

**EL DORADO COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
SPECIAL JOINT COMMISSION
Minutes: May 3, 2013**

TIME: 10:00 AM

**PLACE: Video-Conference at:
Western Slope at 670 Placerville Drive (2nd Floor, Lake Tahoe Room)
Placerville, CA 95667**

and

**South Lake Tahoe – Public Health/Mental Health Offices
1360 Johnson Blvd., #103
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

I. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introductions

Members: R.S. Lynn, Denise Burke, Claudia Ball, Jim Abram, Jan Melnicoe, Bonnie McLane, Linn Williamson, Craig Therkildsen

Guests: Stan Paolini, Brady McGuire, Licensed Civil Engineer - Golden Plaza [name unknown]

Staff: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Jan Walker-Conroy, Ren Scammon, Don Ashton, Janet Stevens, Laura Walny, Doris Jones

II. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

III. Public Comment (15 minutes)

- No Public Comment

IV. New Business - Discussion and evaluation of recently released proposals by two parties regarding a long term lease for a Western Slope Mental Health Clinic. It is expected that consultation will lead to a written recommendation by the Mental Health Commission that will be presented by Commission members to the EDC Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, May 7th, 2013.

- Don Ashton explained that the Health & Human Services Agency received the best and final lease offers from the owners of the Victory Mine Center (768 Pleasant Valley Rd, Diamond Springs, a.k.a. the Logan Building) and the Golden Plaza facility (the current Mental Health Clinic location, at 670 Placerville Drive, Placerville) at the end of day, Tuesday, April 30th, 2013. The Agency completed its analysis within days so that the matter could be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for their consideration on Tuesday, May 7th, 2013.

- Both best and final lease offers, along with the Agency's analysis of the two proposals was distributed to the MH Commission members. These documents are available on the Board of Supervisor's website, at:
<http://eldorado.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1423125&GUID=54B27F94-EC7E-4061-A8EC-67DCFADABBE9>
- Based on the two lease offers received, the Agency determined that it is in the County's best interest to relocate the West Slope Mental Health Division programs and administration to the Diamond Springs facility. The most critical difference between the two lease offers were: (1) County HIPAA language was accepted by the landlord of the Victory Mine property but was removed by the Golden Plaza landlord; and (2) the Victory Mine landlord agreed that the property would meet current ADA standards per third party study, and that the landlord would be responsible for ADA changes in common areas after lease commencement. The Golden Plaza landlord did not agree to meet ADA work requested by the County.
- The Health and Human Services Agency, Mental Health Division, is recommending that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the lease agreement for the space located at 768 Pleasant Valley Road, Diamond Springs, for a term anticipated to begin on or around August 1, 2013 and running through May 2024.
- Several Mental Health Commission members expressed frustration with the Agency's process, and in particular with the fact that the Agency's analysis and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors was completed before the Commission had the opportunity to consider both proposals.
- Commission members addressed their concerns with the Victory Mine location, notably the area traffic, safety, inconvenience for clients and their families, poor connections and long waits for clients who use public transportation, and the additional burden on clients that is created by moving the Clinic to a less-central location.
- Laura Walny agreed that each location has distinct benefits and detractions, and promised that the Mental Health Division would be working to address client concerns at the Victory Mine facility. She noted that if the Board of Supervisors approves the move, transportation concerns will have high priority and will be addressed in transition planning. One proposal is to have Mental Health drivers pick clients up from the Missouri Flat Transit location, so that clients will not have to wait for the connecting bus.
- Representatives of the Golden Plaza facility outlined the history of extensive building improvements made at the request of Mental Health and they challenged the ADA assessment findings for their facility. They also noted that the Victory Mine Center does not have an elevator between floors, and that this would seem to be a compliance issue, particularly for current or future disabled staff members.
- Commission members agreed that Mental Health could not accept a lease agreement that did not include agreement on HIPAA and ADA compliance. There

was general agreement that the Golden Plaza last and best proposal was therefore not a viable contract.

- Jan Melnicoe suggested that the Commission should support the Department's recommendation to move, but also continue to advocate for clients. She noted that the Mental Health Commission could be most effective by working to ensure that the Mental Health Division addresses the issues and manages the move in a manner that best meets the needs of clients.
- **MOTION:** "The Mental Health Commission will support the County's move to the Diamond Springs facility." Motion was approved, with six votes in favor, one opposed, and one abstention. Linn Williamson will present the Commission's recommendation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 7th, 2013. Other Commission members indicated that they intend to speak to the Board as individuals during the time allotted for public comment.

V. Adjournment