

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding

APPROVED: November 21, 2019

DISCUSSION

Call to Order by Chair Weissman

Welcome and Introductions

A. **Roll Call:** Canetana Hurd

Present: Commissioners Susan Friedman, , Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, Stacy Dagleish, Patrick Ogawa, Kevin Acebo, Judy Cooperberg, Mike Molina, Harold Turner and Brittney Weissman – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent Excused: Commissioners Curry, Murata Shih, Scott, Padilla-Frausto, and Stevens

Welcome – Commissioner Mike Molina, Appointee of Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District

B. **Introduction of OCFA Staff** (Office of Consumer and Family Affairs)

C. **ACTION ITEM** – Approve July 25 meeting minutes

Approved by unanimous vote - 1 Abstention

Department of Mental Health Report – Dr. Curley Bonds, II

DMH Update

September Suicide Prevention Month:

- DMH participated in the Suicide Prevention Summit over 300 attendees
- Press Conference held at Hall of Administration attended by Supervisor Barger along with Secretary of State Alex Padilla
- Suicide rate increase: 8 years ago rate-823, 2017 rate-843, and 2018 rate-891

External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) – state assessment to measure external quality of services provided by DMH. Dr. Bonds commented on a few topics covered in the report review:

- Network adequacy – are there enough providers to deliver adequate services
- Incubation academy – help agencies become contract agencies with LA County
- PIP – focus on peers
- Foster America fellows - working in the child welfare system and share data
- Community schools initiative – initiative to move from slots base system to a team based system

Trieste— project is underway to move forward with a design

Medication monitoring— find a way to monitor prescribing practices of contractors' psychiatrists

DISCUSSION

Measure H update –

- 2019 homeless count - 59,000
- Number increased—11k newly engaged homeless with outreach efforts
- Dr. Bonds stated the current assessment tools do not fully capture complex needs of those with mental health problems and co-occurring disorders. Interim wraparound services are needed for those who have mental health issues

DMH Reorganization

Target date to announce several key positions for the three new divisions is October 1. The new divisions will address the most vulnerable population with complex needs:

- Countywide Division - encompass HOME, AOT, VPAN, Women and Men's reintegration programs
- Forensics Division - Adult Probation (AB 109) and Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Court Mental Health Services, and Court Linkage
- Housing and Employment - Women's Wellness (health and mental health)

Key hires (Associate Medical Directors)

Dr. Emily Dossett – Women's Health and Reproductive Health

Dr. Jeremy Martinez – Substance abuse and street psychiatry

Dr. Christopher Benitez – Academic liaison

Mercer Report completed - 140 pages

Listed below are sections of the report that maybe of interest:

- Increase demand for inpatient beds, mostly subacute beds
- Homelessness
- Medicaid expansion
- Jail diversion
- LPS conservatorships
- Children and adolescent beds (subacute beds really needed)
- Drug medical ODS

Conditional release program– Commissioner Turner shared concerns about the conditional release program. There is no oversight and accountability on what is going on in the program process. If county is providing the best practices and reintegration, how are services being reported to the courts to determine sentencing?

DISCUSSION

ACTION – Address issues on housing funding, # sub-acute beds – 8 beds pending for AV, customer service-pending (Ogawa)

ACTION – October 1 meeting to dive deep into newly announced DMH org chart (Molina)

ACTION – Patients released from state hospitals, how are they returned (Turner)

SAAC Co-Chair Reports

SAAC 8 – Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair

- September is Suicide Prevention Month presentation
- Schools in the service area formed a task force to address suicide issues with youth
- Happy to meet the new commissioners and invite them to SAAC the meetings
- Board & Care facility in Long Beach closed to convert the building into permanent housing for homeless. Where did the residents go?

SAAC 5 – Jim “The Hat,” Member

- Reported a racial gesture occurred at the last SAAC meeting. It was resolved quietly because SAAC members united in a positive manner

SAAC 4 – Esiquio Reyes, Co-Chair

- Elected as Co-Chair for SAAC. Main goal will be preventing mental health issues that result into homeless.

SAAC 3 – William Legere, Member

- UsCC group presented at last meeting
- Pacific Clinic representatives gave an update
- SAAC presented a very good report

SAAC 2 – Victoria Emerik, Co-Chair

- SAAC elected three new Co-Chairs, Victoria Emerik, Marcus Haley, and Leticia Munoz
- SAAC presented awards to outgoing Co-Chairs, Evy Lowe and Patricia Russell
- First action item – dig deep to find out budget for SAAC, status on YourDMH and the charter
- Presentation on suicide prevention

SAAC 1 – Jean Harris, Co-Chair

- CAF orientation in AV with 35 people attended.
- SAAC planned evening meetings 2 times per year in April and October 2020 to help increase community engagement
- Formed a subcommittee (LEDS) with individuals with lived experience and direct service
- Arrangements made for Co-Chairs to participate in monthly SAAC Co-Chair meetings via SKYPE
- PMRT provider provided training on what PMRT services are available and how to use the system.

DISCUSSION

- Discussion – SAAC discussed the stigmatizing comments made by the City of Lancaster Mayor after the fabricated shooting claimed by the LA County Sheriff. The Mayor publically discussed how citizens should protect themselves from mentally ill and homeless individuals in the service area.

Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

Public Comments – Chair Weissman

1. **Jean Harris** – Announced NAMI Walks Awareness and Erase Stigma Fundraiser on October 5, 2019
2. **Genevieve Clavreul** – Agenda availability was less than 72 hours as requested by Brown Act
3. **Jennifer Yates** – Spoke about help received from ER, law enforcement, and SFVCMH mental health services.
4. **MC Harris** – Commented on the racial situation that occurred at SAAC 5 meeting reported by Jim “The Hat”
5. **Maria Tan** – Made comments about older adult reports, speakers bureau, and service extender training
6. **Esiquio Reyes** – Spoke about R.A.C.H.T comments made on homelessness
7. **Monisha Parker** – Has Section 8 voucher and approval for an apartment. She is ready to move forward with education
8. **Mark Karmatz** – Commented on technical assistance, policy, and jail re-entry programs.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Ledesma – The Hollywood United Methodist Church is excited about the Trieste project.

Commissioner Acebo – After a conversation with a faith-based group, Mr. Acebo noted that bringing together churches and MET would increase mental health information and resources available to churches.

Commissioner Turner – Attended a Suicide Prevention event in Leimert Park. Couple hundred people attended event. The African Community Public Health, African-American and Latino communities collaborated with other organizations on traumatized populations. Mr. Turner attended a meeting on school base issues. Dr. Sherin made a very interesting presentation on the issues. Mr. Turner plans to continue to speak on conditional release issues at each commission meeting. He is having challenges with NAMI translating materials into the 13 threshold languages. Not having translations directly impact the knowledge provided to the community.

Commissioner Friedman – Attended WeRISE, worked on the van issue, and continues to work with SA 7 to coordinate the upcoming town hall meeting on October 24.

Commissioner Dagleish – Attended SAAC Co-Chair meeting. SAAC 5 is writing a letter to the board on mental health services in the jails and peer support. Santa Monica social services held a meeting with St. John’s Hospital regarding adding 50 beds in the new buildout. Santa Monica will follow up writing a letter to the city council requesting to add 50 beds in the St. John’s Hospital new buildout.

Commissioner Weissman – As new chair, Ms. Weissman met with Dr. Sherin on how he envisions the Commission’s relationship with DMH. Chair Weissman stated she will step down as AOT Chair and will continue participating on the Criminal Justice and Jail Diversion committees. She also attended the EQRO meeting.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Cooperberg – Continues to attend SAAC 1 & 2 monthly meetings. Since the Santa Clarita town hall, there has been an incredible break out of town halls like VA, community chat, Santa Clarita Wild Fire, and others. Ms. Cooperberg joined Offload Ambulance Commission; its focus is on mental health issues.

Commissioner Ogawa – Continues to participate with the Asian Pacific Planning & Policy Council Mental Health Committee. They meet on a monthly basis. In light of the Department’s interest in stakeholder input and cultural competency, the group will be revisiting the status of information requested from the department in response to a Board motion two years ago. The motion spoke to the needs of the Asian Pacific Islander communities.

Commissioner Molina – Look forward to taking the deep dive with all the Commissioners.

Discussion

Town Hall Planning - Commissioner Friedman announced Service Area 7 Town Hall October 24, 2019 from 4:30 – 8:30 pm at James A. Garfield High School Auditorium, 5101 E. Sixth Street, Los Angeles 90022

Data Notebook – The data notebook is an annual report required of counties across the State from the California Behavioral Health Planning Council. The topic this year is trauma informed principles of care across the life span. The Commission and DMH are working to complete survey questions and review data to meet the October 15 deadline.

Annual Report – The annual report 2018-2019 is completed and ready for distribution. It is the most comprehensive report detailing the work performed last year. Thank you to Pinki Mehta and staff for the professionalism shown in this project.

Announcement

NAMI Walks – October 5, 2019

November Full Commission Meeting - November 21, 2019 – Peer Resource Center – 560 S. Vermont Ave, LA 90020

December Full Commission Meeting – December 19, 2019 – Peer Resource Center – 560 S. Vermont Ave, LA 90020

Adjourn/Next Meeting

Next Meeting/Town Hall – October 24, 2019 – James A. Garfield High School, 5101 E. 6th Street, East LA, 90012, School Auditorium, 6 -8:30 pm

Meeting highlights submitted by Canetana Hurd