

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

July 22, 2021 - Minutes
Stacy Dagleish, Chair, Presiding

APPROVED:
Motion made by 2nd by

DISCUSSION

I. Call to Order

Call to order – Stacy Dagleish, Chair

a. Roll Call – *Commission Staff*

Present: Bennett Root, Reba Stevens, Harold Turner, Stacy Dagleish, Teresa Banko, Patrick Ogawa, Mike Molina, Kevin Acebo, Judy Cooperberg, Brittney Weissman, Larry Schallert, Andres Corey – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent: Imelda Padilla-Frausto and Susan Friedman

b. Approve meeting minutes. June 24 minutes were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Cooperberg 2nd by Commissioner Root unanimously carried by vote with one abstention, this item was approved.

II. Public Comments

Osbee Sangter – Advocating for SALT 3 to use spending plan funding to purchase tech tablet devices for the underserved communities to eliminate the technological disadvantage in this population.

Pete Thompson – Spoke about the content of therapy in LA County. PTSD and child abuse is prevalent and conflicting among families and children in foster care.

Genevieve Clarvel – Made comment that speakers are allowed to remain anonymous for public comment

Mark Karmatz – Announced Alternatives Conference is online for viewing.

Mark Karmatz – Spoke on town hall meetings during the pandemic.

Wendi Cabil – Looking forward to the town halls. Would like MHC to host a Black town hall

Hector Ramirez – Complimented the support received from the Commission last month regarding the disconnect consumers witness and the level of discrepancies like no ADA coordinator available in DMH.

Paul Stansbury, Ed.D, President NAMI South Bay

I am writing as President of NAMI South Bay regarding two items.

First, I have received comments from members and from the community regarding the recent press reports on conservatorship. We do not know the details of the situation regarding the recent flurry of media reports on Britney Spears and cannot address her situation, but we are concerned about the misinformation or misleading representations about conservatorship.

We certainly recognize that conservatorship is not appropriate in all cases and indeed should be limited to only specific cases which meet the specific criteria of the law which have to be documented. Indeed, even with evidence the process to obtain conservatorship has been very challenging for our members. The Office of Public Guardian has been very helpful at workshops, conferences and meetings to educate the community and has presented at our meetings. NAMI

DISCUSSION

Urban Los Angeles has an ongoing series of workshops or families to help understand when conservatorship is appropriate and how to obtain. Our concern is that the public is getting the wrong perception and elected officials are receiving comments based on wrong perceptions which will impact conservatorship.

It is one tool in the toolbox but a very important one and maybe this current media reporting will not last long, but it certainly has raised a lot of concerns in the community about conservatorship. We request the Commission assess the current situation, consider if this erroneous or misleading reporting will have an ongoing negative impact, how to inform the public on the appropriate use of conservatorship and dispel the idea that it is widely misused.

Second, we have been hearing reports of DMH positions not being filled and aware of a county hiring freeze. With the increasing demand for services because of COVID we are concerned that the hiring freeze is making it very difficult for DMH to provide and sustain services. The DMH staff appears to be doing the best they can and are soldiering on for the county. Could the Commission ask for a dashboard reporting of positions and vacancies including by service area as some may be more impacted by others. This information may help us when we are commenting on MHSA plans and DMH in general plans or needs. The Commission then might be in a more informed position to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to assist DMH. Thank you for your consideration.

III. Reports from SALT & UsCC & CCC Co-Chairs

SALT 2 – Marcus Thompson, Co-Chair

Meeting discussions: Continuation of care-no productive activities; discharge difficulties; ways to recruit new members with a local backpack give away.

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 on 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

DISCUSSION

Planning backpack give-away event to encourage new membership. Clinic appointments have been pushed aside without notifying clients. Clients are not understanding why appointments are being cancelled. Information is circulating on West Central Mental Health Clinic relocating outside of service area 6. West Central must stay in the community so that community members continue to receive services and resources in their community.

BAH (Black African Heritage) UsCC – Wendi Cabil, Co-Chair

Transition in new Co-Chair role is challenging. Wants to see more peers at the table, alternative options like participating on CNN and other social media, create a more welcoming space for people with disabilities.

AIAN (American Indian Alaskan Native) UsCC – Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Co-Chair

Community engagement event planning; compacity building to reach community; spending funding wisely like expansion to media outlets to spread the work of AIAN; Kumar Menon and Catherine Clay presented peer support training; B&C facility closed members helped place clients in other facilities; disagree with developing mission projects on American history; schedule visits to other UsCCs.

Latino UsCC – Hector Ramirez, Co-Chair

Announced Co-Chair term ends soon. Spoke about capacity of projects and elections. Thanked LA County DMH Latino staff for taking care of the immigrants in need.

ACCESS for All UsCC– Roque Alas Bucton, Co-Chair

No direct therapeutic services in American Sign Language (ASL) for adult deaf/hard of hearing. No ADA Coordinator at DMH. No response from DMH Director from letter sent several months ago. These matters require immediate attention as they represent an ADA Federal non-compliance status for LAC DMH.

IV. Department of Mental Health Update

Dr. Curley Bonds, Chief Medical Officer

July is Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Month

1. Loss of Director of Patient’s Rights’ Office – Martin Hernandez (passed away suddenly).
2. Move into the new building – going smoothly.
3. Homeless Outreach – Venice Encampment to Home – we have been partnering with St. Joseph’s Center, LAPD, City of LA, LA Sanitation Dept, Park Rangers, LA Fire Dept to provide assistance to individuals with mental illness who are being displaced and relocated into housing.
4. API –There are no updates since the MHS 3 Year plan was presented.
5. Therapeutic Transportation
 - Therapeutic Transport Program - in collaboration with City Fire is pending approval of MOU from LA City.
 - In the meantime, the Therapeutic transport vans are being deployed and handling PMRT calls. The staff handling calls are from TT. This is to add teams to PMRT and makes the most out of the resources.
 - Once the MOU is approved and signed 5 TT vans and teams will be housed at the identified Fire Stations which covers each supervisorial district, teams will be deployed by Fire.

DISCUSSION

- Are there separate Therapeutic Transport teams not connected to the LA City and separate from PMRT? There are two MOUs pending with Santa Monica and LAX, there are no staff allocated to the TT Vans yet. We have a total of 10 vans

6. Vaccinations

Additional clinic date will happen in SA 8

Vaccination Period 04.01.2021 – 07.19.2021		
Vaccine Brand/Manufacturer	Dose Number	Count of Vaccine Administered
Johnson & Johnson	1	412
Moderna	1	1554
	2	1333
Grand Total		3299

7. Warmline Calls – Crystal is looking into the status of this item.

Commissioner Questions and Concerns

Action – Provide update on Peer Resource Center

V. Commission Business

a. Summarizing Commission Workgroup Committee Reports

- I. Budget/Accountability – Presentation made May 27
- II. COVID-19 Disparities and Inequities – Presentation made June 24
- III. Criminal Justice – Report completed - pending
- IV. Homeless – Presentation made June 24
- V. Integrated Care Services/Cultural Competency – Report completed - report pending review

b. Retreat Planning: Discussion and Possible Action

Retreat scheduled Friday, August 27, 2021, 10 am – 1 pm virtual platform

c. Town Hall: Discussion and Possible Action

Tentative plan to conduct a town hall in the following Service Areas with UsCCs

- SALT 3 – Root and Friedman coordinators
- SALT 6 – Turner and Stevens coordinators
- SALT 1 – Pending

d. Chair Comments

DISCUSSION

- 1) **Action** – Add MHC Reports on monthly agenda
- 2) Site visit to new Urgent Care Center in Antelope Valley scheduled August 6, 2021.
- 3) Chair would like Commission to resume looking/reviewing contracts DMH put out for bidding.

VI. Adjournment – (Motion to adjourn – Commissioners Root and Turner)

Next Meeting – September 23, 2021 – Microsoft Teams (Online Virtual) @ 11 am

DRAFT