

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

November 18, 2021 – Minutes

Stacy Dagleish, Chair, Presiding

Minutes Approved: December 18, 2021

Motion made, moved by Commissioner Ogawa, second by Commissioner Schallert

DISCUSSION

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (AE), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Turner (P), Commissioner Dagleish (P), Commissioner Banko (P), Commissioner Okonji (P), Commissioner Ogawa (P), Commissioner Molina (AE), Commissioner Acebo (P), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), Anders Corey (AE) – **QUORUM PRESENT**
- b. Chair acknowledged Native-American Heritage month. Shannon Rivers, Co-Chair, Native-American/Alaskan Native UsCC spoke on land acknowledgement and title holders, recognition of healing, ceremonies, and the individuals who lived long before.

Administrative Matters

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve October 28 minutes with corrections, move by Commissioner Schallert, second by Commissioner Cooperberg. Motion carries with 1 abstention.

Public Comment

3. Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Ezekiel Reyes – Stated that homeless people are not incompetent, they know how to read. Many walk to the community library to read books.

Presentations

4. Department of Mental Health

Dr. Curley Bonds was asked by Commissioner Stevens to update MHC on what he is doing:

- Dr. Lisa Wong, Senior Deputy Director, Outpatient Division, has been granted permission to hire multiple items in the clinics
- DMH deployed 17 doctors from the registry to work 20 – 40 hours per week to decrease long wait times for MD appointments and telepsychiatry services
- DMH will recruit new graduates for hire in July 2022 and bring back the incentive program
- Appointed a new Director for Patient Rights Division
- Alternatives to Incarceration and Alternate Crisis Response are underway due to coordination with the justice involved partners and DMH internal forensics division
- Working with the state to fix audit concerns with the juvenile justice department

Action Item – Invite Andrea Garcia, Expert on American Indian Community to provide an update to MHC

5. Organization Chart – Dr. Jonathan Sherin, DMH Director

DMH is utilizing the strategic plan:

- Loosening up finance parameters to spend \$700 million per year instead of \$400 million
- Centralized contracting to make it more equitable to improve efficiencies
- Incubation academy investing in small organizations
- FSP redesign
- Community services – organizing and coordinating call centers

Reorganization:

- Coordinate hiring a high-level HR manager. DMH has never graded their positions highly as do other departments
- Hiring another Senior Deputy Director to manage the strategic plan along with the current Senior Deputy Director
- All day-to-day operations flow through Chief Deputy Greg Polk
- Clinical oversight, programming matters, deployment of resources and funding, Board directives, flow through the Director

6. Community Reports – SALT, UsCC, CCC Co-Chairs

SALT 5 – Penny Mehra, Co-Chair

We've been continuing with many of the same issues that have been at the forefront in our community. One of them is homelessness, and there seems to be a growth in homeless encampments and there is, I fear, a growing frustration among communities because there doesn't seem to be any resolution in sight. So we're setting up one of our outreach events to talk to neighborhood councils and neighborhood groups about what The Department is doing to support the homeless and what the current status is, so we hope that will soften the community reaction. We also have been hearing about the hiring freeze and have concerns about that, and we're excited about the peer services and certification roles. I don't know the details as to how that's going to roll out, but I think it would be good for our system in general. That's what folks have been saying. And we heard, too, that probably the large DMH site in our Service Area might be needing to move, so I hope that doesn't cause too much destruction. Thank you.

Discussions

7. MHSA & Budget Conversation

- Begin MHSA and budget presentations by inviting Greg Polk to December full meeting
- Review MHSA timeline starting in March, April, May and June coincides with the MHC election process.
- Invite Amanda Ruiz, Head of Intensive Services Division to update MHC on the Restorative Care Village
- Schedule legislative, MHSA and DMH budget updates
- Follow the organizational chart and invite new Deputy Directors to provide updates
- Who will update MHC on vacancies and DMH staffing?
- Invite presentation on disparities and underserved communities
- Update on when DMH staff working at home will transition to field-based services

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8. Moving Towards In-Person/hybrid meetings

Commission staff coordinating with DMH IT, building manager, etc., to meet in January 2022.

9. Priority Updates

School-based mental health – Commissioner Friedman/Banko

DMH provides a quarterly report to the BOS 21 students and their families were linked to mental health services. The number is low due to school closure during the summer months. In collaboration with UCLA DMH instituted a peer group for kids to talk to one another. LA County Office of Education designed a questionnaire to address unmet needs for the 81 school districts.

Action Item: Commissioner Friedman will provide an update on questionnaire in March 2022.

Disparities – Commissioner Padilla-Frausto

Commissioner Acebo recommended MHC invite DMH speakers who presented on underserved, unmet needs, and disparities at the last SALT 8 meeting.

Housing/Homeless – Commissioner Weissman

No update given.

Staffing & Vacancies – Commissioner Ogawa

Nothing to report, still waiting on response from DMH.

10. Chair & Commissioner Reports – no reports were given due to time limitation

Closing / Adjournment - Motion to adjourn in recognition of Native-American Heritage Month