

El Dorado County Mental Health Commission

2015 Annual Report

Meetings and Officers

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission held eleven (11) regular Joint Council meetings and one special meeting of the Joint Council.

South Lake Tahoe Council

- Denise Burke, Chair
- R.S. Lynn, Vice-Chair
- Ben Erhler, Secretary

Western Slope Council

- Jim Abram, Chair
- Jan Melnicoe, Vice-Chair
- Bonnie McLane, 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 2015. Specific details can be viewed at the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission web page in the agenda and minutes archives.

Special meetings:

Jan 7, 2015: 2015 Officer Election, Appointment of Associate Members, Appointment of Ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations on the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Community Service and Supports (CSS), Budget Fiscal Shortfall, Update on the Psychiatric Health Facility Transition, Assisted Outpatient Treatment Update.

Mental Health Commission (MHC) Evaluation Committees:

- 1) West Slope Children's Service Evaluation. Final draft was reviewed and approved for filing by the MHC on 5-27-15.
- 2) West Slope Jail Report Final Draft was reviewed and approved for filing by the MHC on 5-27-15.
- 3) South Lake Tahoe Jail Report Final Draft was reviewed and approved for filing by the MHC on 5-27-15.

Additional Committees:

- Ad hoc MHC Mental Health Service Act, (MHSA) Community Services & Supports(CSS): Review and evaluate the budget shortfall and make recommendations on actions to be taken to assure a balanced budget in the CSS portion and ensure that CSS programs are sustainable in future years. The MHSA/CSS Budget Shortfall Committee reported out their recommendations at the May 27, 2015 Commission meeting.
- Ad hoc MHC Focus Group Committee to discuss and evaluate mental health as it relates to overall health and well being for county wide Community Health Assessment.
- Ad hoc to review the Health and Human Services Agency Administrative and Indirect costs. No report in 2015.

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

Two Commission members continue to act as representatives for the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission at quarterly CALMHBC meeting.

Meetings-Topics, Discussions, and Actions

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

The Mental Health Commission continued it's support for the implementation of AOT/LL for the third year in 2015.

- In January, the Commission discussed a presentation to the Community Corrections Partnership. (CCP)
- On Feb. 25, 2015, the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) received a

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presentation on AOT/LL to consider approval and implementation of a pilot AOT/LL program in El Dorado County. The Community Corrections Partnership unanimously passed a motion to support the implementation of Assisted Outpatient Treatment.

- In March, the Commission was still waiting for the Health and Human Services Agency to proceed with a presentation to the Board of Supervisors requesting the implementation of AOT/LL.
- In June, AOT/LL was again on the Commission's Agenda. Securing funding for the program was discussed. A combination of Mental Health Service Act (MHSA), Community Service and Supports (CSS), and AB 109 funds to fund AOT was discussed.
- In July, the approval by the Commission of the MHSA Draft FY 2015-2016 Plan Update included funding for AOT/LL.
- On August 25, 2015, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved their agenda item 15-0844 to authorize the chair to sign Resolution 141-2015 authorizing the implementation of an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Pilot Program also known as Laura's Law, with a total maximum obligation of \$500,000 over the course of three years. Funding from Mental Health Services Act Funds and Community Correction Partnership Funds, and Medi-Cal, if applicable.
- Nov-Dec 31, 2015: A Request for Proposals (RFP) was executed to locate a Service Provider to manage and run the AOT Program. The RFP received no responses.
- A plan has not been finalized for making AOT a working program in El Dorado County.

Psychiatric Health Care Facility (PHF) Facility:

- January 20, 2015: Telecare began providing services.
- February 25, 2015: The Commission considered forming an ad hoc evaluation committee to evaluate Telecare's operation. The Mental Health Division felt it was too soon.

- March 25, 2015: Telecare provided the Commission an overview of the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) program and answered questions from Commissioners about services provided, staffing, collaboration with the Mental Health Division and discharge planning.

Adult Residential Facility (ARF)

- On January 26, 2015, Summitview held a community meeting to establish relationships with neighbors of the ARF and provide neighbor's information and answer questions about the ARF. Detailed information regarding the ARF's statistics can be found in the Mental Health Division Monthly Report.
- On January 28, 2015, Mental Health Division (MHD) provided an update to the Commission. The ARF opened on December 15, 2014 under the services provided by Summitview. The purpose of the ARF is to bring individuals who have been in out-of-county placements back to El Dorado County and provide them with skills that lead them toward more semi-independent or independent living. The residents participate in Wellness Center/Outpatient activities.

Mental Health Division

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Hospital Response Hours:

- January: The Mental Health Division was not staffing the hospitals in South Lake Tahoe and West Slope between the hours of 12 AM and 8AM. The Mental Health Division provided the Commission background on crisis response services in El Dorado County and surrounding counties, wait times, and staffing levels and the number of individuals who received crisis services. A motion was made and passed by the commission that the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) explore contracting service for the night shift for in-person crisis response services on both slopes (South Lake Tahoe and Placerville) and return with the results of their findings and the potential cost.
- February 25, 2015: The HHS reported back to the Commission with a power point presentation on Mental Health Crisis Services. (attached to the February 25, 2015 agenda.) As a result of the discussion and review, it was decided the next steps to be taken were:
 1. Release Request for Proposals (RFP)
 2. Evaluate responses and cost
 3. Make recommendation

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- May 27, 2015: HHS provided the Commission on the Status of the Request for Proposals (RFP.)
- August 26, 2015: Request for Proposals for after hour crisis service was discussed during the Mental Health Division Monthly Report. Mental Health Division stated that the next step is contract negotiations and that it has not been determined how the services will be paid for.
- November 18, 2015: MHD reported there was one respondent to the RFP and there was a meeting in December with the respondent.
- There was no resolution of this issue in 2015.

Mental Health Commission’s Participation in the Mental Health Division Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

The MHC participated in the following RFP's:

1. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Grant Program.
2. Outpatient Services for Children and Adolescents.
3. On Call After Hour Crisis Response Services.
4. Rating and Ranking for Suicide Prevention Program.

Mental Health Service Act (MHSA)

- In January, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) received an update from the Mental Health Division (MHD) on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 Community Planning Process.
- In February, the MHC received an update given by the Commission's ad hoc MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Committee and the Health and Human Services Agency.
- In May, the MHC, CSS ad hoc committee discussed and made recommendations to the Commission on program and monetary cuts necessary to balance the CSS portion of the MHSA 15-16 FY plan to achieve a sustainable balanced budget in future years. The Commission passed a motion that the MHC, CSS ad hoc committee report out their recommendations and have them included in the MHSA 30 day comment period.
- On July 22, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) held a public hearing to receive

comments on the MHSA Draft FY 2015-2016 Plan Update. A motion was made and passed by the MHC to approve the MHSA FY 2015-2016 Plan Update as written and forward on to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Mental Health Division Budget 2015-2016 Report

The Health and Human Services Agency Reported: Challenges include the increase to salary and benefits with no increase in revenue and increase in A-87 costs. The resulting measures to offset the increased costs were: a planned decrease in client service contracts, step down clients to lower levels of care, and deletion of vacant positions.

The need for increased adult residential care facilities in our county and the long term cost savings resulting of providing services locally in lieu of more costly out-of-county placements, was discussed.

Informational Presentations by Mental Health Division

- MHSA Wellness Center Program
- Psychiatric No-Show Policy
- Telecare on the Psychiatric Health Facility Program
- Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant
- Intake Process for Mental Health Service
- Use of Psychotropic Medication in County Jails
- Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Program and Services
- Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES), Hospital Response Hours—ER Crisis Need
- Adult Residential Facility (ARF)
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- South lake Tahoe Transitional Housing (T-house): Two new T-houses, totaling 12 beds were added in 2015.

Discussions:

- Ongoing collaboration between county departments, local service providers and out-of-area service providers to mental health services.

- Family Involvement in Conservatee's Mental Health Treatment programs and placements.
- 2015 Mental Health Commission Data Notebook
- Are Mental Health funds being used to supplant responsibility for local Education Agency's (LEA) mandate to provide mental health services for school-age children?
- Mental Health Commission's preference non-procurement methods for MHSA. A motion was made and passed to use the Board of Supervisor's method for procurements.

Public Comments:

A public comment period was part of each joint council meeting's agenda in 2015.

Some of the topics and concerns brought forth over the course of the year were:

- Oversight for meetings for children Katie A programs.
- Concern about the lack of Children's Mental Health Services in South Lake Tahoe.
- Referral process and court ordered releases regarding out-of-state mental health placements.
- Not being able to engage/accept all Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals due to lack of Mental Health Funding.
- Board of Supervisors to explore budgeting more general funds to Mental Health Services.

Final Thoughts:

The Commission was involved in many significant issues in 2015. The Mental Health Service Act, Community Services and Supports budget shortfall, Adult Residential Facility, Psychiatric Emergency Services Response hours, participation in Mental Health Division Request for Proposals Process, and the Implementation of Assisted Outpatient Treatment supported by the Community Corrections Partnership and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

2016 will continue to present ongoing projects and challenges:

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment:

The establishment of a working Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program by the Mental Health Division as approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 25, 2015, Resolution 141-2015.

On April 27, 2016, the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion regarding AOT:

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission requests that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health and Human Services Agency to immediately add the appropriate position allocation needed to implement a working Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 25, 2015, Resolution 141-2015.

- Funding State mandates for Children's Services, such as AB 403, without diminishing existing Mental Health programs.
- Working towards the creation of a Mental Health Recovery Facility in El Dorado County, allowing for less costly, in-county placements of clients instead of sending county residents out of county for Board and Care, Institution for Mental Disease Facilities (IMD) and Secure Placements Facilities. This would result in keeping families together in our county, and improve case management and services to clients.
- Continuing Mental Health Services at current levels from (MHSA) Mental Health Service Act dollars when traditional funds are expended without loss of service to consumers.
- Suicide Prevention
- Greater General Fund dollar allocation to the Mental Health Division

