

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

January 28, 2021 - Minutes

Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding

APPROVAL Date: February 25, 2021

Motion made by Commissioner Molina 2nd by Commissioner Dalglish

Minutes approved:

DISCUSSION

Call to Order

Call to order – Brittney Weissman, Chair

a. Roll Call – *Commission Staff*

Present: Imelda Padilla-Frausto, Susan Friedman, Luis Orozco, Reba Stevens, Stacy Dalglish, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, Tess Banko, Patrick Ogawa, Kevin Acebo, Mike Molina, Judy Cooperberg – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent: Harold Turner

b. Approve meeting minutes (December 2020) **on the motion of Judy Cooperberg second by Stacy Dalglish unanimously carried with one abstention, this item was approved.**

c. Welcome New Commissioner – Chair welcomes Tess Banko appointed by Supervisor Sheila Keuhl, 3rd District.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comments

Ricardo Kim

1. MHSOC approved millions of dollars for 2019 WeRise and Trieste. How can the public access reports and where did the dollars go?
2. How many people in the Roomkey Program are transitioning to the Homekey Program?
3. SALT4 leadership did a great job passing out membership applications.

Osbee Sangster – Questions sent via email:

CAF's Participation Options - Mass Mailing List:

#1.) In continuation, of the (CAF) program, how many direct mailed (APP's) using the address envelope method CAF packets were sent to stakeholders using this helpful, option?

#2.) How many Countywide Activity Fund (CAF) APP's were sent using other options?

Data Oversight:

#3.) How many consumers, stakeholders, family members and community members APP's are currently in the (DMH) database re: the new (CAF) platform activities and stipend compensation; reinstatement program FY 2020-2021.

Transparency:

Accountability, and transparency is significant in applying an impartial lens to this matter. The vision of stakeholders' interest, to engage, restore building blocks and remove stumbling blocks. We must overcome challenges; with those consumers/stakeholders missing-in-action. And adapt; properly address the shift to the virtual platform meetings and reach consumer-family members. Henceforth, consumer technological tool limitations and the *countywide pandemic repercussion journey*.

DISCUSSION

III. Department of Mental Health Update

Dr. Curley Bonds, Chief Medical Officer Update

- Announcement: DMH employee Edgar Soto, Administrative Deputy passed away Sunday, January 24. Edgar Soto was of tremendous value to the department; he will be greatly missed. Dr. Bonds ask for a moment of silence in memory of Edgar Soto.
- DMH continues to collaborate with Department of Public Health (DPH) to ensure that eligible staff have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, DPH is providing vaccinations to healthcare workers in moderate- or high-risk settings (Phase 1A), as well as County residents age 65 or older (Phase 1B, Tier 1).
- DMH launched a DMH Ambassador Program for employees only.

Telemental

Dr. Marc Heiser, DMH Telemental Health and Consultation Program, provided an update on telemental health program: 1) telepsychiatry now services, 2) opportunity and innovation, 3) technology for telehealth (with data), 4) challenges with telehealth, 5) overcoming barriers, 6) future directions: expand access and improve quality.

Questions in chat box were collected and forward to Dr. Bonds

IV. Reports from Community Co-Chairs (SALTS & UsCC & CCC)

SALT 3 – Andrew Preston, and LaVon Robinson, Co-Chairs (via email)

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: In December the SALT Teamed with the Health Neighborhood, BOS, AIMM, MMH to address COVID Disparities by delivering food, clothing, and toys to families in need. During the December meeting the team did additional planning for the event along with mindfulness activities and festive songs to take a pause from the pandemic. The January meeting the SALT was provided feedback in a survey form from our grassroots core member (see attached) along with updates on the vaccination process from the department of public health. To address criminal justice issues the SALT was informed about Friends Outside Los Angeles and had a needs discussion for Re-Entry fathers lead by Dr. Argelis A. Ortiz, Ed.D, MSW from Silegra.

Key struggles this month: A key struggle is getting more mental health consumers/stakeholders to participate within the meeting. The SALT had 3 CAF members present and in the past mental health consumers were represented in the double digits.

Key successes this month: Collaboration with HEALTH NEIGHBORHOOD, BOS, AIMM, MMH TO ADDRESS COVID DISPARITIES This collaborative work collapses silos and models coordinated community care.

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: HOMELESSNESS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ACCESS TO CARE DURING COVID AND ESSENTIAL WORKER WELLBEING. Public Comment Post Survey 2020 San Gabriel Valley Holiday Give-Away - We've Got Feedback. New Years Greetings! It is with a spirit of gratitude that the Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition extends well-being and prosperity wishes to you, your family and loved one's.

BLACCC.org Post Survey- 2020 San Gabriel Valley Holiday Give-Away Announcement: We've Got Feedback - A Simplified Post Survey Re: December 22, 2020 San Gabriel Valley Holiday Give-Away Five/5 Nominated Families - Informational Feedback.

DISCUSSION

Planning Committee and Referring Agencies: Thank you! (SGV) Spreading some holiday cheer by handing out toys, clothes, food and gift cards to nominated/worthy families; moving into the new year with so many families separated or fighting an illness SAC (3,) thank you for making sacrifices and adjustments to help a number of individuals and families.

I believe this humanitarian effort; was filled with love. Nevertheless, not just those on the receiving end but, those who delivered, sorted inventory and those in support of our effort donated items. Many people walked away grateful; volunteers working this event evermore made themselves realize; what the holiday season is all about; giving back to the community we serve and helping one-family-at a-time.

Transformative, for a number of individual families.

BLACCC Org., We've Integrated feedback - data for public information; in perspective a 360-degree view re: (five/5) San Gabriel Valley Holiday Give-Away resident's/family - data collected to analyze. Henceforth, the Holiday Give-Away Form "More Specific Info" match-up with the "first of it kind San Gabriel Valley Team - We captured some feedback. The voice of the people... we pulled in community data.

The Simplified Post Survey Questions:

1. How Well did the products match your needs?
2. How would you rate the value of the Holiday Gifts matched with your needs?
3. Did your Holiday Give-Away arrive on time (within) the delivery timeframe, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM., If (not) please elaborate.

(One) recipient requested a later; delivery at 5PM (the driver accommodated.)

(One) recipients' delivery was received after; 4PM (delayed without notification; text message, or call.) All Other Deliveries Were Noted Timely.

This Holiday Give-Away Post Survey Rating:

Three Five/5 Stars *****

One Four/4 Stars ****

One Appreciative however, (Declined) Post Survey Rating 2020 Holiday SGV Give-Away BLACCC.org total family members served = (25)

Presentation submitted by Osbee I. Sangster, Public Comment: BLACCC Feedback Data Service Area:3 Leadership Team Mtg: 01/14/2021 Agenda Item: 2020 Holiday Giving POST SURVEY RESULTS:

SALT 4 - Carmen Perez, Co-Chair (via email)

We had a good SALT 4 meeting this month, but we need to increase membership.

Some of the issues currently in SA 4: People have problems accessing mental health services through DMH. One person had issues getting services from his therapist. It took several months for person to get mental health services. Customer service needs to improve. Many health care workers need access to mental health services. They are overwhelmed with grief and stress due to COVID. Many families in our community are worried about evictions and homelessness. More financial assistance is needed. Students and children in general need access to mental health services. Lack of technology and unstable home environment prevents them from receiving services. Seniors in our community are isolated and need more outreach services. They also have problems accessing services due to technology issues.

Key struggles this month: The high number of patients with COVID complications has overwhelmed our health care system. Many health care workers are experiencing high levels of grief, anxiety, and depression. More mental health services are needed to help our healthcare workers continue to provide care to our community.

DISCUSSION

Key successes this month: We had a good SALT 4 meeting this month with the Mental Health Promotors presenting. Co-chairs and CLT meetings were productive. We are creating a framework for SALT meetings, MHSA stakeholder process and procedures. We hope that this will be a model for other counties and streamline the process for creating the 3 year-MHSA plans.

What else do you want the Mental Health Commission to know:

Carmen Perez, SALT 4 Co-Chair would like to work with Commissioners on Budget and Integration. Thank you.

SALT 5 - Penny Mehra, Co-Chair (via email)

Some of the issues currently in SA 5: We are addressing the challenges the Covid-9 pandemic has presented service providers and community members and sharing strategies adopted to meet those challenges. Shifting to the use of virtual services was initially difficult but has generally been implemented successfully. Difficulties persist regarding the availability of devices and internet access. Lack of housing has resulted in increased homelessness in area residents. Safely providing services continues to be difficult.

Key struggles this month: Reduction in available staff due to illness, exposure, critical family obligations. Lack of easy access to vaccinations. Many agency staff as well as community members are reporting high levels of stress and depression.

Key successes this month: By the last week in January there has been an increase in availability of vaccinations for staff. Two service area providers, Safe Place for Youth and Westside Infant Family Network have launched Community Ambassador programs enlisting and training members to become resources to those in need of assistance in their communities.

What else do you want the Mental Health Commission to know? On January 26 SALT 5 and Westside Mental Health Network organized its first virtual Winter Celebration. (Winter & Summer Celebrations had been regular activities including lunch and speakers and panels.) It was successful with 47 attending, introductions of local community and governmental leaders and Community Ambassadors, a spoken word presentation, and discussion of current challenges, accomplishments and how to go forward to address the pandemic, social justice, and civic engagement in 2021. We hope to increase SALT membership.

SALT 1 – Jean Harris, Co-Chair

Two presentations at the last meeting - 1) SHARE spoke on virtual support groups and 2) Cynthia Perez from Mental Health America of Los Angeles spoke on services provided virtually. All SALTs Co-Chair meeting are working to organize better SALTs around the county. One is criminal justice and address many other issues in the individual SALTs.

SALT 7 – Rick Pulido, Co-Chair (via email)

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: SALT7 1-8-21 mtg. A.) MSHA Priorites Ad Hoc Committee writing a report for 4-9-21. B.) PEERs Employment Project@ DMH C.) VV/Vacuna Vaccine Project for Community of Color. D.) Gap Analysis/Disparities of Services/lack of resources. E.) Public/Private Partnerships w/ local Elected officials. Where’s is our SALT 7 UCC? F.) Breaking down the Barriers now! G.) Social Media 2021 ads in Spanish newspapers/Classificado/LA Times, H.) DMH SALTz/UsCC/Promotoras collaborations Lastly, CLT mtgs. Are very informational for us to grow our “Structure” and provide better accountability for our leadership. DEI/Diversity Equity/Inclusion, is a key component for going forward! We’re making progress with virtual ZOOM for LatinX community. We have 77 participants joining us. Please, share!....thanks, Rick/SALT7/CC

DISCUSSION

Key struggles this month: 1.) SALT 7 needs more interaction with its providers, nonprofits & PEERS via ZOOM PROJECTS! 2.) DMH must follow up on our facilitators & minute takers, hiring of SALT7 staff ASAP'2021! 3.) SALT7 Budget\$ start up projects and expenditures need to be implemented this Spring'21? In conclusion, we are functioning very well and like our flow. DMH/Administration is doing a fantastic job during these novel times of Corona Virus 19 struggles for community survival.

Key successes this month: Our major SALT7 success are we got a new Co Chair/CC Ericka Coralles effective: 1-8-21. Our SALT7 DMH/Administration & Stakeholders, open communication is the showcase and model for all of LA County. "We are family", We are serving our clients/families the feedback to us has been very positive, in that we are moving in the right direction and need communication and open-door policy! We want our true collaboration efforts to focus in on working together for "2021" to be new beginning for our loved ones, road to full recovery and recuperation.....

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: Now more than ever, we need the "Community of Color" VV/Vacuna Vaccines Projects at all "Injectables" locations: DMH/Wellness Centers/USC/UCLA/Oliver View/Tri Cities Pomona Valley AV/Lancaster General Hospitals/Clinics/Jails/Probation/Parollees should automatically receive VV. Our PEERS/Unhoused feel very comfortable & secure at their DMH/local neighborhood treatment sites! We must move quickly in giving our most vulnerable vital services, i.e. shelters, food, clothing& care!

SALT 8 – Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair (via email)

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: SALT 8 is addressing priorities for the year. The January 15 meeting was special meeting to review and discuss priorities. In the previous few years trauma informed care and homelessness have been the major priorities. Normally SALT 8 doesn't meet in January but because of the problems of the challenges of the COVID19 environment, problems with racial justice, and disparities in service especially in this time of COVID19 and the continuing problems with trauma informed care and homelessness, and to address MHSA planning, SALT 8 wanted to have this special meeting to review priorities. The results of a survey on areas of concern was discussed which confirmed the concerns on how to address these issues in time of COVID.

The use of telehealth has been welcomed but the access to technology and the difficulty in access treatment for some has been of great concern. We have removed demographics compiled for Service Area 8 but the data was collected pre-COVID19 and not discrete enough to assess how to address the disparities. We are looking to identify other sources to assist if how our priorities can be addressed. The survey is still open and we will continue the discussion in February keeping in mind the MHSA planning process. We are having very good attendance and participation through Zoom at the meetings but some of the synergy of the in-person meetings is missing. We are trying various ways to have more engagement in the online meetings. The SALT 8 meeting is a very good opportunity to share information on resources and believe the participants are interested in attending to learn of the resources.

Key struggles this month: Trying to assess priorities other than just anecdotal basis is a challenge. The broad general priorities are fairly well identified but how to concretely assess and provide input on specific programmatic, operational and strategic basis is challenging.

Key successes this month: SALT 8 has very good attendance and participation. SALT 8 participants are very concerned and motivated to provide effective services and address racial disparities in the service area. There seems to be strong interest in identifying the needs and ways to address the SALT 8 priorities. SALT 8 is very pleased to have the participation of Commissioners Molina and Acebo at the meeting.

DISCUSSION

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: How to ensure effective services in this time of COVID19, the availability of treatment for all who need and addressing racial disparities.

Black Heritage/UsCC – Wendy Cabil

The workgroup is in transition. I will become a member of UsCC in October. DMH is not hearing the needs of the community regarding COVID 19 resources.

LGBTQIA2-S/UsCC - Nicole Kristal, Co-Chair (via email)

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing:

1. Lack of affordable mental health services
2. Does not know how to access care
3. Having to wait months on waitlists for mental health services such as one-on-one therapy from DMH contracted providers
4. Lack of LGBTQIA2-s competent staff providing mental health services
5. No LGBTQIA2-S mental health services in their neighborhood
6. LGBTQIA2-S youth ashamed to seek mental health services because of stigma
7. Mental health service provider hours do not work with LGBTQIA2-S client's schedules
8. Concern that confidentiality will not be maintained by providers

Key struggles this month: Lack of hospital beds for LGBTQIA2-S people seeking services. Inability for trans patients to receive hormones during COVID and receive gender-affirming surgeries. Trans women being turned away from homeless shelters because of their identities.

Key successes this month: Our UsCC decided to discuss a pressing concern facing our community each month in addition to working on capacity-building projects. Our next meeting will discuss LGBTQIA2-S homelessness for example and other potential topics include LGBTQIA2-S senior isolation during COVID, challenges facing LGBTQIA2-S Latino community members during COVID, etc.

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: The importance of involving the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC in all LGBTQIA2-S competency trainings rather than commissioning outside organizations, such as UCLA, to create trainings free of our guidance and supervision. We have already compromised on the need to have a mandatory one-day LGBTQIA2-S cultural competency training for all DMH staff/contractors and accepted because of limiting funding that training videos will have to do for now, but we need to be involved in the creation of these trainings and not excluded. We need to play a role in deciding who gets the contracts to create these trainings. We recently reviewed a training from UCLA, and it contained many elements that had the potential to damage the community. We were told at first, we could not revise this training, then we pushed back, and they are now working with us to revise the training. This shouldn't have happened in the first place. The LGBTQIA2-S UsCC must be involved in every step of this process to make certain competency trainings meet the needs of our community.

V. Commission Business

a. Project Updates – Commissioner Dalgleish

- i. Site Visits – Sites are on lockdown due to the pandemic. Commissioner welcomes feedback on other site visit locations.
- ii. Annual Report – Annual report was sent to the graphic designer, update provided at next meeting.
- iii. Data Notebook – Received approval to send data notebook to CALBHBC.

DISCUSSION

b. Strategic Priorities Update

- i. Criminal Justice – Acebo, Molina, Ogawa, Turner (Ogawa - Liaison) -
 1. Met with the appointing powers on all strategic priorities and mental health in the jails
 2. Met with SALTs Criminal Justice Workgroup
 3. Concerns with certain disparities in areas of response and services relating to MET.
All commissioners should meet with their appointing office on criminal justice and other strategic priorities.
- ii. Homeless/Housing – Dalgleish and Ledesma (Kevin - Liaison)
 1. Generate data baseline on homeless – Last count from LASHA in 2019 reported 66+ thousand homeless people.
 2. 32% surveyed self-identified substance use, 24% in long term mental health issues.
 3. Identify if mental health services are provided equitable.
 4. Plan to visit SALTs and UsCC
 5. Next step – interview subject matter experts
- iii. Integrated Care Services/Cultural Competency – Ogawa, Padilla-Frausto, Orozco (Patrick - Liaison)
 1. Meeting with workgroup is pending
 2. API and Promotoras reports revealed lack of current detail with DMH. Will dig deeper to identify gaps in terms of information.
 3. Schedule to meet with Marc Heister regarding telemental health
 4. Schedule meeting with Cultural Competency group
 5. Recommends Homeless/Housing workgroup look at pilots that are working for homeless population seeking more revenue. Meet with Esiquio Reyes, SALT 4 on the needs of the homeless.
- iv. COVID 19 Disparities – Dalgleish, Turner, Friedman (Harold - Liaison)
 1. Workgroup met several times. Has standing meeting on Saturdays.
 2. Discuss what data to look at on the homeless and incarcerated population, where to find DMH data locations, and data from UCLA.
- v. Budget Accountability –Molina and Cooperberg (Kevin - Liaison)
 1. Workgroup continues to wait to receive information from DMH staff to schedule a briefing meeting.

VI. Public Comments

Geneviève Clarvel

Roomkey issue (Item # 28) was postponed several times. Postponements are not acceptable. Asked MHC to please look into why.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned in memory of Edgar Soto, DMH Administrative Deputy III

Next Meeting – February 25, 2021 – Microsoft Teams (Online Virtual) @ 11 am