

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

DATE: March 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Mental Health Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board Presentation.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Presentation by Sharon Behrens, Chairperson of Mental Health Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, on the current activities of the Board and the status of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs in Placer County.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Supervisors is mandated to establish a Mental Health Advisory Board under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604. In Placer County this Advisory Board additionally reviews alcohol and drug issues. One of the mandates of this Advisory Board is to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the County's mental health and substance abuse treatment systems.

The Board has 16 seats representing all Supervisorial Districts and with a requirement that 51% of the Board be a consumer or family member. One of the seats is for a member of the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Jim Holmes fulfills this role. This Board is currently active in recruiting new members as there are several vacant seats at this time.

The Board reviews programs, hears presentations on special issues, tracks the investigation of complaints, and is actively involved in quality assurance activities. In the last year the Board played a special role in assisting staff to improve the web-based service descriptions identified on the County web page. The descriptions of programs for mental health and substance abuse services are now easier to understand and more easily accessible.

The Board's focus in the current year is to continue to better understand programs through site visits and follow-up meetings with staff. The committees of Alcohol and Drug Services, Quality Improvement and Children's Services will also be exploring specific program aspects. It is expected that more specific recommendations on programs will be presented in the next annual report.

The Mental Health, Alcohol, and Drug Advisory Board is grateful for the support of the Board of Supervisors and supports the service delivery system that has been put in place. This system assures that resources are used in the most efficient and effective way so those persons with the highest needs and least resources receive the necessary services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action has no fiscal impact to the County General Fund.

