

California Coalition for Mental Health

Wednesday January 22, 2020

10:00am – 3:00pm

California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions

2125 19th Street, Sacramento, CA 95818

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, Transfer of CCMH Leadership

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Amanda Levy, incoming CCMH President.

Approval of September 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Janlee Wong and seconded by Heidi Strunk. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Neidenberg reported there is \$6058.00 in the account. Next week dues notices are being sent out and, when received, should bring the account total to approximately \$13,308.

Mental Health Matters Day

Mental Health Matters Day will be on May 20, 2020 from 9:00am – 2:00pm on the east side of the State Capitol. An ask for sponsorship by CCMH is postponed until dues are received and an accounting of available resources is confirmed. Reschedule request to March 11th meeting.

There is a competition to design the t-shirt logo for this year. The theme is “2020 Vision: Hope, Change, Action”. Key speakers have not yet been identified.

Legislative Update

Fred reported they are working with Assembly member Ting regarding timely access. Seeking to have time limits apply to follow-up appointments, not just first appt.

Heidi reported on AB 1838 (Chu) for excused absences due to mental health needs. AB 1939 (Eggman) allow use of MHSA funds for involuntary hospital services.

Sheron reported on SB 803 (Beall) regarding Peer Certification and SB 854 (Beall) to remove barriers for SUD treatment including medication assisted treatment. SB 855 (Weiner) regarding Parity.

Budget Review

Stephanie Welch handed out a briefing document regarding the Governor's proposed \$222.2 billion budget for fiscal year 2020-21.

Stephanie provided some highlights including how the Governor is re-investing in rehabilitation especially for juveniles and expanding therapeutic program for individuals up to 25 years. His plan to

transition Juvenile Justice from Corrections to Health and Human Services Agency and create a new Department of Youth & Community Restoration.

Governor proposing more funding to address homelessness. Governor just released his Regional Homeless Report.

CCMH De-Criminalization Workgroup Discussion

Sharon reported that the workgroup meets on the last Friday of each month (except CCMH mtg months). The workgroup explores legislation and issues impacting behavioral health and criminal justice.

She handed out a report entitled “California’s Adult Corrections Population to Post Release Community Supervision: Probation in California” which indicates that increased numbers of individuals are returning to community under Post Release Community Supervision. Projections into the next five years show a greater than 5% increase. A small number of counties are receiving a significant number of individuals released from state prisons.

Member Announcements

Joseph reported that Each Mind Matters will be highlighted at 3 baseball games: May 1st at Rivercats, May 5th at Oakland A’s and May 31st at the Los Angeles Angels. Signage will be displayed in the parks and behind home plate.

Randall announced the Words2Deeds breakfast coming up on February 5th at the Capitol. There will be a policy briefing re: use of MAT and long acting medication in special populations. Also, a Street Psychiatry team from Alameda will present about their program.

CPA is sponsoring an event in Berkeley with Dr. Tom Insel and Dr. John Snook from TAC in Virginia for a viewing of “Bedlam”.

Fred reported the 1 week strike by Kaiser psychiatric workers in December occurred in numerous cities across CA. The next step is to go back to the negotiating table.

Janlee reported the Kennedy Forum sponsoring Mental Health for US. Holding town halls to get presidential candidates to talk about vision in various states like Iowa, New Hampshire and to get direct questions into the upcoming debates.

Bill Proposal – Solitary Confinement legislation

Alex Binfeld, Legal Fellow at TGI Justice Project presented about their work to end the use of solitary confinement. Solitary confinement means being confined to a cell for 22-24 hours a day. Current limit in California is 5 continuous years per charge. Studies show that negative psychological effects occur within 15 days of solitary confinement.

They are seeking to propose legislation this year to eliminate solitary confinement or confinement of no more than 10 hours per day.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Parity and Medical Necessity

Lauren Finke, Kennedy Forum Fellow, presented regarding parity and the definition of medical necessity. There are efforts to provide clarity re: the definition of medical necessity which currently falls within the “Generally Accepted Standards of Care” and to expand its use to all mental health and substance use disorder diagnoses. Health plans are denying care using “proprietary criteria” under the above standard. A more clearly articulated definition would mitigate such use of hidden criteria.

It is also recommended that the solution address the clinical process used to assess a patient’s needs/diagnosis to ensure adequacy and appropriateness. They are asking for personal stories.

Report on Upcoming DMHC Access Regulations

Randall reported that there continues to be a lack of providers on panels and that those who are on panels are often not available.

In 2008, the Dept. of Managed Health Care (DMHC) issued regulations regarding the duration of wait to appointment is capped at 2 weeks for a licensed clinician and 3 weeks for psychiatrist. However, access remains an issue and while DMHC investigates and issues findings to have the plan make changes, there is no enforcement.

DMHC recently announced a plan to re-do the regulations. There is concern that the underlying issues of how to measure timeliness, that there is no set formula nor is there accurate data coming from the plans will remain and effectively negate any regulatory efforts.

The Parity Workgroup calls will resume in near future.

The Gatto Proposal was also discussed. The proposal uses criminalization to funnel the homeless (people with economic, addiction, and mental health needs) into services. Under the proposal, it would be mandatory that individuals committing misdemeanor crimes be arrested and then go into a specialty court. The proposal focuses a bigger role for law enforcement to manage homelessness. It also proposes to divert up to 45% of MHSA revenues to fund the program.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06pm.

Attendees:

Joseph Robinson, EMM
Janlee Wong, NASW CA
Alejandro Contreras, NASW intern
Kendra Barnes, NASW intern
Jennifer Alley, CAMFT
Daphne Shaw, CBHPC
Randall Hagar, CA Psychiatric Association
Jessica Early, NUHW

Fred Seavy, NUHW
Jane Adcock, CBHPC
Heidi Strunk, Mental Health America CA
Carol Neidenberg, MHA, San Diego
Amanda Levy, CA Psychological Association
Curtis Paullins, MHAC/CCMH
Sheron Wright, CCJBH