

California Coalition for Mental Health

Wednesday June 3, 2020
10:00am – 11:00am

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by President Amanda Levy. She welcomed all and acknowledged the new virtual meeting format.

Approval of March 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Jennifer Alley and seconded by Daphne Shaw. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Neidenberg reviewed a short financial report. We have \$8,176. 21 in paid membership dues received as of last week. As of end of April, account has \$15,908.

During the Mar meeting, members discussed supporting MHAC for the MHMD event and whether it was going to occur in May. The deadline for cancelation was met so no expenses were incurred.

Member Announcements

Amanda – Working on sorting through all changes needed, focused on telehealth. Involved in several joint letters to Administration regarding parity and to advocate for coverage of telehealth.

Association members are discussing whether it is more effective to provide services in person 6 feet apart with masks or via computer. Significant reductions in income drive decisions regarding whether to continue paying rent for office space.

Worked with CAMFT and NASW to develop a volunteer pool. About 1500 people have joined to do 2hrs of pro bono services a week. They are still taking names.

Heidi – Have been a part of a variety of coalitions to address emergency orders, expanding nurse practitioner role, flexibilities in the MHSA and proposed changes for MHSOAC powers/authority.

CAYEN has a TAY advocacy contract. Big challenge to convert the contract activities to virtual work, including conferences, forums, etc. They are finding that it is a challenge to engage youth, they don't like meeting virtually. A contradiction for youth who are all about their phones.

Do not yet have a new date for MHMD. Maybe in fall, will be all virtual.

Proud of MHAC team, they have sent out resources to support the African American and Latino communities, including free podcasts, events and online groups. Also sharing that under some employment laws, as the stay at home orders are lifted, need to check whether it requires an employer to demand workers back and if they don't return to work then will impact their Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Nabil- Staff are working 100% remotely.

CAMFT took double the usual number of calls when shelter in place order was made for the Bay Area. Also, released a statement about racism on webpage.

Provided about 7 online webinars and have had overwhelming positive response. Approx 7300 participants. All offered for free on popular topics, eg., attorneys talking about telehealth regulations, another on how to do telehealth for kids. We used Zoom and ourselves, no contractor. Now trying to provide resources for members, updates on Covid-19 info daily.

Working on videos, lots of questions from members who want to reopen their offices and about clinical factors to be considered under telehealth. Each county has reopening criteria restrictions so is difficult to provide guidance.

Jen added that the CAMFT is waiting to see what happens with bills we support. They are getting ready to do floor alert for SB 855 (Weiner) and doing all can to keep members informed.

Megan – CAMHPRA reports that most counties have figured out how to do the hearings that PRAs are responsible for. They are also having frequent check-ins with members. Have found that some courts shut down due process hearings which impacts individuals' rights. Have been working on how to have a presence, do outreach, including going to board and care homes.

Some counties are already looking at going back into hospitals, although it is county by county. Each court decides what they will do and when.

There are some bills we are working on. AB 1976 (Eggman) seeks to extend the timeline for AOT indefinitely. We are opposed to making the boards of supervisors' to opt out. Also, AB 2015 (Eggman) which seeks to have situations when an individual is unable to care for their medical conditions be added to involuntary commitment criteria. We are opposed and submitting testimony.

Daphne- Reported that the Planning Council also opposes to 1976. The Council's June meetings will be committee meetings only and held virtually.

The Patients' Rights Committee has put together a survey for county boards/commissions to ask about their interaction with PRAs in their county. We recognize it is difficult time, so will see what response we get.

Janlee - NASW is part of group working to smooth out telehealth rules for service provider. Now focused on transitions, which will be permanent and which will only occur in response to emergency.

Another area of effort is the Black Lives Matter issue. Planning to hold a town hall meeting to discuss, we recognize there is some serious mental health impact to what is happening across country. Triggering trauma eg if saw Floyd video, emotional reaction and is traumatizing. The forum is to discuss and figure out what we can do, there is so much happening all at once, can we make systemic reform?

Carol - I haven't been back in office since I left on 3/10 to attend our March meeting.

Staff can come in and out of office but no clients. Office is closed indefinitely. People are not being discontinued on MediCal right now so not having to do hearings although we anticipate that evictions will increase. The stimulus checks are spent and it appears that no further support is coming.

This is a time of learning for all organizations. Homeless individuals are being housed in the San Diego Convention Center (should have been ComiCon right now but cancelled). Those offering clinical services are all doing it via telehealth. I just learned that Club Houses have opened but not sure how they are doing it, I am having staff check it out.

Jessica - NUHW members are seeing uptick in numbers of existing and new patients so our main focus is trying to meet demand. Members have developed a list of policy proposals on how to deliver health care under C-19 and meet need.

NUHW has put out a statement to support protest actions. We are continuing to support the Weiner bill.

Kaiser providers have transitioned to remote work except for ER services. The need for more PPE and safety protocols continue to be consistent issues. Members want to deliver high quality patient care while staying on the job.

Erin - Reported she has moved from LA to San Diego to start a new job. Like others, OTAC's focus is to support transition to telehealth.

OTAC is holding webinars, forums, etc., to provide info on telehealth requirements. Also teaching students about more places OTs can play a role in mental health services. An emerging area of practice is in homeless services.

Lastly, OTAC put out a Call to Action regarding the state budget proposal to cut OT benefits in Medi-Cal.

Other News

Janlee planned to retire 7/31/2020 but so many members have asked him to continue so is discussing postponing the date. He recognizes these are extraordinary times and professionals are needed.

President's Closing Remarks

Keep Sept meeting and move to virtual. Plan to have speakers. Let us know if you have any info to share as reported on today

Motion to adjourn made by Carol and seconded by Jen. Motion approved.

Adjourned at 10:58am.

Attendees:

Amanda Levy, Psychological Assoc

Jennifer Ally, CAMFT

Janlee Wong, NASW

Nabil E-Ghoroury, CAMFT

Curtis Paulins, MHAC, CCMH

Jane Adcock, CBHPC

Carol Neidenberg, MHA, San Diego

Heidi Strunk, MHAC

Jessica Early, NUHW

Daphne Shaw, CBHPC

Megan Wheelehan, CAMPRA

Erin McIntyre, OTAC