

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.



STATE OF NEVADA
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Kinhead Building, Room 602

505 E. King Street

Carson City, Nevada 89701-3790

(775) 684-5943 • Fax (775) 684-5966

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director

CARLOS BRANDENBURG, Ph.D.
Administrator

DEBBIE HOSSELKUS
Deputy Administrator

CURRENT SERVICE PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY LAKE'S CROSSING CENTER

Lake's Crossing Center is Nevada's program for the mentally disordered offender. The agency provides a statewide service to individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system who have been evaluated as requiring assessment for competency to stand trial, or treatment to competency, in a maximum-security setting. The provision of such a service requires a well-coordinated, specially trained staff, because responsibilities for treatment, evaluation and consultation delegated to the agency must meet a wide range of needs for a relatively diversified population.

The largest single group served are persons sent to Lake's Crossing Center as incompetent to stand trial under the procedures outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 178.425. Such individuals initially need for treatment necessitate a well-structured, yet focused and expeditious program so that their return to court may be as speedy as possible. While Lake's Crossing Center originally served individuals who were adjudicated Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity a change deleting that statute in 1993 ended those potential admissions until the summer of 2001. In 2001 the Nevada Supreme Court rejected the Guilty but Mentally Ill Law on constitutional bases. The statute that allowed that plea was struck from Nevada law and was replaced by the former law that allows clients the option of pleading Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity creating again the possibility for such defendants to be committed to Lake's Crossing as NGRI. To date no such commitments have occurred.

Occasionally Lake's Crossing Center will accept clients who are management problems from other agencies for short periods of time. These clients must be placed in this facility by an administrative transfer approved by the Administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services. As soon as they have received adequate treatment to be placed in a less restrictive environment, they are transferred to an appropriate facility to provide that care.

The inpatient capacity at Lake's Crossing Center is 48 clients. The facility has housed as many as 62 clients when demand was high. There are thirteen observation rooms for acutely acting out clients. The facility also assesses and treats a number of outpatient clients, if they have been designated not a danger to the community. These individuals may come in to complete testing and interview or to go through the legal process education provided by the facility staff.

EXHIBIT H Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 2/17/03 Page 1 of 3

Currently Lake's Crossing Center has 75 employees on its staff who are responsible for providing client treatment and supervision on a 24 hour a day basis. The clinical staff includes a clinic director, a senior psychiatrist, and psychiatric resident, five psychologists, and three psychiatric social workers. In addition, the clinical staff includes a nursing department headed by a Director of Nursing and ten registered nurses. There is also an Activities Therapy Department that includes a Senior Activities Therapy Specialist, an Activities Therapy Technician, and a Creative Arts Therapy / Forensic Specialist. The facility has a large group of personnel who are trained both in custody techniques and mental health care. These individuals are supervised both by clinical staff and custody personnel. A Correctional Lieutenant and a Correctional Sergeant head the custody line of supervision. There are three additional Custody Officers. Each of the three shifts has a shift lead who is a Supervising Forensic Specialist and who supervises a crew of at least six forensic specialists. Additional support staff includes two certified medical records staff that maintain the complicated records that must be provided to the court to complete the clients' adjudication. There is also two transcription support staff who track the training needs in the facility and provide other clerical support. They are supervised by the Personnel Analyst who serves all the personnel in the facility.

The staff that serves Lake's Crossing Center is assigned in a variety of venues throughout the state. There is also a contract to provide pre-commitment assessment services to Washoe County and the personnel outlined above are assigned as needed to complete these evaluations. Staff also travel to the Department of Corrections and Parole and Probation in order to meet the statutory mandate (NRS 213.1214, 176A.110 and 179D.600) that requires the Divisions to provide a licensed psychologist for certain sex offender hearings, risk assessments and community tier notification.

Lake's Crossing Center also provides training for students from various mental health educational programs. There are students currently from the Clinical Psychology Training Program at the University of Nevada, Reno and the Social Work Program at UNR. Over the last two years a new internship has also been developed within the Criminal Justice Program at UNR. In addition to UNR the Veteran's Administration Pre-doctoral Internship Program sends students to LCC as does the Fielding Institute whose central program office is located in Santa Barbara, California.

The Center is designed to address and meet the individualized needs of its residents. Clients receive a comprehensive evaluation during their first two weeks of stay at the program including a thorough physical and psychiatric evaluation, psychological testing, and close behavioral documentation. A social history work-up is added to this evaluation and the client is assigned to a treatment team, which coordinates an initial diagnostic work-up and treatment plan.

The treatment plan for many of the clients relies on a behavioristic approach utilizing a token economy system. Clients earn points for desired behavior and can redeem points

Lake's Crossing Center

Current Service Program Provided by Lake's Crossing Center

Page 3

in the Canteen or for special privileges such as television, use of their room, games, and use of special equipment. In addition, a wide variety of treatment modalities are employed. The staff provides for learning of self-care skills for severely regressed clients, physical recreation programs, and arts therapy and psycho-education groups. The clients also participate in a therapeutic community meeting two times a week that allows them the opportunity to take some responsibility for their environment and how the community is structured.

The client is provided with an aftercare plan at the point they are ready to leave the facility. This plan includes services within the setting to which they are discharged, whether that is the community or another detention facility. The vast majority of our clients return to complete sentences in the county jail or state prison. An effort is made to assure that they receive services within these facilities, as services are needed.

Clients accused of felonies rarely reside in the facility longer than one year and more commonly are discharged by the time of the statutorily required review of their competence at six months. Should a client not achieve competence by the time eighteen months have passed, a request is made that they be found incompetent with no substantial probability of attaining competence. The common outcome for these cases is that the charges they have against them are dropped without prejudice and the client, if considered dangerous, is civilly committed to one of the state hospitals. Often the inability to achieve competence can be established in a much shorter period of time.

Anyone desiring further information about the facility may contact the director or the Officer of the Day at 775- 688-1900 or access the website for the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services at Mhds.state.nv.us.