

July 11, 2018 Plumas County Behavioral Health Commission Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call: Commission members: Vicki Chestnut, Joyce Clare, Henry Eisenman, Maria Rock-Strong, Valerie Sheldon, Lori Simpson

Guest: Scott Corey, Trish Foley, Marian Liddell, Heidi Wakefield

Staff: Aimee Heaney, Tony Hobson, Ph.D.; John Posch

Additions to or deletions from the agenda: None.

Public Comment Opportunity: None.

1. Behavioral Health Commission

A. Approve Behavioral Health Commission meeting minutes of June 6, 2018. Corrections: spelling of Vicki Chestnut's last name, Joyce Clare's last name; and on page four. D. Note that: "The current delay was found unacceptable by one. Expectation of resignation, when not doing the chore." Was a comment. Joyce Clare moved to approve the meeting minutes as corrected. Vicki Chestnut seconded.

B. Continued—Cost analysis of Sierra House—discussion and possible action on recommendation to Board of Supervisors. A cost analysis for Sierra House includes considering whether to close Sierra House or not. A work group has considered possibilities for Sierra House for 1 ½ years. There is not enough funding needed to tend repair to bring Sierra House up to code. Sierra House has no residents now. Two former residents are residing at a board-and-care in Chico, and the third former resident is residing in an apartment in Quincy.

No Place Like Home could provide future permanent housing.

The November 2018 state election ballot measure will decide if MHSA funds can be used to provide housing for clients.

There currently seems some duplication of service provided from PCIRC and Behavioral Health Dept. Efforts could be combined to maximize results.

Sierra House it was noted has activities for resident clients.

Community Care Licensing inspecting Sierra House, was with the consideration Sierra House had funds to tend repairs to bring up to code. A single-story building would be preferred. Sierra House is two-story.

Staff that worked at Sierra House was redirected: one to the Greenville Wellness Center, the other to Housing Authority.

Options are being considered. It is rare for counties to have a 24/7 facility; but with No Place Like Home it is possible to provide permanent housing. Another building could be contracted.

Neighborhoods it was noted tend to reject client housing, especially those from jail. So far Sierra House was not found objectionable. [Though there are several residents who walked away from the board-and-care. One tragically.]

The department does have emergency lodging.

East Quincy housing has a case manager, someone who is on site. There is transitional housing but not permanent housing. A goal is to provide permanent housing. Emphasis is to be a good neighbor.

MOTION: Joyce Clare moved to accept the recommendation of B.H. Dept. director Tony Hobson, for the future of Sierra House. Marie Rock-Strong opposed.

C. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors. This Annual Report will be e-mailed to members soon, to consider and comment.

2. Informational Announcements & Reports

- A. Co-Chair's report and announcements. Estres Wellings is absent.
- B. Client Advocate report. There have been no calls from clients in two months!
- C. Secretary-Treasurer report. No comment.

3. **Behavioral Health Department**

- A. MHSA Program update. Six-page handout. On www.countyofplumas.com MHSA, reversion plan update posted July 1, 2018. Thirty-day review and comment period that includes newspaper ads and notice of a public hearing August 1, 2018 at Planning Dept. conference room. The PDF explains how the funds are planned to be spent. September 5, 2018 the BH Commission will have a public hearing on the reversion plan update. Then September 18, 2018 The Board of Supervisors will consider, and September 28, 2018 the proposed reversion plan will be submitted.

No Place Like Home. Plumas County BH Dept. has not received the draft service agreement from the HCD. Do have technical assistance funds for a non-competitive grant. More ambitious is and lucrative is a competitive grant that would involve identifying property to be developed, and probably would involve a collaborative with several other counties: Lassen, Tehama, Sierra. Plumas County BH Dept. is already in partnership with eleven northern California counties in identifying clients in need of service.

The MHSA program and fiscal audit findings and recommendations report is forthcoming from DHCS. A phone conference with DHCS is expected next week.

Development of Family Respite Program, Gina Rock-Strong, Denise Pyper, Lori Simpson and Joyce Clare has stated interest being involved in this working group to implement a consumer/family respite program.

Reversion Plan, ongoing funding, and program sustainability

The department is on a tight budget. The bulk of spending of Community Services and Supports (CSS) budget supports Wellness Centers, full-service partnership programming, client support staff, including housing, transportation, emergency lodging, transitional housing, housing subsidies for clients and other approved ancillaries, peer advocates' salaries, MHSA coordinator and other department expenses as part of MHSA local MHP expansion. Program evaluation will occur in August and September. Some programs initially funded through CSS may be in future funded through Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI). PEI allocations are approximately \$450,000/year and CSS allocations are approximately \$1,700,000/year. More programs will need funding with less available money! Based on DHCS letter concerning reversion funds identified from fiscal year 2005-2006 through fiscal year 2014-2015, the department's draft MHSA reversion plan update will continue to spend down identified CSS/PEI reversion funds through fiscal year 2019-2020. With reductions, existing and projected PEI funds will not sustain ongoing PEI programming, and the MHSA coordinator will share with the commission and stakeholders' evaluation information and recommendations for reducing programming. CSS programs will also experience a rundown of reversion funds through fiscal year 2018-2019 with possible

reductions. There may be additional program cuts through fiscal year 2019-2020, State fiscal forecasters foresee based on income tax and other State revenue sources. ...The department will work with county stakeholders to set new priorities for PEI funding and will amend the MHSA Program and Expenditure Plan 2017-2020 through the annual update to reflect revisions (due to DHCS by December 31, 2018.) There would be a benefit from establishing a family respite program. In regards reversion, the budget is already tight. Conversations need to occur in regards sustainability. There is a squeeze on funds, but if it can be displayed a future benefit from reallocating funding to another program section such as prevention and early intervention, this would be acceptable. MHSA funding is a complex report and the department does not currently have the staff to tend to, so was contracted out.

- B. [AOD update is included in director's report.]

- C. **Director's Report**

The Commission was introduced to the Plumas County BH Dept. new director Tony Hobson. Previously was director of the BH Dept. of two counties and that was a pressure cooker. Plumas County BH Dept. has some financial challenges. PCIRC resource center is helpful. The criminal justice system, Sheriff's Dept. has the largest mentally health client level, and is housing our mentally ill. The director's contract stipulates that if he decides to not to remain, a ninety-day notice is required. Mr. Hobson is an experienced leader.

The department does not want clients to wait to receive service. Staff service documentation after visiting with a client needs to be submitted within seventy-two hours. Documentation remains a concern. The department is reimbursed by the documentation of the visit(s) with clients. The department has six vacancies. The two clinical supervisors are overwhelmed. Salaries for staff were increased so salaries are competitive with neighboring counties. Earlier the revolving door with department management discouraged staff, but the management level is stable. Two arriving staff are receiving masters and are hoped would stay. Programs need to be fitted to best provide to the community and are accessible. MHSA audit occurred earlier. There is no residential care=Sierra House. There isn't out-patient care, nor Para-medical treatment for women with substance abuse issues and should be addressed. Work to certify with Medi-Cal and that requires a physician present to prescribe medication. Documentation needs further emphasis. A few days are being set aside to catch up. Currently Michael Gunter, Pam, and Dr. Hobson are the L.C.S.W./psychiatric counselor staff. Attracting professional staff to Plumas County is difficult. There is a full-service partnership with the district attorney, therapists, and case managers. Asked was how can this Commission support the department and the Commission can provide data on the world that they know.

- D. Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Committee—Joyce Clare

The Quincy area Improvement Committee has six members who meet every two weeks. The State asks for report of the adequacy of network services. The consumer should be seen by staff within ten days and seen by telemedicine within fifteen days.

Senior Summit is September 26, 2018 at Lawrence Street, Quincy Veteran's Hall. Transportation is provided. A meal will be served. There will be information tables in regards adult protective services.

August 25, 2018 Vicki and Joyce are scheduled to attend training for how to better, more effective board/commission members in Redding, California. The Commission has a budget that can offset some of the cost such as mileage reimbursement. Others interested in attending could contact Joyce Clare nurseclare@yahoo.com or Aimee Heaney aheaney@pcbh.services

Veteran's Stand Down is September 22, 2018 at the Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds. Looking for volunteers.

Public Comment Opportunity: A landlord has not been responsible, and a tenant needs proper housing. Was suggested filing [a department grievance complaint page](#), and contacting Michael Gunter if the tenant is a behavioral health client? [Plumas County has building code enforcement officer.](#)

Adjournment occurred 1:35 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting is **August 1, 2018 at Planning Dept.** conference room, Main Street, Quincy, noon to 2 p.m.