

Minutes
Adult System of Care Committee
September 28, 2021 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Call-in: (669) 254-5252, Meeting ID: 160 996 1804, Passcode: 561672

Members Present: Corrine McIntosh Sako, Laura Bemis, Loran Sheley, Ann Arneill, and William Cho (staff: Jason Richards and Glenda Basina)
Members Absent: None

4:00 p.m. Welcome and Introduction
Corrine McIntosh Sako, Chairperson

Chair Corrine McIntosh Sako convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and introductions were made.

4:05 p.m. County Homeless Mental Health Services
Sheri Green, Health Program Manager
Child and Family Mental Health
Behavioral Health Services

Housing Services
Emily Halcon
Director of Homeless Initiatives
County of Sacramento

Emily Halcon, Director of Homeless Initiatives, gave a presentation on homelessness in Sacramento County. Themes included challenges with accessibility and availability of affordable housing in California, a corresponding rise in homelessness, and a disproportionate amount of persons of color experiencing homelessness. Ms. Halcon also went over Sacramento County's homeless support system, including year round shelters, traditional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and initiatives such as encampment teams and Covid-19 Homeless Response (see Handout #3 for full presentation).

Sheri Green, Health Program Manager, gave a presentation on services from BHS for individuals experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County. These services are funded primary through the Mental Health Services Act, and include interventions such as rent gap assistance, deposit assistance, voucher assistance, and shelter/motel assistance. In total, 29 BHS mental health providers currently provide supportive housing services, including Wellness Recovery Services and Guest House which specialize in serving individuals experiencing homelessness (see Handout #4 for full

presentation). Ms. Green clarified that Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)/Laura's Law services for this population is not yet available but is currently in development. Ms. Green also provided information about assessment services provided by mental health clinicians, The Source program, and Medication Assisted Treatment services which are facilitated by the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment team.

5:00 p.m. Take action on MHB-ASOC goal regarding Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)/Laura's Law:

- Review responses from informal research/survey of what other MHBs have done with regard to AOT/Laura's Law and produce a briefing/short report
 - o Los Angeles County, Contra Costa County, Placer County, Nevada County, & San Francisco County contacted
- Draft Letter of Recommendation to Board of Supervisors regarding Sacramento County's Implementation of AOT/Laura's Law – to be presented for approval to MHB at 10/6/21 meeting
 - Results of BHS's virtually hosted informational sessions on March 15, March 16, and April 19, 2021 and solicited community input via a brief survey
 - Community Input on Laura's Law/ Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
<https://dhs.saccounty.net/BHS/Documents/Virtual-Meetings/Laura%27s-Law-Assisted-Outpatient-Treatment/RT-BHS-Sacramento County Community Input AOT Report .pdf>
 - Collective Comment on Laura's Law/ Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) from Community Planning Process Sessions held 8/17/21
 - See attached document

Chair McIntosh-Sako reviewed responses received from other counties, regarding what other MHBs have done with regard to AOT/Laura's Law. Themes included AOT as a way to engage the client in appropriate outpatient mental/physical health services, as well as substance abuse, employment, and housing services, rather than a criminal justice process. A compassionate attitude was emphasized, focused on treatment rather than punishment. Responses were received primary from Nevada and Placer Counties.

Adult System of Care Committee Minutes

Chair McIntosh-Sako proposed drafting a letter for the Board of Supervisors with MHB recommendations on AOT/Laura's Law implementation, including feedback received from other counties as well as consumers. Dr. Ann Arneill recommended that there be an emphasis on engagement to encourage voluntary access to services, implicit bias training, training for law enforcement and members of the court to reduce stigma, and diverse representation in the provision of services. Ms. Loran Sheley recommended including provisions in the letter about discontinuing AOT if it is detrimental or causing undue duress.

Ms. Laura Bemis moved to approve the content of the letter as discussed (to be drafted and then approved at a subsequent MHB meeting), and Dr. Arneill seconded the motion. Motion carried (Yes: Corrine McIntosh Sako, Loran Sheley, Ann Arneill, and Laura Bemis; No: William Cho).

5:50 p.m. Public Comment

- *Community member expressed appreciation for the work of the MHB ASOC Committee on this meeting's topics, particularly around client voice and choice.*
- *Community member echoed support for the public comment above.*

6:00 p.m. Adjourn

Chair Sheley adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.