

Minutes
Adult System of Care Committee
June 23, 2020 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Call-in: (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 987 3132 2369, Password: 773137

Members Present: Ann Arneill, Viva Asmelash, Loran Sheley, Laura Bemis, Dan Niccum, Maria Padilla-Castro (Jason Richards, staff)

Members Absent: Bradley Lueth

4:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions – Viva Asmelash, Chairperson

- *Chair Viva Asmelash convened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and introductions were made.*

4:05 p.m. Review: standing meeting outcomes & methods; agenda

- *Chair Asmelash reviewed the standing committee outcomes and methods goals, agenda, and handouts for the meeting.*
- *Committee members established the intentions to focus on outcomes, promote synergy and efficiency, provide support for committee members to feel unified, and promote committee members feeling valuable in pursuit of committee goals.*

4:10 p.m. High-level updates on assigned actions following last meeting

- *Laura Bemis updated the committee that she sent letters to NAMI, CalVoices, and mental health providers so that consumers could share their stories in relation to experiences with law enforcement.*
 - *Chair Asmelash confirmed that she forwarded the letter to Henry Ortiz who attended the June MHB General Meeting as well.*
- *Loran Sheley highlighted research she has done on the topic of law enforcement, as included in the handout.*
- *Loran Sheley highlighted ongoing discussions within the City of Sacramento to move calls out of the 911 system that do not involve criminal activity.*
 - *MHB Chair Ann Arneill confirmed that the Sacramento City Council will consider this issue at their city council meeting.*
- *Dan Niccum shared a video presentation on Mobile Crisis Support Teams from BHS's Jennifer Reiman and suggested that the committee may want to invite her to talk about this program model at a future meeting.*

4:20 p.m. Update on crisis continuum priority - Kelli Weaver, BHS Division Manager, Adult Mental Health

- *BHS Division Manager, Kelli Weaver, provided an overview of the BHS crisis continuum, highlighting the subacute continuum.*
- *Kelli Weaver updated the committee on the status of new programs in the subacute continuum, primarily the Augmented Board and Care (ABC) and Adult Residential Treatment (ART) programs.*

- *Kelli Weaver confirmed that a Skilled Nursing Facility which serves the mental health population is currently in development.*
- *Dan Niccum asked about the need for these programs in the community versus how many clients these programs are able to serve. Kelli Weaver highlighted how MHSA funds have allowed counties to create robust outpatient programs, that there are existing funding limitations compared to community need, and that there is an uptick in individuals needing these programs due to increased acuity in the population.*
- *Dan Niccum asked about the behavioral health term, "subacute." Kelli Weaver confirmed that this term refers to long term care at a higher acuity than outpatient mental health services.*
- *Chair Asmelash asked about the frequency of consumers in subacute programs being conserved. Kelli Weaver confirmed that at the State Hospital level, a conservatorship is required, but at the ART and ABC level, a conservatorship is not required but would not preclude clients from receiving services.*

4:40 p.m. Develop recommendations for MHB (based on presentation by homeless advocates)

- *Maria Padilla-Castro highlighted recommendations for the homeless population, as outlined in her handout:*
 - *Increase access to mental health and substance use treatment services*
 - *Maintain and supply homeless encampments with essential supplies such as drinking water, toilets, and personal protective equipment*
 - *Increase transportation accessibility for behavioral health treatment, medical appointments, and food services*
 - *Provide security for homeless encampments to deter violence, especially towards women*
- *MHB Chair Arneill highlighted recommendations for the homeless population from the speakers at the June MHB General Meeting:*
 - *Outreach Recommendations: Increase the number of Triage Navigators at Loaves and Fishes. In addition, because of the incidence of substance abuse among the homeless mentally ill population, at least one of these Triage Navigators should have dual diagnosis specialization.*
 - *Mental Health Recommendations: Increase transportation accessibility, increase care coordination, increase beds in crisis residential facilities, and increase inpatient psychiatric beds.*
 - *Substance Use Recommendations (to be referred to the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board): Implement treatment on demand, expand inpatient residential treatment beds and intensive outpatient care, and increase programs that specialize in treating methamphetamine use.*
- *MHB Chair Arneill reminded the committee that recommendations to the City of Sacramento are outside the MHB's scope, as confirmed with County Counsel.*
- *Chair Asmelash highlighted the importance of accessible inpatient mental*

health services for the homeless population.

- *Committee members discussed the feasibility of the above recommendations and Chair Arneill confirmed that recommendations having to do with sanitation and encampments, such as drinking water and security, are under the purview of the City of Sacramento rather than the County.*
- *Maria Padilla-Castro highlighted the interdependence of City and County areas of need and advocated for being bold in recommendations while maintaining feasibility.*
- *Dan Niccum highlighted the limited availability of money for acute beds versus community need, due to the high cost of the proposed recommendations.*
- *Dan Niccum suggested that the MHB advocate for more on-site services to increase the delivery of care, in an effort to stay within achievable cost parameters.*
- *Loran Sheley acknowledged upcoming funding challenges due to economic changes, and advocated for the importance of recommendations for the most needed services.*
- *Loran Sheley advocated for making recommendations for encampments in the County that are outside the jurisdiction of the City of Sacramento.*
- *Kelli Weaver clarified that mental health dollars have limitations on what they can be used for, and acknowledged that the identified needs above are important concerns that need to be addressed.*
- *Kelli Weaver highlighted the interaction between mental health and physical health services, and told committee members about the County Homeless Plan which provides some context for these issues.*
- *Chair Asmelash suggested the creation of recommendations for the most urgent needs first, with broader high-level recommendations at a later date.*
- *Loran Sheley acknowledged the importance of making high-level systemic recommendations for programs such as the Navigator program, and advocated for the creation of short term goals for critical areas of need first.*
- *Laura Bemis highlighted the importance of the transportation need identified, in terms of improving service accessibility.*
- *Kelli Weaver highlighted the availability of transportation services for Medi-Cal eligible consumers and discussed Medi-Cal eligibility requirements.*
- *Chair Asmelash summarized that the committee would like to make recommendations to ensure that critical issues (“pain points”) for the homeless population are being addressed, that short-term critical goals are established, and that long-term systemic goals are established.*
- *Maria Padilla-Castro highlighted the importance of ensuring that the experts who spoke to the MHB will feel like their concerns are being addressed.*
- *Chair Asmelash and Dan Niccum will send a draft of recommendations to Jason by COB Thursday, June 25th, for approval by the MHB at the July 1st General Meeting.*

5:50 p.m. Public Comment

- *No public comments were made.*

6:00 p.m. Adjourn

- *Chair Asmelash adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.*