



The BOSONE/PV/EDC  
 Sent by: Loretta M  
 Featherston/PV/EDC  
 12/15/2008 09:33 AM

To: Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC@TCP, Cynthia C  
 Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP  
 cc  
 bcc  
 Subject: Fw: Please read before Tuesday meeting

I believe this goes with an item on Tuesday, but don't know which item number. Mental Health department layoffs.

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 — Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 12/15/2008 09:32 AM —

2008 DEC 15 AM 9:48

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 EL DORADO COUNTY



"N Feather"  
 <feather@kayakmail.net>  
 12/14/2008 11:41 AM

To: <bosone@co.el-dorado.ca.us>  
 cc  
 Subject: Please read before Tuesday meeting

Dear Mr. Dupray,

Friday, I was informed that my job as an Extra Help Medical Office Assistant at the Mental Health Department would most likely be gone sometime in January, along with several clinicians and other positions. I feel that this will of course be a hardship on my co-workers and I, but also catastrophic to the community at large. Doctors and clinicians will suffer burn-out with their extra caseloads. More time and money will be spent training new staff for the positions being vacated, even though there is already a qualified, competent staff in place. Client services will suffer with these lay-offs. Historically, when mental health clients suffer, the slack is picked up by the already overburdened Sheriff's Dept, the Emergency Room, and the Morgue.

I urge you to please try to think of more creative solutions to this dilemma instead of cutting jobs in these already trying times. Here are some ideas:

Look to other counties in the same situations. Placer and Yolo are closing up one day a week for a month (just four days), and saving two million dollars!

Close the outpatient department for a week. Christmas/New Years would have been a good week to close. How much would that save?

Offer Voluntary or Involuntary Furloughs.

Offer Golden Handshakes.

Clerical staff at Mental Health would likely be willing to work 32 hours a week, in order to save some extra help jobs.

These solutions will not be easy. They will cause logistical problems and extra work for the HR and CAO's office. But, any solution would be worth a try besides laying off trained, loyal, hard-working folks

dedicated to maintaining the high level of Mental Health Services for which this county is known.

**Let's not take the easy way out!**

**Let's be creative!**

**Let's be a shining example to other's, as a county, as a community!**

Thank you,  
Nancy Feather