

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

September 23, 2021 – Minutes

Stacy Dagleish, Chair

APPROVED:

Motion made by 2nd ...

DISCUSSION

I. Call to Order

a. Roll Call – Commission Staff

Present: Commissioner Root, Commissioner Padilla-Frausto, Commissioner Friedman, Commissioner Stevens, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Dagleish, Commissioner Banko, Commissioner Ogawa, Commissioner Molina, Commissioner Acebo, Commissioner Cooperberg, Commissioner Weissman, Commissioner Schallert, Andres Corey – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent: None

b. ***Approve minutes – July Full meeting and August Special Meeting***

II. Public Comment: Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Jim (The Hat) comments on suicide prevention month and racism

Hector Ramirez – Thanked the Chair for listening to the issues consumers share, particularly consumers with disabilities and severe mental illness consumers.

III. Department of Mental Health Report – Dr. Curley Bonds

1. Organizational Structure

- a. Move into new HQ Building – 2nd phase of staff relocation into 510 S. Vermont will begin early next month. We share the building with Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. Groups that will move in early Oct include CBO, Child Welfare Division, Prevention and Early Intervention, CalWORKs and HIPAA Compliance teams. The Shatto parking structure is opening this month. If you need to send mail or packages to any of the currently relocating teams, please verify the mailing address with the recipient to ensure timely delivery. Phone numbers for most people have changed.
- b. Cynthia Duong – appointed as Acting Administrative Deputy
- c. Human Resources Director – awaiting update to the list of qualifying candidates

2. Updates and Program/Services

- a. DMH is hosting an employee Town Hall Meeting today at noon. Details of the final reorg will be discussed
- b. Appreciation luncheon was held on the Terrace Level of 510 for the 92 staff who dedicated a total of 5,400 hours to the Unaccompanied Minors Program at the Pomona Fairplex.
- c. Hiring Freeze – the department continues to hire on critical/clinical positions although the hiring freeze remains in place and the department faces ongoing fiscal constraints. All critical hires are presented to and approved by the Chief Executive Office.
 - i. Critical Clinical Staff Positions

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- FSP (6 MDs)
- Other positions are reviewed and prioritized based on average caseload size, waiting times and direct service levels

3. Contemporary Problems & Solutions

a. Vaccine Requirement

4. Follow-up Items

a. API - Re: API, we're building the capacity & awareness for the LB API pilot that uses telehealth to provide linguistically & culturally appropriate services across the system; working with CMMD to find a way to separate out the API-specific FSP services that are under the SSG contract umbrella; UCLA is working on putting together API-specific training on working with high acuity clients; and DMH is collecting data & mapping API disparities at the County level, and trying to find a way to break the data down to the local (SA) level.

b. Therapeutic Transportation –

- i. Therapeutic Transportation is now 24/7, responding to crisis calls and transportation when appropriate.
- ii. The city expects that the MOU will be finalized within the next few weeks
- iii. If MOU finalized, target date to cross train with Fire and DMH staff the week of 10/14 - only one station that will serve as a pilot for a couple of weeks to a month and then bring the other stations on board

IV. Presentation – Dr. Maria Funk, Deputy Director, Housing and Job Development gave overview of DMH Board and Care Initiatives.

Subjects discussed: (see supporting document for details)

-What is a Board and Care

-How COVID has impacted Board and Care

-Updates on DMH Board and Care Initiatives

- Bed tracking system
- Membership Association
- Capital Improvements

-Legislation and State Budget

-Closure Data

V. Community Reports

SALT 4 – Ezekiel Reyes, Co-Chair

Toured the service area community speaking to people and those in the tiny new homes to increase membership and participation. Feedback gathered was unaware of the meetings, meeting schedule conflicts, and those who attend the meetings said the agenda and activities are redundant.

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SALT 5 – Penny Mehra, Co-Chair

Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: As always, homelessness continues to be an issue. Although these projects will not solve the issue, two housing projects have been approved in SA5

Key struggles this month: Continuing challenges include: 1. Lack of adequate staffing due to hiring freeze and shortage of new hire candidates. 2. This and the necessity of the virtual environment has led to clients being underserved. Some clinics have wait-lists. 3. Additionally, LAC's 211 has found that some clinics and programs are difficult to contact to make successful referrals due to incorrect outdated agency data. 4. Staff are experiencing burnout due to low staff, staff losses to Covid19, and frustrations navigating the virtual system. 5. Residential site serving TAY has been locked down due to Covid positivity.

Key successes this month: The August 24th SALT 5 meeting was well attended. We had 3 presenters & a report from DPH. 1) Community Ambassadors from Westside Infant Network, Tim Sweeney WIN 2) Community Ambassadors from Safe Place for Youth, Martel Okonji SPY Lead Community Ambassadors from WIN & SPY introduced themselves and other attending Ambassadors and shared the work they do. 3) United Health Promoters, Claudia Gonzalez, DMH Claudia Gonzalez described how United Health Promoters receive coordination and training from UCLA. Promoters share lived experience and can provide presentations on 15 community health topics such as depression, MH stigma, & anxiety. 4) Lonnie Ressler and Kiara Mejia reported on issues related to COVID19.

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MHC be aware of: SALT members have raised issues regarding lack of resources in Spanish (minutes, meeting translation, service providers). SALT members have also voiced concern regarding lack of representation of the black community. And families of SMI children and adults have requested a way of contacting others in the community. Additionally, everyone is suffering from the effects of the pandemic, and we hope our lives improve soon.

SALT 7 Rick Pulido, Co-Chair

- Supports the Board and Care initiatives
- Planning Peer Resource Center for SALT 7
- Peers would like to be called individuals and members, a new name for peers.
- Transportation for peers

UsCC ACCESS – Hector Ramirez, Co-Chair

The UsCC is growing, providing training for DMH employees to be familiar with the disabilities.

VI. Discussions

- a. Priorities Recap & Assigning Responsibilities
 - Housing and Homelessness – will plan meeting and continue to communicate with Maria Funk

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-Commissioners Weissman, Turner, Cooperberg)

School Based Mental Health Services – DMH school based program will present at October full meeting

Commissioners Friedman, Schallert, Banko, Root

Disparities – meeting - TBA

-Commissioners Padilla-Frausto, Ogawa, Acebo

Action: DMH provide information on staff issues and vacancies, membership, and dashboard from SALTs and UsCCs

b. Attendance at Stakeholder Meetings

-Chair would like Commissioners present at each SALT

-Use of Language: Chair discussed being aware of using language like mental illness, disability, ethnic groups, etc., that trigger consumers. Chair will contact CALBHBC to provide a training on languages or if resources are available.

c. Chair & Commissioner Reports

-District 5 – Commissioner Schallert reported Henry Mayo Hospital is looking into providing a crisis care program at the hospital and see people with substance use picked up by Sheriff.

-District 3 – Commissioner Dalgleish attended a meeting that discussed what kind of behavioral health social services are needed in the Santa Monica. Dr. Sherin was invited and provided valuable knowledge.

VII. Closing / Adjournment

Motion to adjourn in honor of Hispanic Heritage month and Suicide Prevention month in memory of those who have died by suicide.