

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

October 27, 2022 – Minutes

Kathleen Austria, Chair

APPROVED: November 17, 2022

Motion made by Commissioner Molina second by Commissioner Okonji

DISCUSSION

1. Call to Order / Roll Call /Acknowledgements: ASL Interpreters, Spanish interpreters, CART captioner, technology and multimedia team, and staff support

Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (AE), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Barbour (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalgleish (P), Commissioner Banko (AE), Commissioner Okonji (AE), Commissioner Molina (AE), Commissioner Acebo (AE), Commissioner Sanabria (AE), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), Lily Sofiani (P) – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Administrative Matters

2. Approval of September 2022, minutes

Motion to approve minutes moved by Commissioner Dalgleish second by Commissioner Cooperberg

Ayes (8) Commissioner Friedman, Commissioner Root, Commissioner Barbour, Commissioner Stevens,
Commissioner Austria, Commissioner Sanabria, Commissioner Cooperberg, Commissioner Schallert

Nay (0)

Updates

3. Board of Supervisors – Lily Sofiani

Board including seven other departments are currently working on homelessness to clear RV encampments to provide needed housing, create safe parking, towing and dismantling of RVs for the three-year pilot period.

4. Commissioner Updates

- a. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) – Chair Austria reported the AOT meeting was robust, the group decided to regroup to get more community and peer involvement.
- b. DMH Workforce and Vacancy ADHOC Committee Update – Commissioner Barbour reported the group has been meeting several weeks regarding intern funding and initiatives Supervisor Hahn put forward that student mental health workers have expanded access and training. The committee will submit a report next month.
- c. MHSA ADHOC Committee – Chair Austria shared the MHSA Ad Hoc Committee is on hold pending reorganizing with the help from Dr. Lisa Wong, Kalene Gilbert, Angel Baker and others.
- d. Others –

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- Commissioner Dalgleish - 2023 Data Notebook will arrive in 2023 the subject will be Stakeholder Engagement; 2021 Data Notebook on racial and ethnic inequities was finalized and will be distributed, and 2022 in the process of being continued for collection and the impact on the BHBC and COVID19.
 - Chair Austria – The Executive Assistant, MHC candidate selected by MHC accepted the position and is now going through the process to transfer to DMH.
5. **MHC Retreat Update** – Chair reported that the week December 12 – 17 was chosen to select a date for the retreat. The consultant is from Sacramento who is highly recommended.
6. **Stakeholder Engagement** – Angel Baker reported DMH is looking into how to support all the different stakeholders from the SALT to client leadership team allocating them to different managers. A completed organizational structure will be presented next month. The SALTs are assigned to Kalene Gilbert and Darlesh Horn. Senior Manager Leaders will be identified, and we will provide the update next month.

Presentations

7. **DMH Update (Crystal Kibby, DMH Board Liaison) *see supporting documentation***

Crystal Kibby reported DMH has much work ahead and we are on a good trajectory

- Overall vacancy – 28%
 - Hiring Efforts to date and FY 2021-22 – 519 new hires/promotions
 - Restrictions were lifted – 202 new hires/promotions
 - Outpatient Programs – 2,232
- Significant Leadership positions were hired
 - Human Resources Director
 - Program Manager IV – MHSA Division
 - Service Area Chief – Service Area 1
 - Program Manager III – Intensive Care Division
 - Two Program Managers – Olive View MHC and East San Gabriel Valley MHC
 - Candidates Selected in Process – Senior Deputy Director (Child Well-Being) Deputy Director (Prevention)
- Efforts and Solutions
 - Student loan forgiveness for psychiatrists and recruitment incentives
 - Sign-in bonuses for recruitment and retention
 - Re-initiating stipends for social work graduates, psychology and nurse practitioner students to work in directly operated and contracted clinics.

8. Legislative Update (Cynthia Wheaton, Legislative Analyst) – see supporting documents

Cynthia Wheaton provided updates on Senate Finances Committee Behavioral Health Package and Los Angeles County Parity Efforts

- a. Senate finance committee released three of its five draft titles (draft titles are statement of subject and contents for a bill).
 - telehealth released in May
 - youth released in June
 - workforce policy released in September
- b. LA County CEO Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) worked with representative Tony Cardenas to support his bill HR7232 which would give grants and technical assistance to implement enforcement of mental health parity laws and regulation.
 - LAIR advocated for the inclusion of parity provisions to be included in HR 7666 which is restoring hope for behavioral health and the well-being act.
 - Bill passed in May.
 - LAIR advocated for parity provisions be included in the senate mental health package.

9. DMH Financial Update - Kimberly Nall, DMH Financial Manager - see supporting documentation

Ms. Nall spoke on therapeutic transportation, psychiatric mobile response teams, crisis residential treatment facilities.

Therapeutic Transportation:

- Implemented in all 5 supervisorial districts, districts with LA City Fire Departments
- 10 vans purchased for the program
- SA 1 will participate in a pilot because they have space for a van and challenges with ambulances, PMRT will also support client needs

Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams

- Added 34 positions to the team (30 Community Health Workers and 4 Supervisors)
- With addition of 15 teams the total is 50.5 teams

Crisis Residential Treatment Facilities

- Added 15 new facilities county-wide each with 16-beds
- Four executed contracts, one facility open and others are pending

10. 988 Barriers and Challenges (Jennifer Hallman, ACR Manager)

Jennifer Hallman gave an update on 988 data and challenges

- Just over 5,000 calls to 988 in September
- Average speed of answer is 15 seconds
- Average call is 12 minutes
- 95% of calls were resolved over the phone

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Challenges

- New MCOT (Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams) started on Monday with limited-service provisions
- Incoming calls that require field response continue to be a challenge; priority line to connect with DMH Help Line was implemented to help
- Continue to work on contracts for SA 5, 7 and 8
- 988 has a federal number that does not route calls outside of LA County

11. Community Stakeholder Reports

Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair, SALT 8 - Summarize the issues your Service Area/Cultural Community is currently addressing: The SALT 8 met on October 7, 2022. At the meetings in August and September, SALT 8 had focused on school mental issues and presentations because the concerns about youth mental health and the increasing amount of mental health conditions that had increased before COVID and increased even more during COVID. At the October meeting, SALT 8 spent time discussing the issues about school mental health and reporting out by the members on issues from their representative groups in the SALT. SALT 8 has also been working with the Department of Public Health Curtis Tucker Center for Community Wellness located in Inglewood to connect with the northern part of the Service Area 8. A presentation was made about Wellness Center by Dr. Marie Gambon to learn about the variety of services available at the center and how organizations could use the Center to provide services and have meetings with the community. Commissioner Molina gave an update on the Mental Health Commission activities. In the reports from the Department of Mental Health for Service Area 8 it was indicated that the South Bay Mental Health Center move should be completed in the near future closer to the Gardena and Harbor Gateway area.. The activities for Mental Illness Awareness Week were reviewed and with acknowledgement of World Mental Health Day on October 10. Also, the SALT 8 acknowledged and received information on National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month and LGBTQ+ History Month. The SALT 8 Peer Mentorship Workgroup continues meeting to strengthen the peer network in order to improve advocacy, leadership and increase involvement of peers in the mental health community. SALT 8 co-chairs participated in the CLT retreat and the SALT 8 is getting ready for the DMH and MHSA planning and prioritization of SALT 8 needs.

Key struggles this month: SALT 8 continues its efforts to connect with and involved stakeholders. Also continuing inters in getting information about 988 implementation and proposed CARE Court.

Key successes this month: Participation at the SALT meetings continue to be strong and new elected SALT 8 members have been adding to the official representation of different groups.

What priority community issue(s) from your SALT or UsCC should the MH Commission be aware of: Continuing issues with the coming of the 988 crisis line and the possible CARE Court the concerns about having the infrastructure of housing, and treatment available with the likelihood of increased demand. The lack of mental health professionals and workers makes the problem more of a concern. The priority issues are the mental health needs of homeless not being addressed, COVID grief and loss, need for more psychiatry and therapy services, access to care issues, re-integration of justice involved, school mental health issues, crises response including the 988 implementation, and staff shortages.

Progress has been made in recruiting persons willing to become official members but more still needs to be done.

Esiquio Reyes Service Area 4 Co-Chair. I was wanting to bring up what we have been doing, which is we had a meeting. We have been diligently trying to bring in more people to our events and to our meetings. That is very hard. But we're still trying. We have an upcoming event on November the 17th. It's going to be an in-person meeting for our first one. It'll be at HQ. So once the flyers are finished, we're going to send it out to everybody, within The Department and stuff. It's supposed to help bring together or carry on the nuance that September meetings had, where the community and the people from the staff, from DMH, they came together. So, we're trying to continue that thank you very much.

Ismael Maldonado, SALT 2 Co Chair SALT TWO Meeting Notes on October 13,2022 - We started the meeting with welcoming the Co Chairs Leticia Muniz and Ismael Maldonado. We had all attend the meeting to say their name and where and what department or agency or member of the community. Then we had department update From Jesus Romero Junior he was not in the meeting we had Dina Done give update Then we have coffee break from 10 am, for six min. We also had an open discussion on Mental Health Stigma, and we had a Q &A on Stigma. We have family time during family time members brought issues that they have in also Barbara Wilson brought an idea all right we want to see in our salt two meeting Like play Department of Rehabilitation come to your presentation John Flynn to help To help fix our tactical problems. Barbara Wilson brought an Idea for the holiday meeting on 12/8/2022. We would have food and a lightly clothing give away. We had public announcements.

Public Comment

12. Public Comment: Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Client County Coalition: to talk about the homeless. The Commission and the Mayor of Los Angeles having an election and (Indiscernible) to help the homeless.

Osbee Sangster obo Los Angeles County Black Client Coalition Inc. Try to disagree with this statement: Equitable access to information and technology empowers people to achieve their fullest potential. Are you in need of access to a digital world? The Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition Literacy Project, Blacc will launch November 1 and provide technology to communities and meeting stakeholders. Chromebook computers to help provide access to digital inclusion.

Currently, we have a limited supply, however, expecting more digital devices soon to assist with technology, digital literacy and Internet resources ongoing. To become a member of Black and receive the benefit, please visit. Blacc.org website and call to set up an intake. Thank you.

Jean Harris: Good afternoon, I wanted to ask a question about the presentation on recruiting more Mental Health workers and how the SALTs can get involved in that process. I've been trying to help with speaking to students in healthcare about the opportunities available to work in Mental Health and so I'd like to get more information on that provided to the SALTs. Thank you.

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Esiquio Reyes, good afternoon, everybody. I submitted paperwork regarding what I will be summarizing right now, the system to get a homeless person off the streets is slow but working. People are getting housed. But if you spent years on the streets being housed, being housed doesn't mean you just automatically feel happy. There's a mixture of emotions. Most of them are negative. To spend years on the streets without dying, you learn to be little yourself to a degree which so when you hear a person cut you down, it doesn't faze you. You move on with your day. This same way of thinking, while house pushing people into depression. As a child, you can feel closed in when you're a young adult and homeless, the walls are open. Now that you're an adult housed, the walls are closed again. That's basically the cycle that we're creating. There needs to be outlets for those that have spent years on the streets, otherwise, there's a possibility of them going back to the streets to feel a sense of solace because it's something they've been used to. Thank you very much. You have a good day.

Adjournment

Commissioner Stevens moved to adjourn, Commissioner Friedman second, meeting adjourned @1:27 pm