

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

## MINUTES – IN PERSON MEETING HYBRID PARTICIPATION OPTION

Monday, July 7, 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

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions
- Acknowledgement of [Conduct Agreement](#)
- Announcements by MHB ASOC Committee Members

Chair Wentzel commenced the meeting at 6:02pm, introductions were made, and the Conduct Agreement was acknowledged.

#### Announcements:

- NAMI Sacramento is starting community programs such as how to pass tests, local advocacy and board games. For more information, call the NAMI helpline at 916-890-5467

#### II. Public Comments Relating to the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services Adult System of Care – Items Not on Agenda

- No public comments were made.

#### III. Presentation from CWRT staff re: update since SSO policy change

- Presenter: Christina Irizarry, Health Program Manager, Behavioral Health Services
- The Community Wellness Response Team (CWRT) implemented a CWRT dashboard located on the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services webpage.
- The data has helped inform CWRT about community areas it serves.
- Similar to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Folsom Police Department, we entered into another MOU. As of July 1, 2025, our pilot with Sac City PD started that includes CWRT and 988.
- Sacramento County mentioned sharing training resources with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and 988/WellSpace Health and vice versa to ensure training is consistent across teams.

#### Committee Member Questions/ Comments:

- Chair Wentzel:
  - Q: Is CWRT collecting data on how many times the Sheriff's department is asked for backup and how many times they are responding?
  - A: No but this is something we are currently looking in to tracking.
  - Q: Do you know, on average, how many calls, a month, CWRT is not able to respond to because the

Sheriff's department will not respond?

- A: This information is currently unavailable. Our teams are going out and trying to deescalate without the need of LE and collecting this data is something we are currently looking into.
- There was a suicide death recently and the family called 911 and they were directed to call 988. With the Sheriff's office policy on not responding to mental health calls, data is needed to determine its impact on the community.
- Q: When CWRT dispatch decides not to deploy due to an unsafe environment, is the Sheriff's department always called or does the line of communication end there?
- A: CWRT dispatchers can either stay on the call or the person calling can call LE themselves. It depends on the case.
- Q: Are there times when CWRT does not deploy staff, even if there is no weapon but there could be a threat of violence?
- A: For example, if a housing condition could be deemed unsafe due to an unsecure weapon but that weapon is not on the person, CWRT staff will talk with the person to see if they can meet with them outside of the home or in another safe setting.
- Q: If a parent calls and their child is throwing unsafe items, does CWRT respond to these calls?
- A: CWRT would try to work with the parent to secure the environment and try to talk with the youth to deescalate the situation. Depending on the outcome, the situation will be deemed safe or not for response.
- Vice Chair Avey:
  - Q: Is there a protocol to guide CWRT staff members on what to do when they respond to a call but LE won't respond?
  - A: When dispatchers receive a call, they have a series of questions they ask to determine if the environment is safe for our teams to deploy. If it is deemed unsafe, LE would be the alternative responder. In the event that a staff member is in the field and LE is needed, it would depend on the situation, but this is something that doesn't typically happen.
  - Q: Has there been more collaboration after the Sheriff's department's policy change?
  - A: There has been collaboration with the bi-lateral referral process, but that has been going on for some time. We have made progress with establishing MOUs.

#### **IV. Update from 988 re: change in SSO policy change**

- Presenter: Terri Galvan, Deputy Chief of Crisis Programs, WellSpace Health
- The biggest change is that our partnerships with other entities that can respond to mental health programs has increased.
- Data and data sharing have also increased. 988 has a 5-year plan that will hopefully allow 988 to respond in the same way that 911 does.
- In June, 2052 calls were made to Sacramento County. We have had a few cases where LE has responded despite that not being protocol.
- 988/WellSpace Health is conducting a Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training and an Assist, suicide prevention, training in the community. There are currently more two trainers going through this training to better have conversations with the community. This training will be rolling out soon to local agencies.

#### **Committee Member Questions/ Comments:**

- Chair Wentzel:
  - Q: If a family calls and they know there is a weapon, would that call be transferred to CWRT?
  - A: 988 does not screen out calls and will always transfer calls to CWRT.
  - Q: When 988 is talking to a caller, is it part of the protocol to ask if there is a weapon?
  - A: When 988 is assessing risk, we do ask if there is a weapon. If we warmly transfer the call, we notify the other party of the weapon and any risk.
  - Q: Does the CALM training offer any advice to families who are living with loved ones with a psychosis?
  - A: I am unsure, but this is something I can look further into.

#### **V. Adjournment**

- Next Meeting will be August 4, 2025, from 6:00pm- 7:30pm
- Chair Wenzel adjourned the meeting at 6:52pm