

# Sacramento County Mental Health Board Justice Committee Meeting

## Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 3, 2024  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

## Meeting Location

700 H Street, Hearing Room 2  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## Meeting Invitees

- Mental Health Board Justice Committee Members
- General Public

**Members Present:** Mykel Gayent, Melinda Avey, Corrine McIntosh Sako (Staff: Houa Yang)

**Members Absent:** Maria Padilla-Castro

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mykel Gayent convened the meeting at 4:30 pm, introductions were made, and the conduct agreement was acknowledged.

An announcement was made about an upcoming presentation from Adult Correctional Health on mental health services for incarcerated individuals.

### II. Public Comments Relating to the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services Adult System of Care

No public comments were made.

### III. Discussion/Action Item: Continued discussion the Justice Committee, i.e. readdressing having a town hall meeting; Exploring sites to visit to include the California Endowment as referenced in the May 1st minutes; Setting a goal regarding the May agenda's consent on the county's plan to address the acute mental health needs in the county jail; Public Comment Related to Feedback on Areas of Interest for MHB Justice Committee to Consider

The Committee discussed and expressed the following areas of interest:

- Conduct a SWOT analysis including details on the format, logistics, scope, and trauma-informed approach.
- Explore potential venues (looking at California Endowment, JDTRC, Holiday Inn, DHS East Parkway location) that are accessible, centrally located, and accommodate both in-person and virtual participation.
- Determine the specific focus and scope (i.e., access to medication, supportive housing, therapeutic programming, and connections to community services upon release) of the listening session, aligning with the Committee's purview and the County's mental health plan, such as access to medication, supportive housing, therapeutic programming, and connections to community services upon release.
- Investigate the possibility of partnering with individuals or organizations within the justice system to provide insights and guidance on the proposed listening session.
- Consensus on developing a proposal for hosting a townhall or listening session to be presented at the November meeting for the Committee's consideration and approval. Committee Member McIntosh Sako agreed to take the lead on this proposal.
- Seek updates on the Mays Consent and what changes have been made.
- Request the Public Defender to give a presentation.
- Create base line and comparison group for the CalAIM Justice-Involved (JI) initiative.

A representative from Behavioral Health Services (BHS) provided a brief overview of the 90-day pre-release services under the CalAIM JI initiative. This representative recommended checking in with BHS three or four months after the go-live date for updates and specific details regarding the pre-release services.

Public Comment #1: Community member suggested that the Committee engage with individuals impacted by incarceration at the main jail at 8am on weekdays, inquire about solitary confinement in the jail and the duration, and measure its impact on mental illness.

Public Comment #2: Community member raised concerns about individuals with severe mental illness or cognitive impairments sharing their experiences accurately, potential re-traumatization, and the need for a trauma-informed approach. This community member emphasized on the importance of hearing from family members and exploring alternative information-gathering methods like qualitative interviews and written submission. This community member highlighted the complexity of lives and the importance of reaching the most difficult and ill individuals, with excitement about involving BHS staff.

Public Comment #3: Community member shared their experience with a loved one in the justice system receiving mental health treatment, highlighting the barriers to accessing services. This community member offered support in listening session forums and discussed challenges faced by inmates deemed incompetent to stand trial, emphasizing difficulties in engaging with these individuals partly due to the severity of their mental health issues or substance use disorders.

Public Comment #4: Community member thanked everyone and shared their experience with a loved one involved in the justice system. This community member suggested conducting jail and street outreach to involve those who cannot speak for themselves due to high acuity and substance use. This community urged the Committee to consider failure stories with a trauma-informed approach.

Public Comment #5: Community member thanked the Committee for supporting a hybrid option.

Public Comment #6: Community member appreciated the Committee's service and applaud their efforts on this difficult topic.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Chair Gayent adjourned the meeting at 5:42 pm.