

MINUTES

**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Standing Committee to the Laughlin Town Advisory Board
June 17, 2014
8:30 A.M.**

**Laughlin Regional Government Center
101 Civic Way, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA**

Members Present: Victoria Conely
Cheryl Seipke
James Williams
Kathy Whitney

Members Absent:
Roger Burtraw, Excused

Others Present:
Susan Haut, Laughlin Behavioral Health
Julie Fairman, Laughlin Times
Becky Hochstedler, Colorado River
Food Bank
Lance Ross, Valley View Medical Center
Sandy Mecolick
Pat Gutierrez

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A.** Conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- B.** Agenda items may be taken out of order if deemed necessary.
- C.** The Social Services Committee may combine two or more agenda items for consideration.
- D.** The Social Service Committee may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- A.** Approval of the June 17, 2014 Agenda.

James Williams moved **Kathy Whitney** seconded the approval of the agenda.
Motion carried 4-0.

- B. Approval of the May 20, 2014 Minutes.

James Williams moved **Cheryl Seipke** seconded the approval of the minutes.
Motion carried 4-0.

3. **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** This is a period devoted to comments by the general public about items on *this* agenda. If you wish to speak to the committee about items within its jurisdiction but not appearing on this agenda, you must wait until the “Comments by the General Public” period listed at the end of this agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Please step up to the speaker’s podium, clearly state your name and address and *spell* your last name for the record. If any member of the committee wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the committee by majority vote. The committee retains the discretion to take additional public comments during times other than during a Public Hearing or during the Public Comment Sessions. In all other instances, a citizen may speak on any matter before the committee for consideration, after receiving recognition and consent of the Chairman of the committee.

Lance Ross, Valley View Medical Center, requests that Item 5 and 6 be heard, making an exception to the 3 minute rule, should **Dr. Chou** arrive between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.

4. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- A. Receive a presentation from **Susan Haut, LCSW, Clinical Program Manager of Laughlin Behavioral Health Clinic, State of Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health.**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Susan Haut began the presentation with giving her background qualifications and the history of the Laughlin clinic. Laughlin Behavioral Health Center is a State of Nevada agency under the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. The clinic started as part of the State’s Rural Mental Health Centers and became part of the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services 4 years ago. The State of Nevada partnered with Clark County and the Laughlin Town Manager’s Office to open the Laughlin clinic in 2005.

The clinic offers counseling and medication services to children, adolescents and adults. There are basic skills training, journaling, illness management and self-management groups held on a weekly basis, with a Love and Logic group for parents and children to start in the fall. The clinic has 5 full time staff which includes a support staff, Mental Health Counselor/intern, Registered Psychiatric

Nurse, Psychiatric Caseworker (Service Coordinator), and Mental Health Tech. The clinic has psychiatric tele-med services 3 days per month for adults 18 and above; and child psychiatric tele-med services 2-1/2 hours per month for children and adolescents under the age of 18. The clinic is not a crisis unit. The State of Nevada legislature sets case limits for each clinician, and currently the clinic's counseling and medication staff are at their limit, which creates a wait-list. The State limits the cases to provide the best service possible for the current clients. A person requesting services must go through a screening process to assess their needs, they are then put on a wait list before being referred to and entering individual services. The clinic offers a sliding fee scale, takes all insurances and staff will assist in applying for NV Medicaid when applicable.

The State of Nevada recently changed to an integration model which coordinates mental health care with primary medical care and substance abuse care. Treatment staff has been trained to work with co-occurring disorders, which is mental health with substance abuse.

Lance Ross asked how tele-med works, and if the clients accept it. The psychiatrist (located at Rawson Neal Hospital) and the client converse via poly-com. The clinic's Psychiatric Registered Nurse does the face to face assessing and reports to the doctor. When a person has a hard time dealing with this method of tele-communication the nurse and/or Mental Health Tech sit in with the client to keep them calm. The client is told before entering medication clinic that this is the only access to the psychiatrist.

Sandy Mecolick states that she is a grandparent/guardian of her grandson and asks if she can take part in the Love and Logic Group scheduled to begin in the fall. **Susan** states that either she or her grandson have to be a current client at the clinic to take part in any of the programs. **Susan** suggests that **Sandy** put in a request for services for her grandson to be put on a wait list so services will be available when this program begins. **Sandy** asks about the children's medication clinic, she now takes her grandson to Las Vegas, and only has access to the medications in Las Vegas. **Lance Ross** states that the new pharmacy to open in Laughlin will carry medications if local residents request them. **Sandy** asked if volunteers can be utilized. **Susan** states that using volunteers is not a common practice with the State because of strict HIPAA laws, and staff at the State mental health agencies has to be credentialed, licensed and/or certified with the State of Nevada.

Julie Fairman questions the brochure which states there are residential services. **Susan** explains that the Laughlin clinic currently has one client in housing. There are criteria to meet to be eligible for these services, which include being SMI (having a serious mental illness), being homeless, can have income from SSI or

SSDI. The program does offer assistance in HUD housing, SNAP (food stamps), energy assistance, free cell phone, and obtaining Medicaid. If a person has no source of income the SLA program will pay for all living expenses and start-up costs, along with a monthly allowance for transportation, food, and essentials. The Service Coordinator and Mental Health Tech work closely with individuals in housing to keep the individual on track to stay eligible, with part of the process is to apply for disability so the individual does have income. The goal is to have the individual become independent. Legislature sets the amount of housing positions available to mental health. There currently are no positions available.

James Williams asks about current caseloads and how a clinic gets more staff. The clinic currently has around 100 clients. The med clinic and counseling services are both at their max now, which the legislature limits to 75 for each. To get more staff the legislature demands a full client load to be on a waiting list. Individuals requesting services cannot wait that long to be seen, and seek services elsewhere or not at all. The rural areas have a hard time recruiting mental health professionals. The State of NV offers an incentive program to pay student loans for individuals located in the rural areas; the individual does have to make a 5 year commitment to the clinic. **James** questioned the comment about not being a crisis center, asking what does an individual do. If a person presents at the office in crisis, available staff assess the client, and if they find the person is at risk and needing hospitalization, the police and ambulance are called. If it is an existing client, the individual will be transported to Rawson Neal Hospital (southern NV mental hospital). For an individual that is not a client, if they have insurance they will be taken to WARMC in Bullhead City, AZ; if they do not have insurance they will be taken to the hospital in Boulder City, NV to be medically cleared, then from there will be transported to a Las Vegas hospital with an available psych bed, which sometimes takes days until one is available.

Victoria Conely questioned the crisis number on the brochure 800-992-5757. This is a 24 hour suicide crisis line. Volunteers (mental health professionals) throughout the United States man the phone.

Susan Haut is the Clinical Program Manager of the Pahrump Behavioral Health Center and can be reached at 775-751-7406. **Susan** oversees the Laughlin Behavioral Health Center and is on site 2 or 3 days per month, 702-298-5313.

B. Committee to discuss specific goals for 2014.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

This committee's goal is to educate the community of the services available in Laughlin. There is no one scheduled at this time to make a presentation at the July 15, 2014 meeting. **Lance Ross** will ask the new physician, **Dr. Chou**, from Live Oak Family Medicine, to make a presentation in July or August and will

contact **Victoria Conely**. **Julie Fairman** will give **Victoria** contact information for the new VA clinic. Other suggestions included: the local churches, casinos that have employee organizations that help the locals, and the EZ Fast Pharmacy that is scheduled to open later this year in Laughlin.

C. Committee to discuss public service information that may potentially be submitted to the media and take any action deemed appropriate.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Julie Fairman, Laughlin Nevada Times, is present at today's meeting and will make a report in the local newspaper. **Julie Fairman** states that information must be submitted by noon Friday to be included in the following week's edition.

5. **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** This is a period for the Public to comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Social Services Committee, but not appearing on this agenda. If any member of the committee wishes to extend the length of their comments, this will be done by the Chairman, or the committee by majority vote. When speaking during a specific item or during the Public Comments sessions, please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address – please spell your name for the record – and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No vote may be taken on any matter not listed on the posted agenda.

Becky Hochstedler, Colorado River Food Bank, announces that tomorrow is the Mobile Pantry. **Becky** states that volunteers are needed to help unload the truck, package the food individually, and man the booths. Volunteers are asked to arrive around 9:30 a.m. the Pantry is open from noon – 2:00 p.m.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** July 15, 2014, 8:30 A.M., Laughlin Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada. Agenda items due no later than July 7, 2014.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Victoria Conely made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 a.m., seconded by **James Williams**. Motion carried 4-0.

NOTE: *These meeting minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the July 15, 2014 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting.*