



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Treatment Works, People Recover

El tratamiento es efectivo, las personas se recuperan

Neda West, Director / Christine Kondo-Lister, LCSW, Deputy Director
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July 31, 2009

California Department of Mental Health,
Attn: TBS Special Master
1600 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Therapeutic Behavioral Services
Level 1 Requirement - Annual meetings held by May, 2009**

As a Level 1 county, El Dorado held its required two annual meetings for 2009 as detailed in DMH Information Notice 08-38.

On May 15, 2009, we held a general forum open to the public. To enhance participation, this meeting was held in conjunction with a county-wide MHSA community meeting that included providers, family members, and other interested members of the public. Officers of the court were invited but did not attend. We provided detailed information on TBS as summarized in DMH Notice 08-38, provided local data on access and utilization, and answered questions.

On May 26, 2009, we held the second required meeting with designees of appropriate local authorities. This meeting was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Placement Committee, the key multi-disciplinary team in our county's children's system of care. In attendance were supervisor level representatives of Children's Protective Services, Juvenile Probation, Special Education, Mental Health, and a parent advocate involved in our local SB 163 Wraparound Program. Invitations were extended to local providers of TBS, but they did not attend. However, the revised requirements of TBS as described in DMH Notice 08-38 have been shared with these providers. This working group was familiar with the purposes of TBS and the local means to access the service. We reviewed the continuing and revised administrative obligations, recent data on access and utilization, and answered any specific questions. It was made clear that the reduced administrative burdens, along with other elements of the settlement plan, were intended to increase utilization of Therapeutic Behavioral Services.

As required, two similar meetings will be held next calendar year, to be completed by May, 2010.

Sincerely,

Barry Wasserman, LCSW

Barry Wasserman, LCSW, Manager of Mental Health Programs
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