

Plumas County Behavioral Health Commission Meeting
6/3/2020 at Plumas County Library, Quincy, CA
Approved at 7/1/2020 meeting

STANDING ORDERS

Call to Order / Roll Call

- Call to Order: Chair, Lori Simpson, called meeting to order at 12:02 pm. This meeting was held as a tele-conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Roll Call: Commissioners in attendance – Kendrah Fredricksen, Lori Simpson, Valerie Sheldon, Vicki Chestnut
- County Staff in attendance: Tony Hobson, Elizabeth Brunton, Jessica McGill, John Posch, Elizabeth McAllister
- County Counsel: Sara James
- Public in attendance: Denise Pyper, Trish Foley (EPHC), Lisa Tobe (Women’s Mountain Passages), Peter Livingston (LCSW)

Additions to or Deletions from the Agenda

No changes to Agenda. Quorum established.

Public Comment – Lisa Tobe – has concerns about BH money reduction for schools (will be addressed later in meeting).

ACTION AGENDA

1. Behavioral Health Commission

- a. Review and approve draft minutes of 3/4/20 and 5/6/20 – Vicki moved to approve March and May minutes with minor changes. Valerie seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Formal resolution combining former Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board with BH Commission – in process; has been delayed due to COVID-19.

2. Informational Announcements & Reports

- a. Commissioners Reports and Announcements – Lori has been on calls with CA State Supervisors over policy changes. State budget is not looking good at all. Local budget will not be good either. Property tax is okay locally (95% paid). Sales tax is down.
- b. Patients’ Rights Advocate Report (Elizabeth M.) – 10 calls, including: 1 lack of continuity of care, 2 housing requests, 1 Napa hospital, 1 denial of service concern, 1 transportation need, and others needing resources.

- c. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Kendrah) – PCIRC has new interim director – Ryan Nowling; there have also been some board changes.
- d. Bylaws – Ad Hoc Committee – Kendrah, Sara and Lori are working on this and Resolution.

3. Behavioral Health Department

- a. Director's Report (Tony Hobson) – Service delivery has not changed much since beginning of COVID-19. Still using phone and telehealth. Doing some in-person services with masks, etc. Need to get back to doing group services but are waiting for PH direction on this. Crisis services are going well in emergency departments. They are in final stages of implementing psychiatry piece at PDH (attaching 5150 form into electronic records).

Budget is scary right now. Biggest funding is federal government. Increase was 100% over prior year but that changed with COVID-19. April services were down due to service delivery method. Predict that vehicle licensing fees will drop (a source of funding). Need to do realignment back-bill. No longer have reserves.

June 30, 2020 is end of current MHSA funding plan. Going forward in next 3-year plan, the same priority groups exist. Cannot budget millions over what they are bringing in. Must operate within means. There will be tough sacrifices but will do so in mindful way. In schools, Student Service Coordinators have been laid-off, but Tony is working with schools to figure out how to make this happen. We need to have “eyes on” in the schools. Need to continue services for SMI housing. We need to preserve Wellness Centers and many other core services.

MHSA budget runs a couple years behind current situations. 2021 funding will be okay but 2022-2023 will be affected by what is happening now.

BH has not applied for any grants at this time. Tony was a part of a workgroup on state level applying for FEMA grant. Looking at Extensive Services program (e.g. natural disasters). Virtual EAP (Employment Assistance Program) – kids and adults can receive brief intervention services at any time (telehealth or phone).

They are trying to draw down as much from MediCal as possible. They have some creative ideas for meeting the needs of children. Lisa asked if Sierra Health Foundation could provide a grant along with other agencies to bring in more money for youth and families.

Lori asked if Orchard House could have meetings outside. Tony said we need to open new groups as well as offer continuation for current groups. Jessica said specific sites are approved for the meetings. ReThink industries has not been able to offer such services either.

- b. AOD Report – Drug MediCal application has been submitted and accepted. They should be approved soon. We can offer these services and expect payment.

- c. Quality Assurance Improvement (Jessica) – Wrapping up annual EQRO process – external quality review. Have met many of the recommendations made last year. Hoping for approval. June 30, 2020 is end of fiscal year. Policies and procedures are being updated. There will be more structure than previously. QA meeting will happen this month – policies and procedures will be reviewed. COVID-19 has reduced number of services, but access is still good. People appreciate the telehealth.
- d. Behavioral Health Commission Information and Improvement – Elizabeth Brunton – Wellness Centers – they now have doorbell system, using phone calls for appointments; Monthly figures: saw 130 different clients in Greenville, 40 in Chester, 30+ in Portola. Greenville has picked up – services for simple things (e.g. help accessing IRS website). Getting ready for Phase 3 reopening.

Trish Foley – doing well in Eastern Plumas – doing telehealth, some in person (with masks), numbers are looking good.

Vicki asked about Elizabeth McAllister’s title on agenda – should be: Patient Rights’ Advocate, Lori will change on next agenda.

Jessica McGill – still offering MH access appointments/services – community needs to be aware of this. Call their office 24/7 to get info.

Public Comment – Thanks to BH for setting up WebEx meeting.

Lori’s daughter graduated from FRC and will be going to Chico for sociology.

Lisa Tobe is perspective commission member if there is no conflict of interest.

Peter Livingston – encouraged that meetings be offered by WebEx/teleconference as well as in person when COVID-19 threat is over. It was requested that this be added as an agenda item for next month.

Adjournment

Lori adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Next meeting will be **July 1st, Location to be determined**, from 12 pm to 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendrah Fredricksen, Secretary
Plumas County Behavioral Health Commission