

Plumas County Behavioral Health Commission Meeting
5/6/2020 at Plumas County Library, Quincy, CA
Approved at 6/3/2020 meeting

STANDING ORDERS

Call to Order / Roll Call

- Call to Order: Chair, Lori Simpson, called this tele-conference meeting to order at 12:10 pm. This meeting was held as a tele-conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Roll Call: Commissioners in attendance – Kendrah Fredricksen, Lori Simpson (Vicki tried to get on call several times but was unable to do so).
- County Staff in attendance: Tony Hobson, Elizabeth Brunton, Jessica McGill, John Posch, Aimee Heaney
- County Counsel: Sara James
- Public in attendance: Theresa Comstock (CALBHB/C), Scott Corey (PCIRC)

Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda

No changes to Agenda. Quorum NOT established.

Public Comment –

Theresa Comstock was listening-in and said she is willing to advocate for us as needed.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Behavioral Health Commission

- a. Review and approve draft minutes of 3/4/20 – No quorum.
- b. Resignation letters – We received resignation email from Estres.
- c. Formal resolution combining former Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board with BH Commission – Lori needs to get back to Sara with answers to some questions.

2. Informational Announcements & Reports

- a. Commissioners Reports and Announcements – As District Supervisor, Lori is very busy with the COVID-19 pandemic. The state budget is not looking good (reserve is gone and we are again in recession); this will affect Behavioral Health as well as other departments. There has been much interaction with Public Health to determine re-opening. Lori said there are a couple people interested in being on Commission.
- b. Patients' Rights Advocate Report (Elizabeth M.) – Not on this call. It was noted that she had one phone call the previous month.

- c. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Kendrah) – None
- d. Bylaws – Ad Hoc Committee – Kendrah, Sara and Lori are working on this.

3. **Behavioral Health Department**

- a. Director's Report (Tony Hobson) – The BH Website has been updated with info on COVID-19 and Tony has reported to the Board of Supervisors on changes. Group counseling sessions have been suspended. Telehealth is being used. Open access client was being used but has also been suspended. They are doing intakes over the phone and through Telehealth. Med Management is by Telehealth, etc. Jail released a number of folks and therapists have been busy. Therapists have also been doing services in jail.

Crisis services have changed/evolved. They are working with hospitals doing Telepsychiatry (5150s). Telehealth carts have been purchased for all emergency departments. Clients can now be remotely evaluated quickly and effectively. The Dept. of Health Care Services' 5150 form is fillable online and can be attached to medical record in hospitals.

The Wellness Centers are open, but most services are by phone or appointment only. Therapists are very busy. March billing looked very good. April amounts will be reviewed soon.

BH received their triennial audit report. There is nothing they did not expect. They are steadily working on changes which need to be made. Tony is concerned about budget. MHSA revenues have decreased about 10%. Mike Geiss from State is helping with financial review. They were very close to having a balanced budget for this fiscal year until COVID-19.

They are concerned about a surge of people in crisis as the community starts to open-up. Financial realities for clients will increase stress levels. Tony sent a Letter of Intent to Reno Behavioral Health.

Tony said there is a FEMA grant for crisis counseling services (Interim services and regular services for 9 months, Cognitive Behavioral Health services online, etc. – RFI needed by this Friday).

- b. AOD Report – Staff is working on policies and procedures to meet Medi-Cal requirements.
- c. Quality Assurance Improvement (Jessica) – The EQRO overview was done in April except reviewers still need to meet with staff. Jessica did do some surveys with clients (more cannot be done due to COVID-19. April numbers: 300 open cases, 23 jail, 37 new clients. They have heard a lot of positive feedback about the intake process but there have been some connectivity issues.

- d. Behavioral Health Commission Information and Improvement (Elizabeth B.) – Wellness Centers are working on phase 2 re-opening. They have added buzzers at doors. They have seen an increase, but face masks are being used, along with hand sanitizer, etc. She also expects to see a surge in clients going forward.

Sierra Co. has seen a bump in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Tony said youth needing services will also be increasing soon.

Public Comment –

Scott Corey said PCIRC has had an increased demand for homeless services (around a dozen).

Appreciation was expressed to BH staff for setting up this tele-conference.

Adjournment

Lori adjourned the meeting at 12:48 pm.

Next meeting will be **June 3rd, Location to be determined**, from 12 pm to 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendrah Fredricksen, Secretary
Plumas County Behavioral Health Commission