

Minutes
Adult System of Care Committee
August 25, 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, Bradley Lueth, Maria Padilla-Castro, (Stephanie Dasalla, staff)

Members Absent: Theresa Riviera

Attendees: Jennifer Reiman, Karen Wallace, Kelli Weaver, Diane Mintz, E. Kaiho Hopper, Stephanie Kelly, David Bain, Linda Riccardo-Henderson, Robin Barney, Sandena Bader, Niki Jones, Jessie-Sacramento, Bonnie Grayhill, Melinda Avey, Genelle Cazares, Patricia W., Courtney, Anne-Marie Rucker, Dr. Flojaune Cofer, Liz Blum, Veronica Hallgren, Melissa Planas, Michelle S., Leslie Napper, Sierra Northcut, Kezzia Bullen, Jenine, Tifanei Rossi-Moyer, Felisa, Doug Smith

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

- Chair Viva Asmelash convened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and conducted roll call of Committee members.
- Chair Asmelash announced an agenda change: Bridgette Dean would move to 4:10 pm and Laura Bemis and E. Kaiho Hopper would move to 4:25 pm.

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

- Chair Asmelash reminded all attendees that the intention of this Committee is to focus on outcomes, promote synergy and efficiency, provide support for committee members to feel unified, promote committee members feeling valuable in pursuit of committee goals, and engage the community.

4:10 p.m. Updates on potential alternative first responder program

- Bridgette Dean, Interim Director of the Office of Community Response for the City of Sacramento, provided updates on a proposed alternative to current first responder programs and procedures, as follows.
 - A systemic change is required in Sacramento County regarding responding to mental health crises in the community; 911 is still the number one phone number used for mental health crises, which requires a change.
 - As a system, we need to advocate for legislative changes regarding mental health crises and 5150 holds.

- *The goal of the Office of Community Response for the City of Sacramento is to create a new program with 24/7 mental health crisis response teams located in the communities of underserved/unserved populations.*
- *The planning/working name of the new program is, "Office of Community Response."*
- *A webpage is currently being developed to keep the community informed and ensure a transparent process as the program is being developed.*
- *These new teams are an opportunity to become a national model.*

4:25 p.m. Family experiences with law enforcement

- *Laura Bemis, Mental Health Board (MHB) member, reported that letters had been distributed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Cal Voices NorCal, and Sacramento County requesting individuals and family members to share their experiences with mental health crisis, law enforcement, and first responders. Laura announced that surprisingly, very few responses were received. Responses received were mostly from parents of adult mental health clients. Laura is expecting to receive some responses from TCORE clients. She will share recurring themes from responses received at an upcoming meeting.*
- *E. Kano Hopper discussed the following reasons why there may have been a low response to the above inquiry:*
 - *Client stigma and accidentally stigmatizing family members*
 - *Confidentiality-HIPPA related concerns*
 - *Re-traumatizing clients and/or family members*
 - *Legally advised not to speak of experience(s)*
 - *Potential negative outcomes/not worth the risk of sharing*
 - *Fear that sharing experience could result in a/another 5150 hold*
- *Laura added that the theory of anosognosia could also contribute to the lack of responses to the letter. Anosognosia: a deficit of self-awareness, a condition in which a person with a disability is unaware of having it.*
- *E. Kano Hopper expressed the need for the following:*
 - *Adult respite centers*
 - *Mediation services*
 - *Teen support groups*

- *Co-occurring services under one roof so clients do not have to go to separate clinics for mental health services and substance use treatment services (such as Federally Qualified Health Centers)*
- *More training for mobile crisis support teams*

4:45 p.m. Intersection of criminal justice and mental health

- *Dr. Flojaune Cofer, a representative from Public Health Advocates, provided an overview of the intersection of criminal justice and mental health, as follows.*
 - *Discussed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs are traumatic events that occur during childhood and over 60% of the population has at least one ACE.*
 - *ACEs are important in terms of our brain development and can have a significant impact on a person's physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their life, which can contribute to criminalized behaviors.*
 - *Current service systems are designed and prepared for emergency response. Service systems need to be structurally re-designed to always think of prevention first. Services systems with prevention as the focus rather than emergency response have better outcomes.*
 - *Public Health Advocates is currently working on a CARESTAR grant to strengthen partnerships and build knowledge in injury prevention, emergency response, and trauma care.*

5:00 p.m. Update from the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board's Criminal Justice Committee

- *Melinda Avey, Chairperson of the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (ADAB), provided an update on the activities of the ADAB Criminal Justice Committee, as follows.*
 - *The ADA Criminal Justice Committee was formed in the spring of 2019 and includes representatives from Sacramento County Substance Use Prevention & Treatment Services, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services, Sacramento County Sheriff Department, Sacramento County Office of Public Defender, Sacramento County Office of District Attorney, Sacramento County Probation Department, Sacramento County Correctional Health Services, Sacramento County Jail Psych Services, Sacramento City Police, Sacramento County Treatment Providers, and Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board Members.*

- *The purpose of the ADAB Criminal Justice Committee is to collaboratively address issues facing the justice system and its partners, improve the administration of multisystem services to justice-involved individuals identified with behavioral health concerns while promoting public safety. The ADAB Criminal Justice Committee also reviews and makes recommendations for substance use disorder related policies and procedures for justice-involved individuals.*
- *Accomplishments include:*
 - *Provided support and advocacy to ensure all inmates currently prescribed mental health medications, leave the facility with a minimum 30-day supply of their prescribed medications.*
 - *Provided specific program components to assist in the design of the Mental Health Services Act Forensic Behavioral Health Innovation Project.*

5:10 p.m. Overview of Community Support Teams (CSTs) and Mobile Crisis Support Teams (MCSTs)

- *Jennifer Reiman, Mental Health Program Coordinator, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation about CSTs and MCSTs (Attachment 1).*
 - *Jennifer explained that the hiring of diverse staff for both teams is a high priority. Approval has been given to expand these teams.*
 - *The PowerPoint presentation, the CST and MCST brochures, and website links will be sent to meeting participants.*
 - *CST: <https://dhs.saccounty.net/BHS/Documents/Provider-Forms/Brochures/BR-Community-Support-Team-brochure-English.pdf>*
 - *MCST: <https://dhs.saccounty.net/BHS/Documents/Provider-Forms/Brochures/BR-Mobile-Crisis-Support-Team-brochure-English.pdf>*

5:40 p.m. Overview of Crisis Intervention Training in Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

- *Ann Arneill, MHB Chairperson, announced that she would provide an update/overview of the Crisis Intervention Training at the next meeting as she is still waiting to receive information she requested. She will provide an update/overview at an upcoming next meeting.*
- *Ann reported that to increase law enforcement accountability related to responding to mental health crises, the City of Sacramento Police Commission is convening a Serious Incident Review Board. This Board*

will be developed using the San Francisco and Seattle models. Result of the Serious Incident Reviews will be available to the public.

- *Ann highlighted the great work of the volunteer organization, Mental Health First. This organization provides mental health crisis support by phone and has teams of crisis interventionists, medical assistants, and security liaison to respond to mental health crises in the community. They are available Friday through Sunday, 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM.*

5:50 p.m. Public Comment

- *Public Comment #1: Community Member briefed the Committee about a letter she received and had shared with the MHB regarding a family's experience with law enforcement. Ann Arneill assured Community Member that the MHB was following up.*
- *Public Comment #2: Community Member thanked all participants for stories shared and information presented. Community Member explained that he is a Peer Crisis Counselor with Mental Health First, which is a harm reduction, client driven program. Phone number: (916) 670-4062. Community Member encouraged participants to follow them on social media and take advantage of this community resource.*
- *Public Comment #3: Community Member is a South Sacramento native and advocated for less law enforcement presence, which can be harmful during a mental health crisis. Community Member also advocated for increased CST presence in South Sacramento.*
- *Public Comment #4: Community Member expressed his concern for the unmet needs in low-income and unserved/underserved communities. African American needs are still greater than what is understood. Community Member shared his experience with a pastor inquiring about mental health crisis services and how Mercy San Juan Medical Center's intake for mental health crises can take 3-4 hours. Community Member advocated for more community outreach.*
- *Public Comment #5: Community Member, a family member, advocated for more connection with Mental Health First and to respond to mental health crises without law enforcement involvement. Community Member discussed the Jail Support Program/Anti-Police Project and emphasized the importance of how using law enforcement compounds trauma, which compounds mental health issues.*

6:00 p.m. Adjourn

- *Chair Asmelash adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.*