

El Dorado County
Behavioral Health Commission
2023 Annual Report
Prepared by Jim Abram,
Commission Chair
March 25, 2024

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) January to December, 2023 Annual Report

- Commission Membership

Norma Santiago, Chair

Wendy Thomas, Vice Chair

Lauryn Sumimoto, Secretary

Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner

Dr. Steven Clavere, Commissioner

Kathryn Hamilton, Commissioner

John Taylor, Commissioner

James Abram, Commissioner

The commission has a total of (11) eleven member, 2 seats were vacant, 9 members were active. Meredith Zanardi, Behavioral Health Division, HHS Team, was the liaison staff member.

- Mission Statement

The Behavioral Health Commission's purpose/objective is to review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs, services, facilities, and special problems.

- Background

The Behavioral Health Commission is a commission mandated by California Welfare and Institution Code 5604 WIC.

WIC 5604.2 states the commission's duties:

“Review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems.”

“Advise the governing body and the local mental health director as to any aspect of the local mental health program.”

(1)

- Accomplishments

In 2023, the Behavioral Health Commission held 10 monthly commission meetings. Each month, the commission heard and reviewed program services, presentations, updates. Each month the commission reviewed and discussed the Behavioral Health Division Monthly Update Report.

The presentations and updates were:

1. January: El Dorado County Behavioral Health Department penetration rates by I.D.E.A. Consulting.
2. February: Medi-Cal beneficiary information material, and Behavioral Health Disaster Recovery Program.
3. March: First 5 update on Community Hubs.
4. April: Discussion on Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plan update.
5. May: Meeting cancelled.
6. June: Update on FY 2021/22 Triennial Audit and Corrective Action Plan.
7. July:
 - *Presentation MHSA Community Program Planning process and progress.
 - *Review/presentation by Behavioral Health Division staff on penetration rates, and services analysis.
8. August:
 - *Behavioral Health Commission Data Notebook ad hoc committee report out and commission approval.
 - *Presentation on Student Wellness Center Projects.
 - *Update on Children's Specialty Mental Health Service Contracts.
 - *Introduction of James Diel, new Assistant Director of the

(2)

Health and Human Services Agency.

9. September:

*Presentation by Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) on the Department of Health Services Audit and Correction Plan, Senate Bill 32b.

*Discussion on Mental Health Services Reform (Proposition 1) impacts.

10. October: El Dorado County Office of Education presentation on Mental Health & Wellness Systems of Support.

11. November:

*Appointment of ad hoc 2024 Commission Officers Nominating Committee.

*2023 Date Notebook ad hoc Committee update report and approval by commission.

*Behavioral Health Division (BHD) staff presentation on FY 23/24 Mental Health Services Act Plan Amendment.

4 programs amended:

- 1) Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) Project
- 2) Community Based Outreach and Linkage Project
- 3) Community Stigma Reduction Project
- 4) Project Access Community Outreach Initiative

12. December: no meeting

Prior Accomplishment 2023

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) recommendations and actions taken (from monthly minutes):

(3)

1. April:

*Appointment James Abram Associate Member

*Draft FY 23-26 MHSA Three Year Expenditure Plan and Public Hearing. The Plan was approved with the addition of two substantive comments:

1) Implementation Plan update semi-annually.

2) Request clarification of the Mental Health Students' Services Act.

2. July:

Commission approval of the MHSA Community Program Planner Process Action Plan (CPPP) with the addition of reading out to the community corrections group.

3. August:

*Data Notebook ad hoc committee appointed.

*Appointment of James Abram as full member of Behavioral Health Commission.

4. November:

*Appointment of ad hoc nominating committee for 2024 commission officers.

*Approval of the 2023 Data Notebook

Annual Work Plan

- Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Concerns:

*Behavioral Health Division (BHD) vacant clinician and support positions--38% division wide, mental health managers—50%, coordinators—38%, clinicians—62% (Feb. 2024 data), and BHD's ability to deliver needed services to consumers.

*Impacts of Proposition 1 on deliverable mental health program services to mental health consumers.

*Need for transitional housing.

Ongoing Long-term Projects

- Project management Plan: System Improvement related to improving the Behavioral Health Division vacant clinician and support positions.
- Proposition 1 impacts on the Behavioral Health funding allocations for deliverable services to consumers of mental health programs.

Commission goals—2024

- To continue to review and evaluate mental health services in El Dorado County.
- Appointment of an ad hoc membership committee to administer the commissioner applications process and new commissioner onboarding.
- Appointment of an ad hoc evaluation committee, with a specific annual focus, to review and evaluate the community's behavioral health needs, services and facilities.
- To have educational presentations of behavioral health services provided to consumers by the Behavioral Health Division.
- Hold annual Mental Health Services Act Plan updates and public hearings.
- Work collaboratively with the Behavioral Health Division on providing necessary deliverable services and programs to consumers of El Dorado County Mental Health services.

