

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

October 22, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Kevin Acebo, 2nd Vice Chair, Presiding

APPROVED:

Motion made by Commissioner , 2nd by Commissioner

DISCUSSION

Call to Order

Call to order – 2nd Vice Chair, Kevin Acebo

a. Roll Call – *Commission Staff*

Present: Commissioners Susan Friedman, Reba Stevens, Stacy Dalgleish, Kevin Acebo, Judy Cooperberg, Harold Turner, Mike Molina, Patrick Ogawa, Luis Orozco, and Kathy Cooper-Ledesma – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent: Brittney Weissman and Imelda Padilla-Frausto

b. Approve Meeting Minutes:

II. Department of Mental Health Update

Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Director Mental Health – Trieste Innovation Project Update

COVID-19 impacted DMH flexibility of funding streams for MHSA Innovation programs like Trieste. The state has yet to settle the future of the Innovation budget. Resources built in the Trieste project are still possible for DMH to develop a way to utilize the project. The Hollywood area has no crisis residential resources, FSP program is not adequate and the clinic needs help. DMH is working with Supervisor Kuehl and staff to redirect funding to backfill gaps. Moving forward with the FSP remodel (FSP 2.0) the plan will provide services 24/7 to keep persistently mental health clients out of jail, out of the hospitals, and off the street. FSP 2.0 remodel will launch July 2021.

Questions/comments were resolved

Dr. Curley Bonds, Chief Deputy Director, Clinical Medical Operations

1. Organizational Structure

Staffing Update

- Keris Myrick – Peer & Allied Health Professions Chief - leaving to take a new position as Director at The Jed Foundation
- Eight hundred staff identified as election poll workers

2. Updates around Program/Services

Homeless Outreach Mobil Engagement (HOME) Team – (Key Priority Program – serving the most vulnerable)

a. LPS Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot – has successfully conserved 1 individual with 3-4 others in pipeline

Program Benefits:

- Focuses DMH staff, resources, and authority on our mandated target population

DISCUSSION

- Provides a pathway for mental health treatment and care for those who need care the most
- Minimizes trauma associated with involuntary treatment
- Provides treatment and housing in the least restrictive setting
- Provides continuity of care and evidentiary testimony from those who know the client best
- Reduces unnecessary strain on acute hospital system
- Assumes recovery is possible given the proper support
- Examines client needs from end point to end point, to develop a comprehensive recovery roadmap that guides clinical decision making
- Identifies and improves systemic deficiencies through ongoing intra/inter departmental collaboration

b. LA Alliance Lawsuit (Honorable Judge David Carter-Presiding)

On March 10, 2020 the LA Alliance for Human Rights in collaboration with multiple individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County, filed a civil rights suit against the city and county of Los Angeles. There are 14 allegations outlined in the filing which, in short, allege that both entities neglected their responsibility to provide housing and care for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in Los Angeles City/County. The suit seeks to establish an enforceable legal mandate to provide beds and wrap around services for (PEH) (similar to New York's Right to Shelter). Additionally, there are components which seek deadline-driven plans to reduce encampments, increase social outreach and ensure care for PEH.

DMH staff have been pulled in multiple directions as Judge Carter identifies specific projects (i.e. encampments, freeway overpasses etc.) that he wants cleared. In these instances, our HOME staff are called upon to provide immediate responses to support cleanup efforts with real time mental health intervention irrespective of planned services/visits or needs of existing HOME clients. COVID-19 has reduced HOME staffing to 60% (not factoring in vacancies). With the added expectation of immediate response to various Judge Carter directives we are even more depleted.

c. Emergency Outreach & Triage Division (EOTD) - LET/PMRT

- 1) Therapeutic Transportation – Slated to start in January (5 vans outfitted; staff are being hired), an alternative to calling for an ambulance or law enforcement. Units will have Community Health Worker, Psych Tech and Driver
- 2) Outpatient Triage Teams/Child Outpatient Triage Teams
 - Contractors are slated to go live with 1 team per SA in November
 - Should reduce need for multiple interventions by PMRT

Question/Comments were resolved.

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

DISCUSSION
Ezekiel Reyes – Failure to understand the difference between being housed and homelessness does not expediate mental illness. Recommends a collaboration of county departments address the lack of food funding to assist with food shortage.
Jean Harris – How will Measure J if passes affect the DMH budget? Can I review the budget?
Osbee Sangster – Speaking on behalf; of the Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition, I would like to take this moment to reiterate BLACCC's advocacy effort; with all do respect the Countywide (Client) Activity Fund/CAF. Discussed issues with rules and mandates in the new CAF.
Mark Karmatz – Spoke about Dr. Southard meeting monthly with clients. Dr. Sherin does not meet with clients and where is SLT?
Pete Thompson – Therapy content of treatment in Los Angeles communities have PTSD issues and triggers child sex abuse. Forgiveness cannot be accomplished. Family members cannot be supported
Barbara Wilson – LA Times article on unregulated and unlicensed facilities are being identified. Can we advocate for more licensing?
IV. Reports from Community Co-Chairs (SALTS & UsCC & CCC Co-Chairs)
<p>SALT 3 - Andrew Preston, Co-Chair (submitted to Chat)</p> <p>We have great support from our DMH colleagues we are able to secure presenters, provide updates and get core member community updates to provide feedback for the department. We had a presentation on MHSA data during the October meeting and continue to average around 50 participants at meetings. With that said two priority needs from the feedback from our area revolve around bringing more voices to the table. Support around the shift to virtual meetings we have a lot of old adult participants who need assistance to use technology and consumers who have had difficulties with accessing equipment as well as negatively impact by losing CAF and the new CAF meeting attendance requirements, so they are not participating as often. Secondly, it is great that we have meeting translator, but we have a diverse group of languages we need to have information translated for the agendas and meeting invites to bring more people to the table. Key struggles this month: we continue to have concerns revolving around the impact of the pandemic.</p>
V. Commission Business
<p>a. Retreat Reminder/Overview – Pinki Mehta Date – Friday, October 30, 2020 at 10 am. Kevin Acebo reminded Commissioners to review the documents for discussion at the retreat</p> <p>b. Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Site Visits - Commissioner Dalgleish Commissioners are coordinating visits to Project Roomkey sites and virtual visits. ii. Data Notebook – Commissioner Dalgleish Data notebook has 36 questions related to telehealth. Commissioner will send information to MHC on data notebook iii. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) – Commissioner Turner MHC has oversight responsibility for the AOT program. Commissioner Turner met with DMH staff on how to restart regular meetings, review recommendation and evaluation report from UCLA, and reconvene original stakeholders. Next meeting is November 10. iv. Annual Report – Commissioner Dalgleish

DISCUSSION

Annual report development and recommendations continues.

c. Action Items

June 2020 –

Action: Update on FEMA reimbursement and SAMHSA grant coming to LA County for the overall budget when it comes to COVID-19 and shortfalls (Molina).

Action: Draft letter to Board of Supervisors regarding concerns with MHSA 3-year plan approval. **Postponed** – MHSA plan deadline extended to 2023

August 2020 – Executive Committee

Action – Notify MHC of CLT (Community Leadership Team) meetings. Chair encouraged Commissioners to attend

Action – Monitor SALTs funding postponement status.

September 2020

Action - Provide more information on the FSP redesign and how DMH is involved (Acebo) - **Completed**

Action - Breakdown what data captured (# of clients, where are they going) on the 31% released from the county jails – (Acebo)

d. Ongoing/Future meeting presentations

- Update on TAY group presentation - Commissioners Friedman and Dalgleish work with Commissioner Ledesma to coordinate TAY presentation at full meeting and SALT meetings - **Pending**.
- Presentation - Commissioner Padilla-Frausto's report, *Unmet Needs for Mental Health Services* - **Pending**
- Mental Health Court and Criminal Justice Presentation – Commissioners Friedman Molina Acebo Ogawa, and Turner are collaborating to share presentation - **Pending**.
- **DMH Update** - Update on closing and potentially closing board and cares – **Ongoing (updates provided 7/23, 9/24)**.
- Recommendation: Invite Criminal Justice program presentation at full meeting (Ogawa)
- **Action** - Invite Ambassador Program to present at full meeting specifically on the impact on disparities (Ogawa) - **Pending**

VI. Public Comments

Ezekiel Reyes – Project Roomkey Update

Workers are impacted on the realization of why people are homeless through conversations with the residents.

Jean Harris – Site visit topic was discussed at the last SALT meeting. Can SALT Co-Chairs partner with MHC on site visits? **Action** – Request information on the AOT meetings from Commissioner Turner.

DISCUSSION

Mark Karmatz – There is a conflict between the Oversight and Accountability Commission and Mental Health Commission meetings. Can you change the Commission meeting time?

Leticia Munoz – Spoke about a client who lives in an unlicensed facility.

VII. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Dagleish, 2nd by Cooperberg

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 19, 2020 – Microsoft Teams (Online Virtual) @ 11 am

Minutes submitted by Canetana Hurd