



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"*

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**Mental Health Board**

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## Mental Health Services in Mendocino County 2011

Dear Supervisors,

Your Mental Health Board has been giving much effort to keep up with the unwanted changes necessary with the State of California reducing the funds which have financed many of the Services.

As many of you know, programs such as HOPE and Senior Peer Services have been cut. Many good things were happening in services cut or reduced. We are trying to be aware of the needs of those who were served in these and the Mental Health Branch whose employees have also been reduced in number. We are impressed by some of the services that are operating with minimal funding in places like Point Arena/Gualala, and Covelo.

We are impressed with the work that has been done by Mr. Pinizzotto with Ms. Cryer and the Mental Health Branch to reduce the deficit hanging over the Services.

You have been requested to look at proposals for the future which may well change the ways in which mental health clients are served. We will be providing more ideas along this line, trying to anticipate the effects on clients related to the structure of the service facilities and their staffs. There is some merit in the health, psychiatric, behavioral health, case management, social services and Alcohol and other Drug Programs being integrated in a way that will allow each to know what the other is doing so that the best services can be extended to the client. Our County Mental Health services are already making associations with neighboring counties for advocacy and the provision of services across the area.

The MHB is looking at what is happening in our County Mental Health; Children's Services, Crisis Needs, Housing Cultural appropriateness, Relations with Criminal Justice such as the Jail, Sheriffs, Juvenile Hall and local Police Departments. Our Business Committee is looking at the Contracts and Business Costs. One of our Board members is Chair of the MHSA Committee. We are concerned about services to Adults, Transitional Youth, Children and Families. We append some reports from these committees so that you may peruse them as you wish.

For your information I include what your representatives on the Board are doing. Mr. Jim Moore is the Vice Chair of the Board. He is concerned with Adult Services and the proportional services to the Coast. Ms. Valerie Williamson is concerned with Business Services and contracts for services. She also represents the interests of the Mendocino Coast. Ms. Elizabeth Crawford is our Secretary on the Board and is very involved with Children's Services. Perry "Two Feathers" Tripp is our liaison to the law enforcement and Juvenile Justice System as they relate to Mental Health. Ms. Jane Berry has served as Vice Chair of the Board and is currently Chair of the Children's Committee. She is also leading the work related to Crisis Residential needs. Mr. Joseph Mortz is the Chair of the MHSA Committee. He is also with the California State Mental Health Commission and brings us much information from the State level. Ms. Vonna Kindred Myers served as the MHB Secretary and is on two of the committees. Mr. Ken Scofield is our contact with the South Coast and Ms. Eliste Reeves represents the Round Valley Area. We are also grateful for the contributions of Supervisor John McCowen who asks great questions and helps our process.

We continue to hope that the State of California will be able to live up to its promise made many years ago when they closed State Hospitals pushing the care of patients on to the Counties and saying that "the money would follow the patient." The Counties have indeed developed services and still need the funds to support them. We encourage you to advocate for the provision of these funds to continue and improve services which encourage persons to recover, be treated with dignity and have the opportunity of developing their full potential.

Submitted by: Guy W. Grenny, PhD. For the Mental Health Board of Mendocino County

## Mental Health Board Annual Report Youth and Family Service

In this year of changing times and less dollars youth and family services have been able so far to keep most if not all of there programs, This is due to the great collaboration they have with their community partners ( known as the children's system of care).

Children's Mental Health Service for the county will only be providing services to the severely mentally ill children, all others that need services, but are not yet seriously mentally ill will be refereed to other service providers in the community. If the client does not have insurance and can't qualify for medical there are remaining MHSA dollars available.

The Staff for Children's Services in the county is as follows:

Ukiah

Four licensed clinicians and two interns

Willits

One licensed clinician and one intern

Fort Bragg

One licensed clinician and one intern

Family Strengths has been moved to Social Services. PACE and clean and sober class room will be incorporated into MCOE special programs.

PEI (prevention and early intervention) money is being used in the schools to teach service providers how to use the screening tool and make appropriate referrals. One on One training is being done at this time.

Plans are being made for later in the year with CIMH for a training for clinicians and service providers to learn early diction and identification for prevention of psychiatric disorders ( you may find information on this tool on the web Schizophrenia.com).

Protocols for children with severe mental illness is currently being written in order to form a strong Q.A. plan.

Tapestry children and family service is a very important contract for us, as they are the only providers of service in Laytonville and Covelo. Without them there would be no services for children in those areas

AS the CRP task force has been holding meetings in Fort Bragg, Laytonville, Covelo and South Coast, what came up consistently was the concerns about youth around substance abuse either with the youth themselves, in the home or both. This is a huge problem for this county. When the DEA was raiding the growers last fall the kids were in crisis in some of the schools.

Submitted by  
Jane Berry



Wednesday, April 20, 2011

## **Mendocino County Mental Health Board Report**

Submitted by: Perry G. Joshua Two Feathers Tripp, Chairman – Jail First Responder Committee.

### **Annual inspection of Juvenile Hall**

On December 10, 2010, an annual inspection of Juvenile Hall was performed in collaboration with the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDC) for a joint inspection of the facility. I was the only one from the Mental Health Board and the JJDC report is also available for review.

I am pleased to report that Mental Health services for Juvenile is adequate for the hall despite County budget cuts that has had minor impacts on the Hall and the services rendered. There was a few concerns; The Therapy animal that as of the inspection was still not licensed or credentialed. There was no timeline given for certification of the animal (it has been over one year). The therapist was not sure if this would be paid for by the provider who she works for, the County or might be out of pocket expenses. The other concern was that there was no way to measure the success of using the animal in a confined situation. The therapeutic services are being rendered adequately and efficiently.

### **JAIL FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE:**

As of last year the Jail First Responder Committee was formed to find solutions to the “revolving door syndrome”. Since then the committee has had lack of participation and attendance from Law Enforcement, County Staff and members of the public. With all the budget impacts to the County of Mendocino it is apparent that the influx of Mental Health Client/Consumers is greatly impacting the Mendocino County Jail even more so now than before. The Jail serves as a first contact for these individuals where services can be provided and now that too has been greatly impacted due to budget constraints/lack of money.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT CRISIS RESOURCES:**

Law Enforcement had requested a Crisis Emergency Resource Guide –designed for Law Enforcement Officers working in the field and that could used as a resource. There was a lot of confusion at the time with County Mental Health Staff & Administration in if something like that already exists. Requests to the previous administration were made with negative results for information pertaining to this matter. It should also be noted that the requests for Data that were made informally and then formally have been ignored with the exception of the Mendocino County Jail Commander Timothy Pierce who successfully submitted (SMI) Serious Mentally Ill Offender data. This data could not be used as it has sensitive information attached to it and it was given to Traci Beards to analyze and desensitize that data. There has been no mention of the data since and the information was never forwarded onto the Board. This has been a continual issue with requests made by the Mental Health Board/Members to administration for data and/or information.

### **C.I.T. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS/TRAINING:**

The need for Crisis Intervention Team Training was apparent from the traumatic situations that have occurred involving the mentally ill and law enforcement. Law Enforcement was able to facilitate the N.A.M.I. C.I.T. Training that consisted for 4hours – by no means is this Law Enforcement C.I.T. Training that is an actual 40HR Curriculum (Memphis model based training). I am very glad to see something happening as a introduction to C.I.T. however, the need for formal 40HR Law Enforcement Training

needs to be developed and implemented very soon. It shall also be noted that the suicide rate of local law enforcement within the past few years increased significantly and has not been addressed. I feel that some efforts need to be made in addressing the physiological, physical, emotional and well being of law enforcement officers is a must and the reality of this is that the Mentally Ill can also be the ones to "serve and protect". Efforts have been made to work with the Portland Oregon, Memphis Police and San Francisco Police C.I.T. Coordinators and relationships need to be further developed and curriculum suitable for our local law enforcement needs and that should include a major component of Cultural Competency given the demographics. The need for training and education for law enforcement and the community members is greatly needed for mental health awareness and to reduce stigmas.

**MENTAL HEALTH COURT:**

As the needs go unaddressed and criminal offenders who are suspected to be mentally ill and those already in the system who are client/consumers we all know from statistics that the mentally ill re-offender will be more likely to be arrested time and time again for the most part on minor offenses. In order to combat this, the appropriate steps need to be taken by the County Board of Supervisors and the local Criminal Justice System in addressing these issues. There are several evidence based models that have significantly saved cities and counties money while reducing the arrests of the mentally ill and freeing up bed space in county jails for more serious or violent offenders. I would ask for the support of the Board of Supervisors to evaluate and explore the options available and insists that law enforcement as well as the criminal justice system/courts have roundtable sessions in that process. There are limited funding sources available and

I have attached the link to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for your review:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/mentalhealth.html>

Please also see the essential elements for a Mental Health Court:  
[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MHC\\_Essential\\_Elements.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MHC_Essential_Elements.pdf)

With no other matters before this committee this report is submitted to the Chairman of the Mental Health Board on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

BY:

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PERRY G. JOSHUA TWO FEATHERS TRIPP  
Chairman, Jail First Responder Committee; MHB.

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DATE

## **Business committee annual report 2011**

The business committee of the Mental Health Board met in September of 2010. At that time, it was decided that our main task was to check on county contracts and to present them to the MHB. The Board was frustrated by not getting a look at the contracts before they were submitted to the Board of Supervisors. As our economic problems compounded, many contracts were deemed moot.

As the staff of the mental health branch has been laid off, more client care has gone to private providers both doctors and county clinics. In addition, more care and money have gone to for profit and not for profit private organizations. While most are above suspicion and have provided great care in the past, I am wondering about not having enough oversight with the precious funds we are spending for our clients. Where is the accountability?

Lastly, I believe that in these times we must rely heavily on volunteers. I have personally offered to take crisis calls if we have a shortage of people to man that line. We would need to make sure that our volunteers are protected from liability. I believe that County Counsel is looking into that issue.

These are interesting and hard times. I worry about all of our mental health clients and the disappearing array of services.

**Valerie Williamson**  
Chair, Business Services