



▶▶ MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2020
DMH CMO Updates
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.



▶▶ Happy Holidays from DMH!

Happy
Holidays!

▶▶ Key Personnel and Program updates

None

▶▶ Follow-Up Item –MacArthur Misdemeanor MH Diversion Pilot

- Primary Partner Agencies: Los Angeles City Attorney, DMH, Public Defender/Alternate Public Defender, Courts, LASD, DMH, DHS, Public Health (SAPC-CENS), Project 180.
- Pre-trial diversion based on PC 1001.36 (MH diversion), conditions set by courts up to two years (typically court is currently saying about one year)
- Operates out of CCB Depts. 40 and 48 (male and female misdemeanor detainee arraignment courts).
- Rapid turnaround (within 24 hours of candidate's first courtroom appearance) is required due to misdemeanor status (i.e., arrestee will choose release vs. services).

▶▶ MacArthur Model

- Steps:
 - PD screens police report and criminal history, interviews candidate
 - Unofficially talks to City Attorney who agrees that seems a suitable candidate
 - Referred to DMH court-embedded LCSW for MH screen
 - LCSW performs quick triage/screening review of records and interview of candidate, then completes portions of court form
 - Referred to LCSW program navigator
 - Those with stable housing (about 10%) are released and placed in outpatient services
 - Those without stable housing are conditionally released to a P180 driver who transports divertee from jail to residential program the next day
 - Candidate is jointly recommended by PD and City Attorney to the court/judge.
 - Divertee is conditionally released to P180.
 - Typically, first progress report hearing set for about one month.

▶▶ MacArthur Model - cont

- If divertee successfully completes treatment program and there is a plan in place for long term care, case is dismissed and record of arrest is sealed. However, a record of diversion remains.
- If divertee fails diversion, criminal proceedings are reinstated.
- Multidisciplinary team meets regularly to go over cases and problem-solve; also supervisors are doing the same with PD.

►► Expansion– Mental Health Court Linkage

- Details are currently being worked out with courts/judges.
- Will likely be similar process with some minor modifications:
 - What will be role/level of violence risk with expansion to felony and other courts?
 - Screening process may look different (i.e., depth and time) in different settings like felony courts?
 - Diversion form/report to court requirements may be different, which would likely be more in-depth and slow down the process vs. the rapid turnaround of the MacArthur pilot if that is so.
 - DMH psychiatrists may serve as backup for the court clinician for more complicated or higher risk cases.

►► Key Accomplishments - 2020

Countywide Division
Forensic Psychiatry Division
Public Guardian
Telemental Health
Women's and Reproductive Health
Intensive Care Division
Pharmacy
Other Notable Areas



▶▶ Countywide Division

- Initiated the HOME **Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot** in June 2020. To date 15 clients have been presented to the committee for consideration, **3 are fully conserved**, 1 T-Con pending court hearing on 12/28, 4 active investigation, 6 case consultations with 2 successfully transitioned to FSP services and 1 voluntarily engaged in treatment, matched to PSH and has an identified unit for move-in.

▶▶ Countywide Division

- Expanded DMH presence and expertise in the homeless services field by combining the former Homeless Outreach & Mobile Engagement (HOME) team with the former SB82 to create HOME 2.0.
- This expansion allows for an innovative approach to **street based services** for persons with severe mental illness by adding full scope mental health specialty care (including medication services) as an engagement strategy and bridge to long term treatment.

▶▶ Countywide Division



- Established a new level of care in direct response to COVID-19.
- This included DSW placement and supports in congregate **COVID shelter sites established by LA City; Project Room Key (PRK) sites** established by the County and City; and the provision of medication and clinical support at established **COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine sites**.
- Across the county **~7000 COVID vulnerable residents were housed in PRK. Of these ~70% have a DMH IBHS#, with ~24% of them having active DMH cases,** thus the need for DMH support is considerable.

▶▶ Forensic Psychiatry Division



- **For Court Linkage Program:**
 - Expanded rapid diversion sites to Van Nuys, Airport, and CCB (two courtrooms there); from September 2020-November 2020, had **48 total referrals, 23 diversions granted, 18 diversions pending, 7 rejected** (ineligible charges, unstable, not complete eval). None thus far have reoffended or violated terms of diversion.
 - Expanding rapid diversion to **five additional courthouses** in the next month (**Lancaster, East LA, Long Beach, Compton, Pomona**);
 - Overall, demonstrated more **flexibility, adaptation, and pivoting** to better meet the expressed needs of the ATI, system, and clients/patients.

▶▶ Forensic Psychiatry Division (cont)

- For AB109:
 - Accommodating/providing [services and linkage to almost 3,000](#) additional (2^ COVID-19) CDCR post-release community supervision (PRCS) clients/patients
- For Juvenile Justice Mental Health Program:
 - Implemented [video-conferencing platforms](#) for use in a secure correctional environment (a total of [32 “kiosks” stations in juvenile halls](#) and [7 in camps](#))
 - Conducting approximately [500 psychiatry and mental health clinical visits per month](#)
 - [Groups](#) also being conducted via videoconferencing using LACOE classrooms and technology

▶▶ Public Guardian

- Lead on participation and response to the [LPS Audit](#) including but not limited to: week long introduction of auditors to involuntary treatment system in LA, answering questions, compiling and responding to data requests and writing draft response to audit findings.
- Managed the infection rate, hospitalization and unfortunately deaths of conservatees due to COVID.
- Assisted in the surge effort to move conservatees from acute beds at County Hospitals

▶▶ Telemental Health



- Assisted with transition of our department to telehealth and telework which allowed the department to continue delivery of care during the pandemic
 - Collaborated with CIOB to roll out a new telehealth platform for the department
 - Trained over 300 psychiatrists to deliver care via remotely
- Expanded a needs-based, telepsychiatry program where psychiatrists provide care to multiple sites across the county
- Assisted in implementation of the Psychiatry Registry
- Implemented after hours and weekend psychiatry services in order to expand access to care

▶▶ Women's and Reproductive Health



- 115+ prescribers obtained six hours of training in reproductive psychiatry in 202
- Email consultation service established for expert medication advice on managing pregnant and postpartum women
- Gender-affirming letter writing training and service launched for DMH providers to better support LGBTQ+ community
- Agency-wide survey of LGBTQ+ services and needs conducted with over 250 surveys returned

▶▶ Intensive Care Division & EOTD

- Contracted for 156 acute and subacute beds
- Opened one UCC in City of Industry and have another scheduled to open in High Desert in January 2021
- Opened a CRTP in Sun Valley.
- Have identified over 344 beds with whom the County can contract to meet its target for 500-bed pilot.
- Plans in place to implement Therapeutic Transport January 2021

▶▶ Pharmacy

- Started Clinical Pharmacy practice at 8 DO clinics
- COVID-19 Emergency Prescription Refill Program
 - # of prescription refilled = 3231
 - # of clients served = 1938
 - # of prescribers covered = 100
 - # of clinics covered = 20
- Started MAT Program at Edelman Clinic
 - Continued throughout pandemic with six to seven regular participants

▶▶ Other Notable Areas of Achievement

- Election Poll Workers – DMH contributed >700 volunteers to work the polls over a 5 day period to ensure that LA County residents would be able to vote despite a shortage of community volunteers. Tasks covered included Vote Center Leads, Vote Center Assist Leads and Vote Center Clerks.
- EQRO (External Quality Review Committee) – held virtually
- We Rise – held virtually
- Legislative: Passage of Peer Certification Bill (SB 803) – that established the training and certification process for peer support specialists.

▶▶ 2020 Achievements

- Preparing for Vaccine Administration – with priority groups identified, will target front line workers who are in the field or in clinics seeing patients.
- Communications – Establishment of a weekly DMH Staff newsletter (COVID19 daily) and also hosted multiple Town Hall events attended by thousands of staff.
- Initiatives to address structural racism: Action Learning Community – anti-black racial awareness, acknowledgement and education to promote intra-personal growth.

▶▶ Goodbye to a Very Unusual Year...



▶▶ Help Line Graphic



Questions?

