

# 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*  
*John Hidahl, 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*  
*Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Brookes Heil-Blackburn, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Norman Nester, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Craig Therkildsen, Commissioner, West Slope Council*  
*Stacy Bolton, Associate Member, West Slope Council*  
*Norma Santiago, Associate Member, Tahoe Council*  
*Henry Sandigo, Associate Member, West Slope Council*  
*Vacant (2), Commissioner, Tahoe Council*  
*Vacant (3) Commissioner, West Slope Council*

---

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

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., Suite 103, South Lake Tahoe, CA
- 

#### 5:05 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL; INTRODUCTIONS

*Guests: Chris Stedeford, Arturo Salazar, Christopher Croft, Marsha Ticas, Henry Sandigo, Shawn Allan*

*HHSA Staff: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Katy Eckert, Jamie Samboceti, Ren Scammon, Parivash Mottaghian, Sabrina Owen, Tami Smith*

**Present:** 8 - Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Stephen Clavere, Ben Ehrler, Bonnie McLane and Norman Nester

**Absent:** 3 - Richard Lynn, Sue Novasel and Brookes Heil-Blackburn

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner McLane, seconded by Commissioner Melnicoe, to adopt the Agenda as written, with the correction of the date on Item #4 to read "August 7, 2017."**

**Yes:** 9 - Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Stephen Clavere, Sue Novasel, Ben Ehrler, Bonnie McLane and Norman Nester

**Absent:** 4 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Dan Boals and Brookes Heil-Blackburn

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

1. [17-0929](#) Approval of the July 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

**A motion was made by Commissioner McLane, seconded by Commissioner Melnicoe, to adopt the meeting minutes as written.**

**Yes:** 9 - Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Stephen Clavere, Sue Novasel, Ben Ehrler, Bonnie McLane and Norman Nester

**Absent:** 4 - Richard Lynn, Guadalupe Medrano, Dan Boals and Brookes Heil-Blackburn

2. [17-0930](#) Presentation by Tahoe Youth and Family Services

*Christopher Croft presented the history of Tahoe Youth and Family Services, and an overview of their services provided in El Dorado County.*

**5:15 PM ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 9 - Denise Burke, Jan Melnicoe, Craig Therkildsen, Jim Abram, Stephen Clavere, Sue Novasel, Ben Ehrler, Bonnie McLane and Norman Nester

**Absent:** 2 - Richard Lynn and Brookes Heil-Blackburn

3. [17-0931](#) Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Ad Hoc Committee Report / Discussion

*The Ad Hoc Committee discussed how to get more participation/input from the public during the MHSA Community Planning Process.*

*The Ad Hoc Committee identified 10 strategies for increasing public participation:*

- 1. Identify who we are trying to get the message out to.*
  - 2. Identify what is the appropriate mode of communication for each group?*
  - 3. provide shorter 3-5 question surveys monthly rather than one big survey once a year.*
  - 4. Create a MHSA social media page.*
  - 5. Advertise upcoming meetings beyond a small write-up in a newspaper.*
  - 6. Access Sierra Community Access TV by developing a Public Service Announcement.*
  - 7. Continue to issue press releases, but target to areas where the meetings will occur.*
  - 8. Have more evening meetings than day meetings.*
  - 9. Develop an email list of family members and use the list to let them know about the meetings.*
  - 10. Involve the Psychology Departments at the local colleges as a student project.*
- Director Charles-Heathers mentioned there are many surveys going on in the community at different times, and First 5 and Michael Ward are working on a grant application to have a coordinated approach to community surveys.*

4. [17-0932](#)

Discussion about the August 8 7, 2017 Mountain Democrat article on the Psychiatric Health Facility.

*Commissioner Melnicoe expressed her concerns for the information presented in the article, and believes the article needs a response to clarify the incorrect information presented.*

*Jamie Samboceti, Deputy Director, stated the discussion she had with the reporter was not reflected in the article, and that the information printed was inaccurate. The decision was made to do press releases about what the Behavioral Health Division does. Ms. Samboceti asked Commissioners Abram and Melnicoe to write articles on stigma and what it's like to be family of a mentally ill person for inclusion with the Behavioral Health Division series of articles/op eds.*

*Commission Abram stated his belief that the Mental Health Commission should be involved with press releases before they are distributed, but he stated it is a good idea to write the stories directly rather than reporters interpreting a story from an interview.*

*Telecare was very concerned over this article and plans to have an orientation and family night at the PHF.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Arturo Salazar suggested the need to focus awareness of stigma and giving solutions/resources by providing references to services and trainings, such as Mental Health First Aid.*

*Commissioner Melnicoe shared that NAMI will pilot a new "Family and Friends" four-hour class this Fall.*

*Sabrina Owen, Manager of Mental Health Programs, suggested targeting electronic newspapers, and take a look at what transitional age youth use (rather than Facebook).*

5. [17-0942](#)

Appointment of members to the Evaluation Committee for purposes of evaluation of the El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Facility and its operator Telecare Corporation.

*Commissioners Abram and Melnicoe previously participated in a Telecare/PHF Evaluation on May 12, 2016. Due to changes in Administrators, doctors and staff, it is time to re-evaluate Telecare/PHF to get an update on operations and make recommendations of actions that could be taken to improve services. Jim Abram, Norman Nester, Steve Clavere and Jan Melnicoe volunteered to do the re-evaluation.*

6. [17-0940](#)

South Lake Tahoe Council Chair Commissioner Burke requests that Norma Santiago be appointed as an Associate Member to the South Lake Tahoe Council of the Mental Health Commission

*South Lake Tahoe Council Chair Commissioner Burke appointed Norma Santiago as an Associate Member of the South Lake Tahoe Council of the Mental Health Commission.*

7. [17-0933](#) Update on Stepping Up Initiative

*Director Charles-Heathers met with Chief Probation Officer Brian Richart to provide an update and provide him with the information developed by the committee, during which she also provided the contact information for Commissioners Abram, Melnicoe and Clavere. Brian Richart will schedule the next meeting.*

*Commissioner Melnicoe expressed concern that some members of law enforcement/judicial services do not find the Historical Information Form valuable, and questioned whether they wouldn't use it.*

8. [17-0934](#) Update / Discussion on Assisted Outpatient Treatment

*Katy Eckert, Assistant Director of Adult Services, reported that she spoke with Paula Frantz, Deputy County Counsel, who just completed her legal investigation and found that the jail cannot be used for Assisted Outpatient Treatment at this time. Ms. Frantz reviewed the applicable statutes and contacted other counties. She is writing her findings report. Going forward, we can look at what we would need to do to make the jail meet the criteria required by Assisted Outpatient Treatment.*

*Commissioner Clavere asserted that the Mental Health Commission should have been allowed to participate in the legal review process and provided data regarding the number of individuals in jails with a diagnosed mental illness. Commissioner Clavere stated that based on Statewide data, El Dorado County restrictions would result in only 2% of the Jail's population being eligible for Assisted Outpatient Criteria.*

*Commissioner Melnicoe asked what could be done to help individuals who have a mental illness avoid unnecessary incarcerations. Jamie Samboceti, Deputy Director, responded that in her experience, law enforcement would rather bring an individual who has a mental illness to the hospital rather than jail.*

*There was discussion regarding the intent of the law vs. the wording of the law, and Supervisor Novasel offered to contact the State Legislature regarding the issue.*

*Commissioner Abram expressed his concern that implementation of AOT in El Dorado County was approved by the Board, but it is being reviewed again, and stated that the Mental Health Commission is not happy with County Counsel's decision.*

*Commissioner Clavere asked if involuntary medications can be given in jail and Ms. Samboceti stated they can be only for specific populations for Restoration of Competency purposes.*

9. [17-0935](#) Update on Health and Human Services Agency's Service Integration

*Patricia Charles-Heathers, Director of HHSA, reported that HHSA is finalizing the Systems of Care (Adults and Seniors and Children and Youth), and coordinating how Public Health and Community Services will align and interface with the Systems of Care. The organizational structure will be finalized at the Executive Committee on Monday. Agency Performance Outcomes and Quality Assurance will report to Dr. Charles-Heathers directly.*

*The hiring process continues for an Assistant Director for the Children and Youth System of Care.*

*HHSA continues to look at office space options for the Adults and Seniors System of Care, including the 3rd floor of Victory Mine, so that In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services and Public Guardian services are housed together. In South Lake Tahoe, negotiations are ongoing for the old Post Office location. Additionally, portions of the Spring Street building will be remodeled.*

*Director Charles-Heathers has a meeting next week regarding a 211 line for the County.*

10. [17-0936](#) Questions / Comments on Behavioral Health Division Monthly Report

*Commissioner Abram requested clarification of duties of Katy Eckert, Assistant Director, and Jamie Samboceti, Deputy Director. An updated organizational chart will be provided to the Mental Health Commission next month.*

*There was discussion regarding changing the bylaws and membership having representation for Substance Use and Mental Health. The Behavioral Health Division is reviewing other counties bylaws and will be providing recommendation.*

*Commissioner McLane requested additional information about the Adult Placement Committee. Assistant Director Katy Eckert responded that the Adult Placement Committee reviews all adult placements, and includes participants from Public Guardian, Behavioral Health, and leadership (Dr. Robert Price, Medical Director, Katy Eckert, Jamie Samboceti).*

*There was discussion regarding Suboxone as it relates to Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) admissions. Physicians and psychiatrists need to be certified to prescribe Suboxone, and Telecare is researching the requirements to dispense Suboxone. Telecare is looking at how to become authorized to dispense Suboxone. There was also a question whether the PHF is using Telepsychiatry for psychiatry. Telepsychiatry is used only via a secure connection.*

*Commissioner Clavere requested the PHF data also reflect how many individuals were denied admission due to blocked beds each month.*

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

*Guadalupe Medrano has resigned from the Mental Health Commission. There are two vacancies on the West Slope.*

*NAMI is hosting a screening of a new, unreleased movie, "Elizabeth Blue" on September 16, 2017 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Green Valley Church, 3500 Missouri Flat Rd., Placerville.*

**DETERMINE NEXT MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE**

*The next regular meeting of the Mental Health Commission is scheduled for 5:00 PM on September 27, 2017.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*6:56 PM*