

**EL DORADO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes for March 3, 2011**

TIME: 12:00 Noon
PLACE: South Lake Tahoe
Health Services Department - Mental Health Division
1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions:

Members: R.S. Lynn, Denise Burke, Pamela Nance

Guests: Karla Johnson, Mike Pickens, Joan Worman, Perry O Bray, Diana Hankin

Staff: Sally Williams, Chris Kondo-Lister, Rob Evans, Janet Stevens

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Public Comment:

Support was voiced for Laura's Law, and the Commission was urged to advocate for its adoption in El Dorado County.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- February 3, 2011: Minutes approved.

V. Old Business:

A. Laura's Law:

Commission members expressed support for Laura's Law. A public meeting to discuss the subject is planned for the future; the scheduling of this meeting is pending.

B. Status of Committees:

Committee work has been challenging because the SLT Council is not yet fully staffed. Dr. Lynn and Denise have been active on the Planning and Budget Committee and are currently involved in review of the Innovation plan.

C. Membership:

Efforts to encourage interested people in the community to apply for MH Commission membership have included an advertisement placed in the Tahoe Daily Tribune, as well as contact with local nonprofit organizations and the SLT Community College. Commission members will continue to follow-up in these efforts; additional suggestions included appeals on a local SLT radio program and an announcement at a meeting of the City Council.

VI. Mental Health Division Verbal Report:

A. Program Updates

- The SLT MH Clinic has a new clinician: Rebecca Perkins is a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) who has begun working at the Clinic two days/week.
- Sally reported that the second round of screening for the SLT PIP program was recently completed. Staff members from MH, the Women's Center and Tahoe Youth and Family collaborated on the screening of approximately 130 second- and third-grade children. Children who were found not appropriate for the PIP program were referred to other programs, including some at the Women's Center or Tahoe Youth and Family; as a result all children identified by school staff as in need of services were referred to a program appropriate for their needs.
- Rob reported progress on the implementation of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs in SLT: He and Jackie Norlie completed training at the Senior Center for Friendly Visitors who will be assisting with outreach to vulnerable and isolated adults. PEI outreach efforts will work in conjunction with Home Delivered Meals and in addition, Rob was been working on a contract with the Sherriff's Department and NAMI to include STAR volunteers in the program.
- Chris reported that the MHD external review (EQRO) is scheduled for April 13. Typically evaluators will expect to speak with consumers and family members; Chris expects to ask for volunteers to participate in the EQRO evaluation.
- The next meeting of the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) is scheduled for May 5. The Commission asked to be provided with QIC meeting minutes; Chris agreed to provide these following each QIC quarterly meeting.
- The MHD is supporting community training in Mental Health First Aid, a national program that teaches basic skills to help members of the public recognize and offer support when someone appears to be in emotional distress. On the West Slope, two community volunteers completed the 40-hour Mental Health First Aid train-the-trainer program in Sacramento and have offered their first community MH First Aid training event. The Department is sending an additional four participants to a train-the-trainer session in April, including two from Tahoe, with the expectation that more community events will be scheduled both on the West Slope and in SLT.
- The County's Innovation Plan has been posted for public review the MH Commission will host a Public Hearing on the Plan at noon on Friday, March 25.

VII. New Business:

A. Crisis After Hours:

Concern was raised about MH crisis procedures in SLT, specifically:

- The time that clients wait to be seen by a crisis worker , which, in the incident described, was over two hours;
- Crisis procedures that are implemented at Barton Hospital: for example, practices regarding drug screening, medical clearance, the use of "sitters" to stay with a client in crisis, and lack of clarity around the process of triage/back-up;

- The use of MH employee overtime in lieu of using extra help personnel to staff crisis services.

Chris agreed to look into these issues and follow-up with the SLT Council by their next meeting.

B. SLT BOS Reports:

Diana and Denise are working together to report on the Behavioral Health Court in SLT; Dr. Lynn has reviewed the MH services provided at the Juvenile Treatment Facility and will complete this section of the report.

VIII. Commission Comments/Open Discussion:

The Commission requested MH personnel information, specifically SLT filled staff positions and active client count with a comparable assessment of West Slope staffing levels. Chris agreed to provide this information.

IX. Adjournment

Next Meetings:

Joint Council: Wednesday, March 23 at 5:00 PM