

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Thursday, December 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding
APPROVED: February 27, 2020

DISCUSSION

Call to Order

- a. **Roll Call:** Canetana Hurd
Present: Commissioners Susan Friedman, Stacy Dagleish, Kevin Acebo, Judy Cooperberg, Patrick Ogawa, Mike Molina, Harold Turner, Imelda Padilla-Frausto and Brittney Weissman – QUORUM PRESENT
Absent Excused: Commissioners Merilla Scott, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, Kita Curry, and Reba Stevens
- b. **Introduction of OCFA Staff** (Office of Consumer and Family Affairs)
- c. **ACTION ITEM** – Approve November Minutes
MSC – Motion (Weissman), Second (Molina) Carried (Cooperberg) Approved by unanimous vote

Department of Mental Health Report – Dr. Curley Bonds, Chief Medical Director

DMH Update – Dr. Curley Bonds, Chief Medical Director

Organizational Structure

- Key appointments - Will be interviewing to fill vacant Service Area Program Head in Service Area 2 and Coordinator for LGBTQ125 and Women’s Jail

Recruitment/Hiring Efforts:

Mental Health Psychiatrist -

- Attend national recruitment events
- Hosted SCPC Job Fair in PRC
- Continue to post non-competitive job announcements for mental health psychiatrist which allows a contingent offer to be made on the spot without the score/band candidate process

Psychiatric Social Worker -

- Present to colleges/universities to Master of Social Work students in their final year of grad school to make the Department of Mental Health their employer of choice.
- Attend several hiring fairs throughout the year dedicated to MSWs/MFTs
- Maintain open job announcements throughout the year for mission-critical positions to ensure eligible lists are always available.
- Represent the Department at job fairs throughout LA County.
- Coordinate selection fairs for managers to participate in interviewing candidates to extend contingent job offers and begin background clearances the same day

DISCUSSION

Program/Services Updates

- Mental Health Court Linkages program expansion of the McArthur Pilot - six new positions at LAX/Airport, Van Nuys, and Criminal Courts Building
- Hospital Bed Motion - Dr. Amanda Ruiz to work with DHS to identify priority populations for patients with chronic medical conditions, and six providers are discussing possible ICD expansions.

Contemporary problems/issues/solutions

- Staff Wellbeing – Headspace meditation app available to all employees for 1 year. First enrollment date exceeded 100% with 500 employees enrolled

Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group finalized recommendations specific to mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorder treatment.

- Advocacy for change to expand services
- Optimize and increase appropriate use and process for conservatorship and resources for AOT
- Parity between mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- Remove time limits to service provisions that prevent long term health, mental health or SUD treatment
- Integrated mental health, substance use disorders, and health services
- Harm reduction strategies (e.g. MAT)

Action Item Update

- DMH Overall Vacancy Rate – 13% (795 vacancies/5987 budgeted positions)
- Mission critical positions vacancy rate:
 - Mental Health Psychiatrist – 16% (36 vacancies/220 budgeted)
 - Psychiatric Social Worker – 10% (140 vacancies/1352 budgeted)
 - Clinical Psychologist – 13% (36 vacancies/274 budgeted)
 - Mental Health Counselor RN – 15% (29 vacancies/183 budgeted)

ACTION Items

1. Send location information on number of mental health courts

DISCUSSION

2. Provide timeline for budget
3. Information on McArthur Pilot (Acebo)
4. Invite Administrative Deputy III (Edgar Soto) to report on organization and vacancies

SAAC Co-Chair Report

SAAC 8 – Sabrina, Member

SAAC on track with service area charter. Hosted a celebration to recognize volunteers

SAAC 7 – Yvonne Sandoval and Rick Publido, Co-Chairs

Ms. Sandoval wants to volunteer. Mr. Pulido – ad hoc committee for budget to implement into programs, shelter, blankets and jackets for cold weather season. Working on implementing shared report (tape)

SAAC 6 – No Report

SAAC 5 – Mark Karmatz, Member

Announced town hall in January and agenda

SAAC 4 – Esichel Reyes, Co-Chair

Focus on subcommittee to focus on specific areas, e.g. homelessness, strategic health plan, health neighborhood, outreach for vets, and budget

SAAC 3 – William Legere, Member

SAAC plans a 2-day event for May is Mental Health month.

SAAC 2 – Patricia Russell, Member

Last meeting speaker talked about how to get certified in LA County

SAAC 1 - Jean Harris, Co-Chair

- Day of giving event, 12 non profits participated by donation. Meeting agenda focused on urgent care center groundbreaking completion date. Venue changed to a larger room for SAAC meeting times and variation increase demographics – law enforcement. Still needs beds for children and cold weather shelter beds to eliminate homeless deaths.

Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

Public Comments – Chair Weissman

1. **Barbara Wilson** – Question: Have the barriers been removed for the peers who have misdemeanor charges?
2. **Bennett Root** – Need to coordinate between Commission for Alcohol & Other Drugs and Mental Health Commission.
3. **Amparo Ostojiz** – Please clarify that DMH will combine Latino UsCC with the SAACs. This will dilute the voice of both groups
4. **Sandra Flores** – Patient & family support situation
5. **Daniel Kwong**– Attended Homeless Health Summit, which addressed to identify shared priorities for homeless patients and opportunities to collectively address policies to meet their needs.

DISCUSSION

- 6.
7. **Wendy** – Establish communication for a disability substance abuse commission
8. **Patricia Russell** – Spoke about co-occurring disorders that SAAC needs to address. System barriers between mental health and substance abuse language.
9. **Anonymous** – Communication between commission of alcohol and drugs, parity, time to get help.
10. **Anonymous** – Spoke on frustration and disappointment in mental health resources available to her son during a crisis. The system does not obey the AB 1194 and WIC 5002.8 laws
11. **Sabrina Porias** – Question: please clarify the peer member workshop guidelines
12. **Pam Inaba** – Question: Against DMH combining UsCC and SAACs because both groups are very successful in their efforts to improve LA County Mental Health
13. **Esiquio Reyes** – Spoke on caring homelessness people now and immediate future
14. **Jean Harris** – Hospital safety and lack of psychiatrists
15. **Yvonne Sandoval** – Has Peer Certification. Wants to lead a wellness group and work with the homeless population, please contact me.
16. **Rick Pulido** – Announced, 1) Peer job training centers, 2) Consultant for our SAAC 2020, 3) DMH clinic follow-up w/peers, 4) board and cares @ LACO vacant buildings. DMH emergency service teams during cold rainy weather, Made an offer to a candidate for SAAC consultant
17. **Lolita Namocatcat** – Homeless management care chosen and funded for \$50K.
18. **Mark Karmatz** – Announced two conferences and commented on AB 1170

Commission Discussion

January 2020 Town Hall Update

- Details – Historical Women’s Club in Santa Monica, Saturday, January 25, 2020. The town hall will focus on mental health needs in service area 5, highlight budget issues and the DMH strategic plan, and welcome and brief overview provided by the commission.

MHC Organizational Development Feedback

Angel Baker announced that Pinki Mehta will be overseeing more work for the strategic communications division. Looking into a consultant to fill in Ms. Mehta’s place however, Ms. Mehta will continue to oversee the MHC.

External consultant, meeting notice, brown act, debriefing, etc., WIC compliance, connect to strategic plan, concerns need full time staff not consultant

Discussion concluded with a motion to MHC support full time staff as mentioned by Commissioner Ogawa, MSC Acebo unanimous.

DISCUSSION

Chair reported to move on the following priorities support from commissioners to move on the following priorities:

ACTION

- Create committee around priority topics: Integration and criminal justice, homelessness
- Recommendations for town halls:
 - a) SAAC formally introduce programs in their community and the environment
 - b) MHC provide a brief introduction and mission statement

Announcements

Commissioner Cooperberg announcement – BOS approved \$14.3 million budget for the Urgent Care Center in Antelope Valley

Adjourn/Next Meeting

Next Meeting – January 2020 –

Meeting highlights submitted by Canetana Hurd