



Fw: Potential PHF Closure
The BOSONE to: Cynthia C Johnson
Sent by: Loretta M Featherston

07/19/2011 10:40 AM

Loretta Featherston

Assistant to Supervisor John R. Knight
District 1
Board of Supervisors, County of El Dorado
Phone: (530) 621-5650
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----- Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 07/19/2011 10:40 AM -----

Potential PHF Closure

John Knight, bostwo, Jack
Cathy & Larry Hartrum to: Sweeney, bosfour, Norma
Santiago

07/19/2011 09:44 AM

I have attached our position paper regarding a potential closure of the Psychiatric Health Facility. We are opposed to this option, however there are many questions yet to be answered. We are requesting that we be notified of any further meetings on this matter, and that the Mental Health Commission should also be included to review options and offer their position.

Cathy Hartrum,
President, NAMI El Dorado County/West Slope
P. O. Box 614, Pollock Pines, Ca 95726
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
A Non-Profit 501c3, Charitable Organization
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Information: namicalifornia.org & nami.org



1-800-950NAMI Nami's Position on Potential PHF Closure.rtf



NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS
El Dorado County/Western Slope
P.O.Box 614, Pollock Pines, Ca 95726

SUPPORT * EDUCATION * ADVOCACY

July 18, 2011

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Re: Potential Closure of the Psychiatric Health Facility

From: Nami El Dorado County Board of Directors

Below please find questions that have been discussed and that need to be considered during the decision making process. We are opposed to the PHF being closed, and would request that Nami be included in any further meetings on this issue. We also request that the Mental Health Commission be included and that no further action be taken without both Nami and the Mental Health Commission's involvement

1. What is the liability for the county when dealing with aggressive or delusional people who need treatment?
2. Who is responsible for the safety of staff? Of patients?
3. How much training is actually being done to assure that those working with individuals at the PHF are adequately prepared? This should already have been done for each employee working at the PHF. If not, why not?
4. If people cannot be adequately provided medication/treatment safely due to personal risk to those providing the medication/treatment at the PHF, where would this take place? Do we transport individuals to the jail? Out of county to other facilities?
5. What training is provided to those who transport individuals to assure their safety, including ambulances, and mental health workers?
6. How do other counties handle these situations at their PHF's?
7. If the MHD does what Marshall Hospital does, and hires private security personnel, what will be their training, and what is their risk, and who assumes the risk for that liability? It would be interesting to know just what interventions a private security guard is allowed under their contracts.

8. Have any recovery model based interventions been routinely utilized, or is it always the medical model for interventions at the PHF?

9. In the case of patients being transported to other facilities out of our county, how will these same people be transported back to EDC? Being released from a hospitalization does not necessarily mean that the person is able to navigate their way back. This can lead to homelessness and repeat 5150 holds. This, in turn, becomes a safety issue for the person, and of course, more liability issues.

Many of these problems can be worked out in the language of the agreements between agencies and the policies and procedures to avoid these liability issues as well as reviewing and improving staff training. Our concern is that the expedient thing to do will be to close the PHF and send everyone to other facilities (IF they have beds available) rather than try to work out agreements, refine procedures, and beef up trainings. Because we are so far away from other facilities, transporting individuals also becomes an expense and a liability issue as well.

There should be information on each PHF on data collection for the number of incidents of seclusion, number of incidents of behavior restraining, duration of time spent in seclusion, time spent in restraints and the number of times involuntary emergency medications were used to control behavior. This information and the number of calls to the PPD for backup at the PHF would be an interesting comparison..

Nami El Dorado County, Western Slope & South Lake Tahoe is a charitable, non-profit organization

All donations are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Fein # 68-007-3346



Fw: PHF
The BOSONE to: Cynthia C Johnson
Sent by: Loretta M Featherston

07/19/2011 10:39 AM

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— Forwarded by Loretta M Featherston/PV/EDC on 07/19/2011 10:39 AM —



PHF

Steven Porter to: bosone, bostwo, bosthree, bosfour

07/19/2011 10:36 AM

Representatives:

Since I will be unable to attend today's meeting I would like to voice my concern about the possible closing or decreased support of the Psychiatric Health Facility. I respectfully ask you to consider the consequences of not providing help for those who need help. Mental illness is hard enough on those stricken and their families without the county removing the last safety net for those times when safety is of utmost concern.

Years ago, the state closed all state facilities in an effort no doubt to save money, and placed the responsibility on the counties. We were told that this responsibility was right and proper because the counties were closer to the people and could therefore serve the community mental health needs better than the state programs in place at the time. So it appears we are now saying that the counties can no longer shoulder this responsibility and let the mentally ill and their families go their own way. Maybe we can shift the problem to another county like Sacramento.

Seems a shame that money is such an influencer of what seems to me an ethical choice rather than a financial one. Surely there are other programs within the county that could be reduced or eliminated that do not injure your constituents so gravely.

Sincerely,
Steven D. Porter

July 19, 2011

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
RE: Health Services Dept., Mental Health Division
Psychiatric Health Facility Update

I strongly urge the BOS and Health Services Div., Mental Health to have the will to work with the community to find a solution to keeping the PHF open and functioning. I believe the most sensible solution is to hire a psychiatric orderly as soon as possible; if that means a staffing adjustment it will still be the least disruptive solution. I find it unconscionable that our department can keep hiring managers but cannot hire a psychiatric orderly.

Closing the PHF will bring about more problems than it solves in terms of human suffering and in terms of spending more money to still provide emergency Mental Health Services. I understand that some years ago Placer County closed its PHF; it found the alternative of placing patients out of county actually cost more. Placer County ended up re-opening its PHF.

It is a very poor situation when you have a mentally ill family member and they literally wait at Marshall ER for over 24 hours while overworked Mental Health staff spend a huge amount of time trying to find a private facility to place them. My son could not go to the PHF the last time he required hospitalization and trying to get him 5150 ed and then trying to get him a bed out-of-county was a full 2 day process. With the reduction of beds in Sacramento County the situation will be that much worse. Transporting by ambulance is extremely expensive and for those patients who could become violent the risk of harm to everyone increases and costs will increase to have to transport all patients.

Please consider the patients who, if forced far away from the community, will suffer by not having family and friends closer.

Another cost to consider is medication. I understand our PHF is able to save a good deal by using medication samples given to them. This will not happen if we have to send our patients out of county; El Dorado County will be charged full dollar prices. There are many hidden costs that will become apparent if the PHF is closed. Please be sensible and try the option of appropriate staffing at the PHF.

Thank you.

Claudia Ball

Claudia Ball, Chairperson
El Dorado County Mental Health Commission West Slope

Submitted by *Claudia Ball*
#39
at Board Hearing of 7/19/11

11-0807.C.5