

# County of El Dorado

See meeting locations  
listed below

## Minutes

### Mental Health Commission

*Jim Abram, Chair, West Slope Council / Countywide*  
*Denise Burke, Chair, Tahoe Council*  
*Sue Novasel, Board of Supervisors Representative*  
*Michael Ranalli, Board of Supervisors Alternate Representative*  
*Dr. Richard Lynn, Vice-Chair, Tahoe Council*  
*Jan Melnicoe, Vice Chair, West Slope Council*  
*Ben Ehrler, Secretary, Tahoe Council*  
*Bonnie McLane, Secretary, West Slope Council*  
*Dan Boals, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Steve Ehrler, Commissioner, Tahoe Council*  
*Guadalupe Medrano, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Lorraine Nordone Pond, Commissioner, Tahoe Council*  
*Maria Quintero, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Craig Therkildsen, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Brookes Heil-Blackburn, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Deborah Carter, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Norman Nester, Associate Member*  
*Stacy Bolton, Associate Member*  
*Vacant (1) Associate Members*

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Wednesday, January 28, 2015

5:00 PM

Meeting Locations (in person and connected via  
tele/video-conferencing):

- Health and Human Service Agency, 3057 Briw Road, Sierra Room, Placerville, CA
  - Mental Health Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA
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#### 5:06 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL; INTRODUCTIONS

*Guests: Nancy Courser, T Abraham, Chris Stedeford, Carol Velasquez, Cindi Rice, Dr. Lieser, Kathy Krejci.*

*HHS Staff: Don Ashton, Patricia Charles-Heathers, Sabrina Owen, Dr. Robert Price, Dennis Plunkett, Jamie Samboceti, Ren Scammon*

**Present:** 10 - Richard Lynn, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 6 - Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Dan Boals

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner McLane and seconded by Commissioner Melnicoe to adopt the agenda.**

**Yes:** 10 - Richard Lynn, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, David Sterkin, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 6 - Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond, Dan Boals and Michael Ranalli

5:08 PM ROLL CALL

- Present:** 11 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel
- Absent:** 5 - Denise Burke, Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Dan Boals

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*None.*

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

1. [14-1668](#) Approval of the November 19, 2014 and January 7, 2015 meeting Minutes.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Melnicoe and seconded by Commissioner McLane to approve the minutes of November 19, 2014 as written.**

- Yes:** 10 - Richard Lynn, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, David Sterkin, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel
- Absent:** 6 - Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond, Dan Boals and Michael Ranalli

5:10 PM ROLL CALL

- Present:** 12 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel
- Absent:** 4 - Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Dan Boals

5:15 PM ROLL CALL

- Present:** 13 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel
- Absent:** 3 - Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero and Lorraine Nordone Pond

2. [15-0091](#)

Mental Health Division recommending the Mental Health Commission consider audio recording all meetings, posting the audio recordings on the Commission's website in order to increase transparency, and revise the format of the minutes to "Action Minutes," which is consistent with the process used by the Board of Supervisors.

*Don Ashton, Director of Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), provided an overview as to why video recording the Mental Health Commission meetings is not feasible. Don also provided an overview of what audio recording of the meetings, both the pros and cons, and how action minutes could then be taken. It is unknown whether the audio recordings would be indexed by agenda item as that depends upon the technology available to HHS. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of audio recording the meetings, use of action minutes vs. detailed minutes and the amount of time it takes HHS staff to compile the meeting minutes currently and anticipated with audio recordings. Concern was expressed by HHS for audio recording a meeting and providing detailed minutes as this would increase the amount of workload to verify the detailed minutes aligned appropriately with the audio recording.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Sterkin and seconded by Commissioner McLane to move forward with audio recording Commission meetings, then investigate action minutes vs. detailed minutes at a later time.**

**Yes:** 13 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, David Sterkin, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 3 - Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Michael Ranalli

3. [15-0116](#)

Update on the Adult Residential Facility (ARF) from the Mental Health Division.

*Dennis Plunkett, Manager of Mental Health Services in the Mental Health Division, provided an update on the Adult Residential Facility (ARF). The ARF opened on December 15, 2014. 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 will lead them toward semi-independent or independent living. The anticipated length of stay for each resident is determined by each resident's treatment plan and progress, but the target stay is six to 12 months. Residents in the ARF also benefit from participation in Wellness Center activities and groups.*

*A community meeting was held on January 26, 2015 by Summitview to establish relationships with neighbors of the ARF and answer questions regarding the ARF as there was misinformation about the ARF published on Facebook. Eight individuals from the neighborhood attended the meeting.*

**Received and Filed**

4. [15-0114](#) Update on the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) from the Mental Health Division.

*Patricia Charles-Heathers, Assistant Director of Health Services, provided an update on the Telecare operated Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). The PHF opened for patients January 20, 2015. The Patient's Rights Advocate and a Quality Assurance/Utilization Review Clinician attend morning meetings Monday through Friday. The Clinician works with the patients to determine their eligibility for specialty mental health services through the Mental Health Division upon discharge from the PHF and coordinates those services with Telecare's discharge planner. The Mental Health Division and Telecare are working closely on a daily basis and there is a monthly administration meeting between the Mental Health Division and Telecare. Telecare is available to make a presentation to the Mental Health Commission upon request of the Commission.*

**Received and Filed**

5. [15-0115](#) Update on the Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Hospital Response Hours from the Mental Health Division.

*Jamie Samboceti, Manager of Mental Health Programs, provided background on crisis services in El Dorado County and in surrounding counties, including average hospital wait times and staffing levels, and the number of individuals who received crisis services. Placement into inpatient hospitals is a challenge statewide, not just locally, and the impact to local systems (such as ambulance) is significant as well. There was further discussion about the current processes and potential solutions.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Abram and seconded by Commissioner Lynn that the Health and Human Services Agency explore contracting for or staffing the night shift for in-person crisis response services on both slopes of the County and return to the Mental Health Commission with results of their findings and the potential cost.**

**Yes:** 13 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, David Sterkin, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 3 - Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Michael Ranalli

6:33 PM ROLL CALL

**Present:** 12 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 4 - Jan Melnicoe, Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero and Lorraine Nordone Pond

6. [15-0118](#) Update from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports (CSS) Budget Shortfall Ad Hoc Committee.

*Members of the Ad Hoc budget committee and Ren Scammon, Program Manager for MHSA, provided an update on the first meeting of the Ad Hoc committee. It was requested that the Ad Hoc committee meet again prior to the February 25, 2015.*

**Received and Filed**

7. [15-0089](#) Mental Health Division requesting the Mental Health Commission appoint a member to participate on the rating and ranking panel for the following Request for Proposal (RFP): Projects For Assistance In Transition From Homelessness (PATH) Grant Program.

**A motion was made by Commissioner McLane and seconded by Commissioner Therkildsen that Dan Boals review the PATH RFP.**

**Yes:** 12 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, David Sterkin, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 4 - Jan Melnicoe, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Michael Ranalli

#### 6:52 PM ROLL CALL

**Present:** 13 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Dan Boals, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 3 - Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero and Lorraine Nordone Pond

8. [15-0090](#) Update from the Mental Health Division on the Fiscal Year 2015-16 MHSA Community Planning Process.

*Ren Scammon, Program Manager for MHSA, provided an update on the results of the community planning process for the FY 15/16. The Commission also received a copy of an email from Myrna Harp, who requested a copy of her email be provided to the Commission. Information about the MHSA planning process was shared to over 75 individuals at various community meetings, a press release was issued, flyers were posted and the County and MHSA's web page were updated with information. There were ten public meetings held between October 21 and December 18, 2014, with only 36 unique attendees at the meetings. Attendees specifically discussed the CSS funding concerns, outcome measures and the changes to the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and Innovation (INN) regulations. Other issues identified included Crisis Intervention Training, current projects, funding, health care, community issues impacting mental health, linkage to services, community needs, participation in the planning process, schools, transitional aged youth services, and treatments. Concern for children's services continues to be a high focus in the community.*

**Received and Filed**

#### 7:04 PM ROLL CALL

**Present:** 11 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Denise Burke, Ben Ehrler, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Bonnie McLane, Bonnie McLane, Stephen Clavere, Steve Ehrler and Sue Novasel

**Absent:** 5 - Jan Melnicoe, Maria Quintero, Maria Quintero, Lorraine Nordone Pond and Dan Boals

9. [15-0126](#) Questions / Comments on the Mental Health Division Monthly Report.

*The Mental Health Commission reviewed the monthly report, asked questions regarding Behavioral Health Court, caseloads and housing. The Mental Health Division managers provided information in response to the questions.*

**Received and Filed**

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

*Commissioner Abram commented regarding the current fiscal situation of Mental Health.*

*Supervisor Novasel stated she plans to attend at many Commission meetings as possible. The Commission meetings are held on the same day as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) meetings, so there may be some Commission meetings that she is unable to attend.*

*Commission Therkildsen commented that it is great to have active participation by Supervisor Novasel.*

*Commission Abram offered to adjust the date of the Commission meetings should Supervisor Novasel find these meetings conflict too much with TRPA.*

**DETERMINE NEXT MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE**

*The next regular meeting of the Mental Health Commission is February 25, 2015, at 5:00 pm.*

**7:19 PM ADJOURNED**