psychiatric Health Facility opened for patients on January 20, 2015.

- **Adult Residential Treatment Facility (ARF):**

March 26, 2014: At the MHC Joint Council meeting, it was announced by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) director that there would be an agenda item on the April 8, 2014 Board of Supervisors' (BOS) agenda to address the lack of enough Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) in El Dorado County. Summitview Child and Family Services expressed interest in opening an ARF in El Dorado County and was interested in contracting with the county to provide services. The proposed BOS agenda item asked for approval in concept to allow HHSA to work with Summitview to move forward to lease or buy a space for an ARF. A motion was made and passed by the Mental Health Commission to support HHSA taking the concept of an ARF to the BOS.

May 7, 2014: The MHC held a special Joint Council meeting to discuss and review the HHSA recommendation to enter into a contract to open an Adult Residential Facility in El Dorado County and what impacts the cost of the ARF would have on other Mental Health Division services and proposed programs. HHSA reported that the ARF would be an in-county six bed Adult Residential Facility contracted with Summitview Child and Family Services for its operation. Commission members asked questions of Mental Health and HHSA staff regarding the ARF's proposed operation. Following detailed discussion and review, the Commission passed a motion to support the Mental Health Division in pursuit of an Adult Residential Facility with Summitview.

May 13, 2014: The Board of Supervisors approved on the consent calendar an agreement for services (456-51411) with Summitview Child and Family Services with an estimated budget of \$3,678,600 for a term effective through June 30, 2019 for the provision of Adult Residential Facility Services. The ARF opened December 15, 2014.

- ♦ **Update / Revision of the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission Bylaws.**

The bylaws had not been revised or updated since 2000.

During the January 22, 2014 joint Commission meeting, the Commission formed a committee to begin reevaluating / updating the bylaws.

Two major areas of concern in the revision / update of the bylaws were the Organizational Structure (Article IV.g) and the Meeting Structure (Article VI.)

Discussion of items to be revised / amended in the bylaws were held at regular monthly MHC meetings on February 26 and June 25, 2014. The South Lake Tahoe Council held a separate meeting on April 22, 2014.

July 16, 2014: The Commission held a special meeting of Joint Councils to vote on the Organizational Structure (Article IV.g) and Meeting Structure (Article VI) Revision Amendments. The commission voted to support a motion that the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission shall comprise a Western Slope Council of eleven regular members, a South Lake Tahoe council of four regular members and a member of the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission passed a motion regarding the meeting section of the bylaws that read: “The two councils shall combine to hold meetings no fewer than ten times a year at a time and place to be designated by the Mental Health Commission Chairperson. Separate meetings of the two councils may be called by the respective council chair.”

It was agreed that all other changes agreed upon at the June 25, 2014 meeting would be included in the final draft of the bylaws.

July 23, 2014: The Joint Commission completed the final reading of the Revised Amended Bylaws. A motion was made and passed for the approval of the Revised Amended Bylaws as read and moved forward to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

October 21, 2014: The Board of Supervisors approved the Amended / Revised Bylaws as recommended by the Mental Health Commission with just one change: “...the Mental Health Commission shall comprise a Western Slope Council of ~~ten~~ regular members, a South Lake Tahoe Council of ~~five~~ regular members, and a member of the Board of Supervisors.”

- **Mental Health Service Act (MHSA):**

February 26, 2014: During the Mental Health Commission Joint Council meeting, the Commission was given an MHSA update by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). HHS provided a handout summarizing input received as part of the community planning process. Feedback included issues such as transportation, stigma, and housing. The public present at the meeting were allowed a comment period.

July 16, 2014: Special Meeting: The Mental Health Commission Joint Council held a public hearing on the Draft Fiscal Year 2014-15 MHSA Plan Update Community Planning Process. Public input was presented. Over 250 individuals

attended these public planning meetings. Issues of primary concern included: transportation, housing, locally provided services, services on school sites, parental involvement, after-crisis care, stigma reduction, dual-diagnosis, co-occurring disorders, training and education, staff training, and services for those with mild to moderate mental illness.

The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) portion of the plan was presented by the Health and Human Services Agency and discussed.

The Commission passed a motion to accept the MHSA PEI portion of the plan as presented.

The Community Services and Support (CSS), Capital Facilities and Technology (CFTN) and Workforce Education Training (WET) sections of the plan were presented. Commission members reviewed and discussed the proposed CSS budget. The proposed budget would spend down the fund balance to a point of deficit in future years. The Mental Health Commission recommended cuts be made now to ensure survival of existing CSS programs in future years.

The Commission recommended cutting approximately \$825,000 in expenditures and passed a motion reflecting this recommendation (see Draft Minutes: July 16, 2014: pg. 5 & 6.)

A final motion was made and approved by the Commission to accept the entire MHSA plan with the recommendation for reduction in CSS program expenditures discussed.

- **Mental Health Division Budget:**

April 23, 2014: The Health and Human Services Agency gave a presentation to the Mental Health Commission Joint Council on their recommended budget for the Mental Health Division. Hearings for the proposed budget to be held in approximately June 2014.

A handout for the presentation was provided. The three main programs of mental health were emphasized:

1. Traditional programs, which are funded mostly with Realignment and Medi-Cal revenues.
2. Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) programs, which are primarily funded through state revenues and Medi-Cal reimbursements.
3. Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP).

The three main categories of budget expenditures were presented: salary & benefits, services and supplies, and other expenditures.

Budgetary challenges presented included an allowable 10% transfer and authority of Public Health Realignment to Mental Health and a transfer of Tobacco Settlement Funds and salary increases due to labor agreements. Service changes included implementation of state mandated services for Foster Care children resulting from Katie A.

The Traditional Fund balance was projected to be minimal in Fiscal Year 2014-15 and less in future years.

How to continue to fund Mental Health services through MHSA dollars when traditional funds are expended without loss of service to consumers.

There was a discussion on 10% of the Tobacco Settlement Funds being distributed to Public Health and that the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) resolution identifies Tobacco Settlement Funds be used for health-related capital facilities. A motion was made to make a written recommendation to the BOS to allocate \$800,000 from Tobacco Settlement Funds to the Psychiatric Health Facility for capital improvements.

May 28, 2014: The Health and Human Services Agency presented the Mental Health Commission Joint Council a report on the State of California's "May Revised Budget". Three major topics were presented:

1. Affordable Care Act, Medi-Cal;
2. Two Million dollars statewide for implementation of Katie A. and;
3. Reimbursement of SB 90 claims.

September 24, 2014: The Mental Health Commission Joint Council received a presentation from the Health and Human Services Agency on the Mental Health Division's recommended budget which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on September 23, 2014. Major points and concerns were that revenues are not anticipated to increase and within Community Service and Support (CSS) expenditures will exceed revenues in Fiscal Year 2015-16. Program changes will need to be identified to reduce expenditures. With the annual reduction of the Prudent Reserve to fund programs, and, in the event, revenues decrease, the impacts would decrease delivery of MHSA program services.

- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) / Multidisciplinary Task Force (MDT):**

The CIT consists of law enforcement officers who have been trained in crisis intervention with individuals who have mental illness. The officers also perform follow-up visits with individuals after they were placed on a 5150 psychiatric hold.

The CIT / MDT team consists of law enforcement and other county agencies, such as the El Dorado County Mental Health Department.

In 2014 there was grant funding through the Sheriff's office in place to provide training for all first responders, including police departments.

The Commission greatly appreciates the commitment of the El Dorado County Sheriff Office to Crisis Intervention Training and programs and the regular attendance of Lt. Jackie Noren at Commission meetings.

- **Senior Adult Services:**

There is an older adult friendship line for seniors available through the statewide Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs.

- **Informational Presentations:**

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission received presentations from different county providers and agencies in order to become better informed about the programs available to mentally ill individuals in El Dorado County.

Educational presentation topics included:

1. The Brown Act: The County Counsel provided an overview of the Brown Act, including its purpose, when the Act needs to be followed, and guidelines for public meetings.
2. El Dorado Transit Authority provided an update on current and future transportation projects impacting individuals with mental illness.
3. Transitional Housing Programs and Outpatient Programs: The Mental Health Division provided a detailed presentation about transitional housing programs available and operating on the West Slope of El Dorado County and Outpatient Programs.

4. Intensive Case Management Team (ICM): The Mental Health Division provided a detailed presentation about services provided by the ICM Team.
5. Mental Health Division presentation on the Quality Assurance / Utilization Review.

- **Monthly Mental Health Division (MHD) Update Report:**

The Commission was provided monthly updates from the MHD on active services and programs. A question / comment period was held at each monthly Commission meeting to go over each monthly report. The reports consisted of an Assistant Director update as well as updates on Outpatient Services, Wellness Center, Adult Outpatient Services, Psychiatric Emergency Services, Crisis Intervention Team, Psychiatric Health Facility, Mental Health Service Act, Behavioral Health Court, AB 109, Children's Services, Patient's Rights Advocate.

- **Public Comments:**

A public comment period was part of each joint council meeting's agenda in 2014. Some of the topics and concerns brought forth over the course of the year were:

1. NAMI Family to Family Education Program;
2. Homeless with mental health issues;
3. Mental health issues in schools.

- **Final Thoughts:**

The Commission was involved in some significant issues in 2014: the privatization of the Psychiatric Health Facility, the creation of a six-bed Adult Residential Facility, relocation of the South Lake Tahoe Mental Health offices, and the revision and update of the Mental Health Commission Bylaws.

2015 will continue to present ongoing projects and challenges:

1. The implementation of Laura's Law / Assisted Outpatient Treatment;
2. The Mental Health Division's budget;
 1. How to continue mental health services from MHSA dollars when traditional funds are expended without loss of service to consumers.
3. Emergency / crisis services and the Mental Health Division's relationship with Barton and Marshall Hospitals;

4. The process of many Mental Health Division's programs becoming privatized;
5. The fiscal impact of Katie A. on other mental health services;
6. Possibilities of creating additional in-county Adult Residential Facilities to house current out-of-county placed consumers;
7. Crisis Intervention Team / Multidisciplinary Task Force continuing training and participating with the Mental Health Division consumers;
8. Suicide Prevention;
9. Children's Services.