

Sacramento County Mental Health Board Adult System of Care (ASOC) Meeting

MINUTES – IN PERSON MEETING HYBRID PARTICIPATION OPTION

Monday, May 5, 2025

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Committee Member	Present	Absent
Brad Lueth (Vice Chair)	X	
Laura Bemis	X	
Mallika Walsh	X	
Melinda Avey	X	
Patricia Wentzel (Chair)	X	

Agenda Item
<p>I. Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Acknowledgement of Conduct Agreement• Announcements by MHB ASOC Committee Members <p>Chair Wentzel commenced the meeting at 6:02pm, introductions were made, and the Conduct Agreement was acknowledged.</p> <p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No announcements were made.
<p>II. Public Comments Relating to the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services Adult System of Care – Items Not on Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No public comments were made.
<p>III. Presentation from DOR on adding peer support for peers receiving DOR services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presenter: Kamie Zapanta, Team Manager, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)• Kamie stated that DOR’s philosophy of employment is that talent and potential of individuals with disabilities and the individuals with significant disabilities are capable of full participation in their communities. DOR has a goal to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and secure meaningful employment.• Services include supporting youth and adults with disabilities prepare for and obtain competitive integrated employment.• Kamie presented on student services offered through DOR. Students with disabilities must be 16-21 years old, have a verified disability and be enrolled in an educational program.• DOR offers a Vocational Rehabilitation Program for adults with a disability, who want to work, are having trouble getting or keeping a job and need services such as job placement, training and/or other job preparation to help clients get or keep a job.• The Vocational Rehabilitation Program includes counseling and guidance, assessments, employment services, career education, independent living skills, benefit planning, assistive technology, adult work experience, job coaching, and DOR student services.• The Pathways to Success Program focuses on helping individuals with to prepare for and secure employment

in six high-wage, high-skill, and high demand career pathways.

- Kamie stated that interested parties can apply through DOR's online portal.

Committee Member Questions/ Comments:

- Chair Wentzel:
 - Q: Does DOR have a plan to use Peer Support Specialists to support clients with employment assistance who have mental health challenges?
 - A: Additional follow-up is needed before answering this question.
 - Q: When a client wants to use DOR services to gain employment, do they have to provide proof of a disability?
 - A: Medical documentation of a disability is not needed to start the intake process. DOR counselors may help assist clients gain the proper medical documentation. Documentation can include a letter from a psychologist, mental health provider, copy of current prescriptions, picture of the prescription bottle, 504 plans, Individualized Education Program (IEP), and Social Security reward letter (SSI/SSDI).
 - Q: If a client is denied Social Security, are they still eligible for DOR services?
 - A: Yes, as long as they provide any of the above-mentioned medical documentation.
 - Q: Is there a gap between intake and receiving services?
 - A: Once an assessment is completed, DOR has up to 60 days to determine eligibility. The timeframe varies depending on the documentation provided at intake.
- Vice Chair Lueth:
 - Q: If an individual wanting to receive DOR services vocalizes that they have been hospitalized a certain number of times, is proof needed?
 - A: An individual would also need to include how the disability would impact them from obtaining or maintaining a job.
- Member Bemis:
 - Q: If someone went through the Alta Regional program, has a disability and has never worked before, does DOR help those clients?
 - A: Yes. DOR also works in partnership with Alta Regional.

IV. Presentation on IPS (Employment Support) on FSP's

- Presenter: Maryam Nateghi, Program Coordinator, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services
- Maryam began the presentation by stating that Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) is a model of supported employment for people with a serious mental illness.
- IPS helps people living with a behavioral health condition work at a job of their choosing.
- The IPS program has 8 principles: Competitive Employment, Systematic Job Development, Rapid Job Search, Integrated Services, Benefits Planning, Zero Exclusion, Time-Unlimited Supports, and Workforce Preferences.
- IPS services are currently implemented in 8 out of 11 Full-Service Partnerships (FSP), with the remaining 3 FSP providers currently in the process of hiring Employment Specialists.
- Across the entire FSP system, there are 4 Employment Specialists, 7 Employment Specialist Supervisors and 101 Clients being worked with to receive IPS services.
- Sacramento County has provided initial training for IPS services, had an IPS Fidelity Review Training and a pilot FSP provider will be completing the Fidelity Review at the end of June.

Committee Member Questions/ Comments:

- Chair Wentzel:
 - Q: Is there an ideal caseload for the IPS Employment Specialists?
 - A: Yes, up to 20 clients per Employment Specialist.
 - Q: Is there anyone maxed out on their caseload at the moment?

- A: As of now, no. IPS Services are still getting ramped up within the FSP providers
- Q: Which FSP provider is piloting IPS services and completing the fidelity review?
- A: New Directions

- Member Avey:
 - Q: What is the perception of IPS Services within the community? Is there push back? Is there support?
 - A: As part of the IPS training, providers had an exercise where they went into the community to learn how to engage with employers. This is an ongoing effort but so far, there has been no push back.

- Member Bemis:
 - Q: Are IPS services only for clients in the FSP program in Sacramento County?
 - A: Currently, yes.
 - Q: Are Peer Support Specialists hired to provide IPS services?
 - A: IPS Employment Specialists may have lived experience, but they are considered a separate role to the Peer Specialists. As part of the IPS fidelity, IPS Employment Specialists must have 100% of their job duties related to employment, whereas Peer's might have other job duties.

Chair Wenzel suggested following up with IPS Services in a year for an update.

V. Discussion about future presentations

- Chair Wentzel began a discussion on selecting a topic for May's meeting.
- Member Bemis has a conflict and cannot attend the June and July meeting, so it was proposed to switch dates.
- Member Avey also has a conflict in June and is unavailable to attend.
- Chair Wentzel suggested canceling the June meeting due to various conflicts.
- All members agreed to cancel the June meeting and reconvene in July.

VI. Adjournment

- Next Meeting will be July 7, 2025, from 6:00pm- 7:30pm
- Chair Wenzel adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm