

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

June 24, 2021 - Minutes

Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding

APPROVED: July 22, 2021

Motion made by Commissioner Cooperberg 2nd by Commissioner Root

DISCUSSION

I. Call to Order

Call to order – *Brittney Weissman, Chair*

a. Roll Call – *Commission Staff*

Present: Imelda Padilla-Frausto, Susan Friedman, Ben Root, Reba Stevens, Harold Turner, Stacy Dagleish, Kathy Cooper-Ledesma, Patrick Ogawa, Mike Molina, Judy Cooperberg, Brittney Weissman, Larry Schallert, Andres Corey – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent: Teresa Banko and Kevin Acebo

b. Approve meeting minutes. May 27 minutes were approved with addition to include Andres Corey, 5th District Deputy in roll call. Motion made by Commissioner Ogawa 2nd by Commissioner Friedman unanimously carried by vote, this item was approved.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comments

Osbee Sangster – Shared concerns regarding the increased capacity of homeless encampments and to inform DMH.

Jacob Cohen – Seeking direction to solve an issue with his psychiatrist refusal to sign re-examination for driver's license renewal.

III. Commission Business

a. Commission Ad Hoc Reports

I. Budget/Accountability – Report presented on May 27

II. COVID-19 Disparities and Inequities – see supporting documentation

Purpose of the priority item was to better understand how DMH is addressing the list of disparities and inequities particularly with the budget and see if MHSA 3-year plan incorporates data on need and resource allocation by SPA.

Motion to adopt all recommendations on the areas on this priority area made by Commissioner Schallert 2nd by Commissioner Ogawa

III. Criminal Justice – postponement for July meeting

IV. Homeless – supporting documentation pending

- Data from the LAHSA 2020 Point in Time Homeless Count, indicated 66,436 persons are homeless countywide representing a 13% increase over 2019.
- DMH served 250,000 homeless people in 2018-2019, 1-7 reported as homeless. The percentage of the homeless population who need mental health services and are not receiving them.
- What is working and what's not working.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Project Room Key is working. As of February of 2021, there were 6651 Project Room Key residents, 46% have a record of receiving DMH services and 34% were served by DMH in the fourth quarter of 2020.
- 2) The Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot program is working.
- 3) HOME Teams are working. There are 9 teams, one per SPA, except there are two in SPA 4 because SPA 4 includes Northeast Los Angeles, Skid Row, and Hollywood, which is a huge area.
- The resources that are lacking
 - 1) Telehealth needs for homeless individuals are lacking, including apparatus, data plans, and hotspots
 - 2) City of Los Angeles plans to build 5651 units of housing in the coming year. Increase the number of outreach teams available and support for people who will be living in that housing.

Action – Invite MET Team and CIRCLE Team update

V. Integrated Care Services/Cultural Competency – supporting documentation pending

It was important to gain a clear definition when looking at integration and cultural competency issues. Carmen Perez and Dr. Hector Flores members from the community were invited to join the ad hoc committee. They presented information on the Mental Health Integration Project implemented at Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital and the Family Care Specialist Staff. The committee identified two key areas:

- 1) Follow up on a Board motion propose funding and implementations:
 - i. Develop a three-year strategy that will address the inequities of Asian Pacific Islander communities.
 - ii. Augment existing API agencies to provide those services and activities as identified by the various API Community groups
 - iii. Identify and approve API community-based agencies currently not having service contracts with the DMH to provide PEI treatment and recovery services.
 - iv. Enhance DMH, PHS, DHS county operated clinics to approve their outreach and services to the API communities.
- 2) Implement an integrated care model at the Adventist Health White Memorial Hospital.

Action – Report and recommendations are pending

b. FY 2021-2022 Executive Committee election results

- Chair – Stacy Dagleish
- 1st Vice Chair – Imelda Padilla-Frausto
- 2nd Vice Chair – Bennett Root
- Members-at-large: Patrick Ogawa and Brittney Weissman

c. Public Comments

Esiquio Reyes: I just wanted to say congratulations to everybody, but I would also like to bring up the fact that the Tiny Homes projects are being started throughout L.A. and some of them are being shunned upon. There's not a lot of focus on those little communities that are starting, and I think that DMH needs to have more of a proactive approach when addressing the mental health issues at those locations, because a lot of the homeless individuals haven't

Mental Health Commission Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

Page | 3

DISCUSSION

-- they don't know that they have even developed a mental illness. They just know that they're going through a lot, so they just need some kind of way to point the direction in regard to getting help properly. Like, maybe bike trips or stuff like that. So there needs to be more proactiveness at those programs.

William Legere: Spoke on helping the homeless and the news to help homeless encampments.

Genevieve Clavreul: I've been trying to get on since the beginning. First of all, you approved the minutes illegally. You cannot approve the minutes (Indiscernible) -- it has to be done by each individual Commissioner. And also, the public has the right to speak on every item as they are presented, not when you feel like it. And, you know, that is a really bad look for the DMH because what you've done today is totally inappropriate and really concerning because you surely are not meeting the criteria of the Commission. That's all. Thank you.

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

SALT 4 – Esiquio Reyes: Update will be just the focus on the homeless population that I've been talking to. Like I said, a lot of them are going through levels of stress that don't make them feel like they want to do anything. That's why I'm suggesting that DMH take more of a proactive approach because some of the small little things can change in a big way for the person. And let's see, right now we're just focusing on trying to build up the amount of people that come to our meetings. That's it, thank you very much. Other than that, there's nothing to report out.

SALT 5 – Penny Mehra, Co-Chair

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: SA5 will be having discussions to decide which communities in the Service Area to prioritize for outreach and engagement in our effort to increase SALT5 membership. This issue will be on the July SALT agenda.

Work is continuing SALT Goals 2021-2022 which include advocacy for accessibility and increasing awareness of vulnerable communities through training, education, and workshops.

Key struggles this month: A large board & care facility, Beverlywood Board & Care, is closing. DMH staff attended a meeting focused in moving residents to new sites including other facilities and with families. She was encouraged by progress and coordination. Nevertheless, this is a loss of 90 beds in the Service Area and any loss of housing at this time adds to the serious housing deficit for people served by DMH and its agencies. No new DMH staff have been hired in SA5 and even though with COVID restriction only about 25% in clinics and offices at any one time, this presents a hardship in delivering services and accomplishing necessary tasks. Many staff present at the beginning of the shutdown have left their positions due to illness or changing circumstances and none have been replaced.

Key successes this month: At the June SALT meeting a presentation was made by Tyla Jones, MP of the Curtis Tucker Wellness Center, a Department of Public Health program, dedicated to community wellbeing. Currently services are virtual and SA5 residents are encouraged to participate and SA5 agencies are encouraged to post activities on the Curtis Tucker website. LBGTQ Pride Month presentation by Brian Navarro recounted the history of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York.

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: We know that the DMH and the County follow strict guidance regarding opening workplaces and client engagement. These guidelines also control the types of events SALTs can plan for community engagement. We are happy to be safe but chomping at the bit a bit. With the delta variant, we know it is too early to ask when, but are concerned.

SALT 6 – Kevin Collins, Co-Chair: My updates as of right now is we're planning on having a backpack event, we're going to be giving out backpacks. We have a number of backpacks we're going to be giving out. There's also going to be a resource fair where we can bring vendors and community organizations together to be able to provide services for the community. And I also have a question in regard to the MET Programs when it comes to outreach with the police

DISCUSSION

department. There are real bad problems going on right now where the police are not able to handle the mental health issues, so I think that's something you really need to focus on in regard to providing the resources to assist the police department when it comes to mental health cases.

SALT 8 – Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair: Good afternoon, and congratulations to the new officers on your work, look forward to working with you. We had a very robust meeting in June. We were trying to address a lot of the discussions we had in May about diversity and disparities. So frankly, your recommendations today, your reports actually addressed a lot of the issues we were having about trying to understand the data. And we've known about these disparities for some time but were having trouble understanding the nature of them, and I think your recommendations would be very helpful in understanding them. The other part of the discussion was about the use of technology and our problems. A lot of the people now are anxious to get together and to meet and prefer their services in person, others are very reluctant to have meetings in person, others are in between. So, we're having a lot of discussion on how to address those issues in this term where COVID seems to be doing well, but we're not sure what's going to happen in the future. So we would like to support all the hybrid meetings, so we'd appreciate it if we could get support in order to find out how to have hybrid approaches so that we can make sure we can address the different needs of our members and the people in our areas. So that's a recommendation that we have to the Commission.

V. Adjournment

Next Meeting – July 22, 2021 – Microsoft Teams (Online Virtual) @ 11 am