

El Dorado County Mental Health Commission

2016 Annual Report

Meetings and Officers

The El Dorado County Mental Health Commission held (11) eleven regular Joint Council meetings and (2) two Special Meetings.

Countywide Chair

- Jim Abram

West Slope Council

- Jim Abram, Chair
- Jan Melnicoe, Vice-Chair
- Bonnie McLane, secretary

South Lake Tahoe Council

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

Special Meetings (2)

Director of Health and Human Services Agency Job Position Interviews

On August 1, 2016, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) ad hoc interview committee participated in an interview panel for the next Director of Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) position.

On August 10, 2016, the MHC held a special closed session meeting to discuss and review applicants and make a recommendation for the choice of a new Director pursuant to Government Code 54957 (b). After discussion and vote by the Commission, direction was given to the El Dorado County Human Resources Director, to present the Commission's recommendation for Director of Health and Human Services Agency position to the Board of Supervisors.

Mental Health Commission Training Meeting

On March 5, 2016, members of the Commission participated in training for local Mental Health Boards and Commissions instructed by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions.

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 2016. Specific details can be viewed at the El Dorado County Mental Health Commission webpage in the agenda and minutes archives.

Mental Health Commission (MHC) Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) ad hoc Fiscal Year Plan Review Committee (March, April)

The MHC ad hoc Committee reported out to the Commission on April 27 their recommendations for the MHSA 2016-17 Fiscal Year (FY) Plan to be included in the 30 day MHSA FY Plan comment period.

Mental Health Service Act Public Hearing

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) held a public hearing on May 25, 2016 for the Mental Health Service Act Fiscal Year 2016-17 Plan Update. The MHC approved the plan after hearing public comment and the Commission's review and discussion.

Mental Health Commission Evaluation Committees

- West Slope Behavioral Health Court ad hoc Review Committee, June 22, 2016.
- South Lake Tahoe Council Behavioral Health Court ad hoc Review Committee June 22, 2016.
- Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) ad hoc Review Committee, June 22, 2016. The ad hoc committee toured the facility and interviewed the administrator regarding the PHF's operations and procedures.
- April and June, 2016, Indirect Cost ad hoc Review Committee.

Commission's Participation in Reviews with Behavior Health Division

- Mental Health Division External Quality Review Organization (EQRO).
- Data Notebook 2016 for California Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions.

Agenda Topics

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

In November, the County Counsel recommended the Behavioral Health Division identify and complete the first applications for participants in the AOT program.

- Inter Facility Transfers in South Lake Tahoe (IFT).

In July, the Commission passed a motion expressing its concern that no change be made to IFT in CSA3, South Lake Tahoe, without a satisfactory replacement of services for transport of mentally ill individuals. At the October update, the Mental Health Commission was informed that mental health patients will continue to be transported until the issue is resolved.

- AB 403 Continuum of Care Reform monthly updates.
- Indirect Costs, April, June, 2016.
- Review of Rosenberg's Rules of Order, August, 2016.
- Medical and Mental Health Commission Policies for County Jail
 - October—Copies of records can be received through a Public Records Request.
 - November—Received Sheriff's Admissions Policy Promptly, California Forensics Medical Group (CMFG) has not responded: policies and procedures were written in 2001.

Presentations and Reports

- Telecare Psychiatric Health Facility Annual Report for 2015, January 2016.
- Welldorado Website Presentation, January 2016.
- Presentation on FY 2016-17 Community Planning Process, February 2016.
- Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Innovation proposal/presentation on two programs: Restoration of Competency and Community Based Engagement and Support System, February 2016.
- Presentation by HHSA and Barry Harwell, Sierra and Children Family Services on the impact of AB403 (Stone) Continuum of Care Reform, April 2016.

- Update on Recommended Fiscal Year 2016-17 Mental Health Budget and Indirect Cost Calculations, May 2016.
- Behavioral Health Court Presentation (Alcohol and Drug Program), July 2016.
- Health and Human Service Agency Fee Study Review, August 2016.
- First Episode Psychosis (FEP)/Coordinated Specialty Care, September 2106.
- Homelessness in El Dorado County, Opportunity Knocks, October 2016.
- Stepping Up Initiative, October 2016.

Behavioral Health Division (BHD) updates.

The BHD provided monthly updates on program and services for each Mental Health Commission meeting.

Public comment was welcomed at the beginning of each meeting and agenda items.

Looking Ahead 2017

In November 2016, the Commission discussed the following ideas and goals for 2017:

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment’s (AOT) implementation. The program has started in January 2017. The Commission looks forward to it becoming a successful asset to Mental Health Services.
- Advocating for a Mental Health Recovery Center in El Dorado County, allowing for less costly in-county placements, instead of sending county residents out of county to Board and Care, Institution for Mental Disease Facilities (IMD) and Secure Placement Facilities. The result would improve case management and services to clients and keeping families together.

The Board of Supervisors has given direction to the Behavioral Health Division to move forward with the concept and bring back a plan for consideration.

- Children’s Services, especially AB 403 Continuum of Care Reform.
- Outcome Measures: without them, it cannot be determined if a program is successful or failing, and whether funding is adequate or needs to be increased.
- Peer Programs
- Supportive Housing and employment for clients.

- Maintaining existing Mental Health Services despite new unfunded State Mandated Programs.
- Continuing Mental Health Services at current levels from (MHSA) Mental Health Service Act dollars when traditional funds are expended.
- Increase General Fund dollar allocation to the Behavioral Health Division.
- Continuing Suicide Prevention.

Final Thoughts

In 2016, the Commission was involved in reviewing, evaluating and learning about the many programs and issues that impact Mental Health Services in our County. Commissioners spent a day in training to become educated in performing their duties as Commission members. The informative presentations, topics, discussions, and the Commission's evaluation of services have been valuable in increasing the Commission members' ability to make knowledgeable, informed reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.