

## **DMH Updates for the MHC Executive Committee Meeting September 2023**

### **1) MH Commission Referrals Update:**

- DMH received five (5) constituent referrals from the MH Commission during the months of July and August. Four of the five constituents were contacted. Two of the referrals were for mental health services, and two regarding events. DMH staff will continue to connect with the fifth constituent.

### **2) Report Response:** The following reports were submitted by DMH in July and August 2023.

- **Status on Identifying Mental Health Clinicians for Mental Evaluation Teams (Item 45, Agenda of March 21, 2023).** [Link](#)
  - The report provides the status of identifying licensed mental health clinicians to pair with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Mental Evaluation Teams (MET). At the time of the report there were:
    - 40 licensed mental health clinicians assigned to MET;
    - 8 vacancies with ongoing hiring efforts in process;
    - 2 licensed mental health clinician positions added in FY2023-2024 Recommended County Budget; and
  - The report also lists additional incentives available to attract applicants.
- **Acting to Expand Services for Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) Population (Item 11, Agenda of February 7, 2023).** [Link](#)
  - This report provides the revised MIST Spending Plan for the Assembly Bill (AB) 178, amended by AB 179, funds upon clarification from County Counsel regarding the eligible uses.
  - MIST Spending Plan:
    - Allocate \$50 million for the Los Angeles County General Hospital Restorative Care Village Project, a 128 bed sub-acute facility with a portion dedicated to the following populations:
      - Office of Diversion and Re-Entry MIST, and
      - Office of Public Guardian conserved MIST.
    - In addition, the project will include a new mental health Urgent Care Center.
- **Establishing A Roadmap to Address the Mental Health Bed Shortage (Item No. 41-D, Agenda of January 24, 2023).** [Link](#)
  - The report serves as an interim update on the motion directives aimed to create a plan to establish a roadmap to address the mental health bed shortage as of July 2023.
    - Consultant retained on May 1, 2023 (Health Management Associates) to deliver a mental health continuum gap analysis, comprehensive roadmap and forecasting model.



- The outreach and awareness activities included collaborations with the Los Angeles Trust, Hazel Health, local community agencies and private donors; and
  - Next report update scheduled for October 2023.
- **Ethnicity Data Breakdown per Service Planning Area of 9-8-8 Crisis Hotline Callers (Amendment to Item No. 27, Agenda of January 24, 2023).** [Link](#)
    - This report responds to the Board’s request for a breakdown of callers to the 988 Crisis Hotline by ethnic group in each Service Planning Area. The report includes a breakdown of Field Intervention Team dispatches by ethnicity and age, as well as the average time to dispatch.
    - Tables show a significant improvement related to the average time to dispatch with an increase in within 1 hour response times from 25% to 50%.
- **Moving Forward with Steps to Implement Care Court in LA County (Item 16, Agenda of June 6, 2023).** [Link](#)
    - This report provides the estimated ongoing and one-time cost of implementation, any offsetting revenues, and any resulting funding gap and options to bridge the funding gaps within DMH’s existing resources.
    - DMH developed a 3-year funding analysis.
    - Funding sources include:
      - Ongoing and one-time funding allocated by the State for CARE Court;
      - Medi-Cal Reimbursement and MHSA for funding clinical and peer activities; and
      - Behavioral Health Bridge Housing funding to expand housing and substance use residential treatment.
    - DMH, CEO and County Counsel will continue to review and monitor staffing estimates, allocations, funding and final hiring decisions will depend upon several currently outstanding variables.
- **Report on the Veteran Peer Access Network 3-Year Pilot Successes and Recommendations (Amendment to Item No. 67, Agenda of June 6, 2023).** [Link](#)
    - This report describes the significant milestones achieved by the pilot and future recommendations, including but not limited to:
      - Key Milestones:
        - Hired, or has hiring actions pending, for 60% of the DMH VPAN positions;
        - Approximately 85% of VPAN staff are Veterans, including approximately 20% female Veterans;
        - Established five (5) Rally Points and 42 Community Access Points as hubs and resource points for Veterans to obtain services and resources;

- Successfully integrated both community-based organizations and DMH VPAN teams at each Rally Point promoting collaboration and enhancing service delivery;
- Increased number of clients served from 745 in FY2020-21 to 3,927 clients in FY2022-23;
- Implemented the Unite Us referral tracking system, which established a veteran network of over 100 community-based organizations, to streamline service referrals and improved access to care;
- DMH expanded the DMH Help Line to include a dedicated support line for Veterans;
- Initiated a partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department creating the Veteran Mental Evaluation Teams (VMET) in March 2022;
- Received Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) grant to fund dedicated staff to provide outreach and housing service to homeless Veterans with mental illness; and
- Extended the program for an additional three (3) years.
- Recommendations:
  - Need for transformational administrative and clinical program leadership;
  - Need for increased VSO support at the VPAN Rally Points
  - Need for enhanced homeless outreach to Veterans; and
  - Integration of VSO support for the VPAN Support Line.

3) **Motions:** In July and August 2023, the below motions were approved by the Board with reports to be **submitted by** DMH:

- **Supporting Mental Health for Latino Residents (Item 3, Agenda of August 8, 2023) [Revised Motion](#)**  
**Purpose:** To address the rising mental health needs of Latino residents.
- **Community Care Expansion Preservation Program Update on Administration and Management of Funds to Further Address Los Angeles County's Board and Care Crisis (Items 49D/3-D, Agenda of July 25, 2023) [Motion](#)**  
**Purpose:** To allow the Department of Mental Health to accept the Community Care Expansion Program grant funds from a different third-party administrator appointed by the State.
- **Item 2 (Supervisors Hahn and Barger). Strengthening Bridge Housing Resources Through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program for Persons Experiencing Homelessness Living with Serious Behavioral Health Conditions (Item 2, Agenda of July 11, 2023) [Motion](#)**

**Purpose:** Authorizes the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health to accept over \$300 million of state grant funding to go towards housing programs for people experiencing homelessness who also struggle with mental health and/or substance use disorder.