

Based solely upon the responses received to a numbered list of items of interest to an *ad hoc* committee of the Mental Health Commission, the following are the observations of R.S. Lynn, PhD, regarding the salient perceived opportunities for improvement of the several processes associated with the Behavioral Health Court of South Lake Tahoe. They are not the result of the personal observations of this writer.

3.2 MHD is in some cases reluctant to support the candidacy of participants. The exclusion of individuals with private insurance is an issue that calls for resolution.

3.5 Some members of the local defense bar are unaware of the BHC. This presents an opportunity for publicity and education.

4.1 Families are essentially nonparticipants in BHC hearings.

4.2 Drug testing is not performed weekly on a consistent basis. Best practice is testing twice weekly. This is the most critical need for improvement.

4.5 Jail medical provider is not generally represented, nor is the Sheriff's Office.

4.7 Incentives to participate, with respect to charging level (felony vs, misdemeanor), or dismissal following successful completion of conditions set by BHC, as well as other incentives, could be utilized to a greater extent.

4.8 This information has of now not been made available.

5.2 The lack of this information needs to be corrected.

5.4 A Continuous Improvement Process appears not to have been implemented. This requires a valid set of metrics

5.5 No metrics have been made available.

5.6 There has been no response to this important item.