

County of Los Angeles
MHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes-Thursday, October 13, 2022, Noon
Kathleen Austria, Chair, Presiding

Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Acebo (P), Commissioner Okonji (A), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Dagleish (P), **Quorum present.**

Administrative Matters

1. Approval of the September 8, 2022 minutes:
Motion to approve September 8 minutes, moved by Commissioner Acebo and second by Commissioner Root. Motion carried, so approved by roll call:

Aye (5) Commissioner Austria, Commissioner Acebo, Commissioner Friedman
Commissioner Root, Commissioner Dagleish

Nay (0)

Presentations

2. DMH and Legislation Updates – Crystal Kibby and Cynthia Wheaton - See page 4 for report

Action Items

3. MHC Retreat Update – December 12 – 17 was the week Commissioners decided to select a date for the retreat.
4. Executive Assistant, MHC recruitment date – The candidate has one more interview with the Acting Director and Senior Deputy Director. DMH will provide an update on the recruitment at the full meeting.
5. Accessibility/Extending the meeting time – Both Full Commission and Executive Committee meeting times were extended an extra thirty minutes.
6. Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Proposals
 - MHSA - Workforce
 - AOT – In the past AOT was considered an ad hoc committee now has become a standing subcommittee
 - Workforce and Vacancy – Standing agenda item
 - Other RecommendationsAgenda Standing Items:
 - Legislative report on workforce and parity
 - Budget items
 - DMH Updates

Public Comments

Osbee Sangster, Black Los Angeles County Coalition: Addressing social economic inequality is key to building resilience. Disadvantaged groups are the most affected and least able to recover. What strategies can be adopted to end this cycle of homelessness? Housing underpins urgency action. Tackling change and defining challenges for the present day, the next decade and beyond. It will take the planning and far-reaching change,

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but it also presents the opportunity to create the future we want to see as we transform our communities, our society, to achieve the goal of net zero homelessness with recovery and reconstruction.

Virtual community listening sessions has begun. The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative is holding a series of community listening sessions to strengthen the strategies for addressing the preventing of homelessness. Preventing homelessness. LA County is conducting listening sessions in each Service Planning Area (SPA) of the County of Los Angeles. Additional sessions will be held for people with lived experience and for represent cities and councils of government. During these listening sessions, LA County will present a new framework to end homelessness in the city and County of Los Angeles. Soliciting feedback from diverse stakeholders will accelerate implementation. Please that you are now to ensure your voice is heard.

Joanna Lozano CCC Co-chair for the Cultural Competence Committee. And I just wanted to give an update for the commission. We've been doing well. We have been bringing in different speakers recently for 988. Also, we have been talking about the Promotors. We're having Dr. Partita come in next month regarding questions that Promotors have. I think that some of the earlier Promotors, the ones who began the program might be let go or there's rumors that they might be let go. So we're just trying to get everything in order and try to figure out what's going on. We've also been advocating on behalf of them about raising the pay to a higher amount, including sending letters to the Board of Supervisors to try to increase what they're being paid, which I think right now it's below or just a little bit above the minimum wage. Instead of \$15, they're paying them \$16. We've been doing a lot of work trying to get our blog going, the CCC blog. And that's about it. So thank you very much.

Pam Inaba. Access Ambassador for LA County by Cal Voices, a statewide advocacy organization. I'm also in the LA County Client Coalition Incorporated several UsCCs, and I've been an advocate in LA County for over 30 years. Right now, I have a couple of comments. I want to applaud the efforts about the stakeholder retreat that DMH held September 23rd and 30th. I'm calling on two things. One is about the location of the retreat being held at the cathedrals. There were some well-known traumatic events by violence over the years by leaders in the Catholic system and consumers. By having this retreat at that location, consumers are retraumatized and have a very hard time dealing with that remembrance of violence. And I would like to see there be more effort made in deciding on the locations of these retreats. This aspect could be avoided if leaders, for example, UsCC committees were consulted in the planning of these retreats. Holding the retreat at the cathedral.

This evidence that the cultural compliment does not follow and speaks to cultural sensitivity. I suggest the department consider other venues such as the Endowment Center. This is a teaching moment. Also, another thing is that peer leaders present. Thank you. Peer leaders -- there were not that many peer leaders at this stakeholder retreat. There are many more staff members, and I can think of 20 peer leaders off the top of my head who should have been there. DMH career staff from peer run organizations, staff could come, Access ambassadors who are commissioned to assure that DMH is following MHSA guidelines. I applaud DMH's effort, but this is not enough. I would be happy to help DMH find these peer leaders and they should be there. I am totally capable. They are totally capable of valuable contributions to DMH's efforts to improve, to be more consumer-driven and help LA County be a much better system. Thank you.

Adjournment - so moved by Commissioner Acebo, second by Commissioner Dagleish

7. Meeting adjourned @ 1:17 pm.

DMH Updates for the MHC Executive Committee Meeting October 13, 2022

1) Administrative Matters:

• **ODR Update:**

- ✦ Population: Individuals with SMI that are involved in the Justice system at the Pre-Trial and Post-Conviction stage.
- ✦ Proposed structure:
 - Total 395 clients to be served;
 - 198 to receive interim housing beds;
 - 197 to receive permanent supportive housing subsidies;
 - All 395 clients receive DHS ICMS services; and DMH Mental Health services.
- ✦ Proposed budget
 - \$25 million MHSA over 3 years with optional extension years;
 - Leveraging Medi-Cal of Funds:
 - 20% clients will be funded by 100% MHSA
 - 80% clients will be funded by a combination of MHSA and Medi-Cal funding.
 - Leveraging Medi-Cal will potentially add \$4 million of additional funding for services
- ✦ Proposed Staffing
 - 6 DHS admin staff: PIM, LVN, staff analyst, 2 assistant staff analysts
- ✦ Implementation efforts
 - Monthly joint meetings/calls/email updates May 2022-Present;
 - Ongoing discussions with CEO to explore funding opportunities and challenges;
 - Revision of program budget to increase access to DHS and MH services to all 395 clients;
 - Consultation with the State DHS and DMH with Medi-Cal (M/C) certification unit to discuss site and what kind of service infrastructure is required for Medi-Cal claiming; and
 - DMH and DHS agree upon proposed budget including M/C leverage and number of clients to be served.
- ✦ Next Steps
 - DHS will confirm the structure for pre-authorization and placement of clients with DMH;
 - DHS and DMH to discuss appropriate plan for Medi-cal services claiming, and site visits
 - DMH/DHS will finalize the required mental health MHSA outcomes to be collected;

- DMH will have a follow-up meeting with CEO to confirm the finalized structure;
 - DMH will engage in the required MHSA stakeholder review and public posting process; and
 - Funding will be approved through a board letter for the MHSA 3year plan.
- **Incubation (Transforming LA) Update:** No updates. Community Based Organization (CBOs) continue to receive ongoing training through the end of the year.
- **Community Planning Process (CPP) Update: Responses to Commissioner Questions from the September Full Commission Meeting**
 - ✦ What is the role of the Peer Advisory Committee?
 - The Peer Advisory Committee is a stakeholder group within the CPP process. The group can participate in all stakeholder meetings to provide their input and feedback on the MHSA Planning process.
 - ✦ What is the role of the service area outreach and engagement staff connected to the SA groups and other staff?
 - Role of the DMH Outreach and Engagement staff within the CPP is to continue to staff community events and serve as service area navigators to inform community stakeholders (clients, family members, community organizations, residents) of DMH resources and services and opportunities for participation in established stakeholder groups and the CPP. They connect those engaged to the SALTs, CLTs, UsCCs, Health Neighborhoods, etc. while continuing to provide linkage to clinical services when those identified through outreach efforts when needed.
 - ✦ Can the MH Commission appoint a subcommittee to represent the MH Commission in the CPP?
 - Yes.
 - Darlesh and Kathleen Austria spoke regarding the development of this subcommittee and steps to move forward. ○ Next steps is to discuss the development of this subcommittee with the full MH Commission Executive Committee on October 14, 2022.
- **Alternative Crisis Response/988 Call Center and Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams Update:**
 - ✦ Contract in place with Sycamores for Mobile Crisis Outreach Team deployment for Service Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.
 - ✦ DMH working in conjunction with Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center in doing presentations to community groups on 988.
 - ✦ DMH drafting 988 Frequently Asked Questions and preparing for a communications campaign centered around 988.

2) **Budget Updates:**

- Per the Budget Presentation at the [July 2022 Full Commission meeting](#) (attached), DMH Finance will next present to the MH Full Commission at the November 2022 meeting, unless there are specific questions from MH Commissioners. At the time of this report, we have not received any specific questions.

3) Legislation Updates: Federal Legislation

- Mental Health Workforce Discussion Draft :
 - ✦ The Senate Finance Committee released a summary of a Mental Health Workforce discussion draft on September 22, 2022, that will be part of a broad mental health and addiction policy package. The newly drafted legislation is expected to pass before the end of the year.
 - ✦ The Medicaid provisions in the draft may support the state's efforts to expand the behavioral health workforce, but the bulk of the provisions are in the Medicare program, which generally does not directly impact the County's work.
 - ✦ The workforce discussion draft would add 400 additional Medicare Graduate Medical Education slots for psychiatrist residencies as well as increase Medicare's Health Professional Shortage Area bonus payments for psychiatrists. It would also let psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors and other providers receive those bonus payments.
- HR 7780, the Mental Health Matters Act.
 - ✦ The Mental Health Matters Act is a package of provisions coming out of the Education and Labor Committee. The provision of most interest to the County would be Title VI which includes the provisions of the Strengthening Behavioral Health Benefits Act. These provisions are aimed at shoring up the enforcement of the mental health parity law in the context of ERISA health plans. It includes civil monetary penalties against insurers in violation of parity.
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Federal Grant Opportunities Update ✦ Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program does not apply to DMH ✦ DMH is not eligible for Project Aware funds.
 - ✦ The Department already receives Community Block Grant funding, and we expect to receive more funding and use it to expand services.

4) Report Response: The following reports were submitted in September 2022.

- **"Addressing the Ongoing Board and Care Crisis (Item No. 2, Agenda of November 12, 2019)."** [Link](#)
 - ✦ COVID 19 Responses to Licensed Care Facilities: Facilities have improved their ability to manage COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, but there are many that are still in need of guidance when they occur. DPH continues to provide this support to the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) and facilities through webinars, guidance emails and phone calls, COVID19 and general infection prevention site visits, and infection prevention education through the Project Firstline program.

- ✦ Mental Health Resource Location Navigator (MHRLN): As of August 22, 2022, 219 directly-operated providers have requested and received access to the system along with 105 contracted users. Additionally, 60 facility operators have registered in order to be able to update bed availability in MHRLN. The department continues to work on systems improvements and building out a public facing portal.
 - ✦ Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services: Department of Public Health (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) continues to work with DHS to pilot onsite SUD services at select campuses. The pilot expanding from one site (Pasadena) to five sites (Pico Union, Tujunga, Manhattan, Pasadena and the Jefferson Park area). They are working to expand to five additional sites.
 - ✦ Licensed Adult Residential Care Association (LARCA): LARCA's membership has grown to 222 members. They held a launch event on June 2, 2022. LARCA is holding regular meetings with members and working on outreach to expand membership.
 - ✦ Capital Improvement Projects: California Community Foundation (CCF) contracted with Genesis LA and Brilliant Corners to conduct physical needs assessments at a select number of licensed residential facilities to determine their health and safety-related capital improvement needs in order to better understand which improvements should be prioritized and to complete financial modeling on what it actually costs to provide quality licensed residential care services.
 - ✦ Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program: Los Angeles County has been allotted approximately \$19.6 million in Operating Subsidy Payments (OSP) funds and \$53.5 million in Capital Projects (CP) funds to administer to facilities at high risk of closing. As a requirement to receive these funds, DMH must create and submit the initial draft of an Implementation Plan for fund distribution by mid-October.
 - ✦ Closures: Between January 2022 and June 2022, indicates a total of 19 new ARF closures for a loss of 139 ARF beds and a total of 25 new RCFE closures for a loss of 144 RCFE beds. Of those, only one closed ARF served DMH clients and one closed RCFE served DHS clients.
- **"Educating Youth About the School Threat Assessment Response Team (START)- Directive 1 (Item 24, Agenda of July 26, 2022)."** [Link](#)
 - ✦ The Board directed DMH, in collaboration with all relevant departments, to design and implement an educational and awareness campaign, in culturally appropriate languages, promoting START resources and contact information specifically to youth; and establish a biannual report aligned with the middle and end of the school year to the Board providing an overview of START services and responses provided. This report provides the status on the design and implementation of the START educational and awareness campaign.
 - ✦ Two Phased Approach: Phase 1 is an educational workshop available for students in all LA County School Districts. The focus will educate students on

emotional wellbeing and highlight school and student safety as it relates to school threats, signs and symptoms affecting mental health (i.e., bullying, isolation, victimization, etc.), and teach social media safety and awareness. The launch is anticipated in November 2022.

Phase 2 is a social media marketing campaign that will raise awareness and encourage the use of START resources. The campaign will be developed in consultation with the Office of Violence Prevention, LACOE, and DMH youth stakeholders and will focus on educating youth with regard to recognizing warning signs of threats by youth, what to do and who to call when signs are evident. In addition to being distributed to the LA County school district Superintendents and Communications Directors, the campaign will be implemented across social media channels in outlets frequented by youth and in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

- **“Pursue An Agreement with The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to Provide Mental Health Crisis Response (Item No. 43A, Agenda of October 19, 2021)” [Link](#)**

- ✦ On May 24, 2022, DMH, in coordination with County Counsel, finalized and executed the agreement and Statement of Work (SOW) with Metro.
- ✦ On August 3, 2022, DMH issued the solicitation for the non-lawenforcement Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) providers, which will be conveyed to Metro.
- ✦ At the time of the report, DMH was working on developing the SOW with the consultant, RI International, for the needs assessment study.

5) Motions: In Sept 2022, the motions below was approved by the Board that are to be **submitted by DMH.**

- **Item 16 (Supervisors Solis and Hahn). Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Los Angeles County: Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail (9/27/2022) [Link](#)**

Purpose: In collaboration with various County departments, prioritize the development of secured, non-correctional mental health care facilities that can meet the care needs, and successfully facilitate the removal from the jail, of incarcerated individuals in the P3 and P4 levels of care as well as continue to develop residential and supportive housing facilities for when the individuals are ready to live safely in the community.

- **Item 72E (Supervisor Mitchell). Swiftly Creating More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial with Newly Available State Funding (9/27/2022) [Link](#)**

Purpose: To leverage the County’s subject matter experts’ clinical expertise to develop a plan to spend funding from the Governor’s Budget to increase the number of MIST beds (DMH and DHS).

- **Item 73A (Supervisors Barger and Hahn). Access to Mental Health Services (9/27/2022) [Link](#)**

Purpose: For DMH to provide the Board with a written and verbal report at the October 18, 2022, Board meeting on steps the Department is taking, in collaboration with the network of providers, to ensure our system has the adequate staffing and capacity to serve those at risk or suffering from severe mental illness.