



## State of California

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
November 17, 2016

MHSOAC Offices  
Darrell Steinberg Conference Room  
1325 J Street, Suite 1700  
Sacramento, California 95814

866-817-6550; Code 3190377

#### **Members Participating**

Victor Carrion, M.D., Chair  
Reneeta Anthony  
Khatera Aslami-Tamplen  
John Boyd, PsyD  
Sheriff Bill Brown  
John Buck  
Itai Danovitch, MD  
David Gordon  
Gladys Mitchell  
Larry Poaster, PhD  
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond  
Richard Van Horn

#### **Members Absent:**

Tina Wooton, Vice Chair  
Lynne Ashbeck  
Senator Jim Beall

#### **Staff Present**

Toby Ewing, PhD, Executive Director;  
Filomena Yeroshek, Chief Counsel;  
Norma Pate, Deputy Director,  
Program, Legislation, and Technology;  
Brian Sala, PhD, Deputy Director,  
Evaluation and Program Operations;  
Fred Molitor, PhD,  
Director, Research and Evaluation;

## CONVENE

Chair Victor Carrion called the meeting of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) to order at 9:09 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Filomena Yeroshek, Chief Counsel, called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

### Announcement

Brian Sala, Ph.D., MHSOAC Deputy Director, introduced new staff member Urmi Patel, MHSOAC Consulting Psychologist.

Fred Molitor, Ph.D., MHSOAC Director of Research and Evaluation, introduced new staff member Maryjoyce Naguit, MHSOAC Researcher.

## ACTION

### **1A: Approve October 27, 2016, MHSOAC Meeting Minutes**

Action: Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, that:

*The Commission approves the October 27, 2016, Meeting Minutes.*

Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted "Yes": Chair Carrion and Commissioners Anthony, Aslami-Tamplen, Brown, Buck, Danovitch, Gordon, Mitchell, Poaster, and Van Horn.

## INFORMATION

### **1B: October 27, 2016, Motions Summary**

### **1C: Evaluation Dashboard**

### **1D: Calendar**

## ACTION

### **2: Research and Evaluation Update and New Contracts**

**Presenters:** Fred Molitor, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation; Brian Sala, Ph.D., Deputy Director; and Ashley Mills, MHSOAC staff

Ms. Mills provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of current and upcoming policy project activities and the lessons learned that will allow future policy project activities to be implemented with greater efficiency. Ms. Mills stated that Commissioner Brown was awarded the Paradigm Award at the Words to Deeds Conference in November.

Director of Research and Evaluation Molitor continued the slide presentation and discussed three county support projects: the duration of untreated mental illness study; the community services and supports (CSS) tracking, monitoring, and evaluation system toolkit; and the triage project evaluation. He also discussed the topic of surveillance as a proposed focus area for 2017 and next steps.

Deputy Director Sala continued the slide presentation and updated the Commission on the MHSOAC transparency website including the contracted resources the Commission

is currently working with, and the planned budget and cost breakdown for the different elements of the transparency website including hosting and application maintenance.

### **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Buck asked if the CSS tracking, monitoring, and evaluation system toolkit would include models for full service partnerships (FSPs) as well as other CSS funded programs. Director of Research Molitor stated that the CSS tracking project was developed to fill the gap in the data that is available for CSS programs that are not FSPs. The Data Collection and Reporting (DCR) system only has information on FSPs and currently there is little data on non-FSPs.

Commissioner Van Horn stated one of the problems is there have been no outcomes for service levels less than FSP. He asked if the tracking tool will focus on the same range of outcomes as FSPs. Deputy Director Sala stated this is proposed contract builds upon a prior contract with the UC. San Diego, which was to pilot a tracking system for non-FSP CSS programming to enhance the counties' ability to report their CSS data to the state and to do analytics locally. The intention of this proposed contract is to develop technical assistance materials to help counties assess the feasibility of adopting something like the piloted system in order to enable them to do local analysis of data. The OAC does not have regulatory authority to require counties to report data on non-FSP CSS programs.

Commissioner Poaster asked what was learned from the main study. Deputy Director Sala stated the goal of that contract was to do preliminary analysis of outcomes in programs. The technical objectives were met, but the pilots were not implemented early enough to assess changes in outcomes for clients.

Commissioner Van Horn stated it will work if the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) updates the regulations so that data from non-FSP CSS programs is collected in the DCR. The Department needs to expand the definition of "whatever it takes". He stated Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg is frustrated at the slowness of finding usable information to display the success of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The Commission and others have pushed the DHCS, but the result has been much too slow.

Executive Director Ewing stated the right entities are not at the table to answer Commissioner questions on this issue. He suggested asking representatives from the DHCS and the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) to present at a future Commission meeting to discuss the challenges so the Commission can better understand the difficulty and why it is taking so long, and to figure out how to speed up the process in partnership with the Steinberg Institute, the CBHDA, the DHCS, and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

Commissioner Buck suggested that the presentations not only discuss the challenges but what they are actively doing, where that will lead, and the expected timeline.

Commissioner Anthony asked if there is an agreement between the Commission and the DHCS so the Commission can obtain the data. Deputy Director Sala stated that the Commission has a Data Use Agreement with the DHCS.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the proposed data requirements are being discussed at the DHCS quarterly meetings and if the Commission attends those meetings to learn data collection elements that the DHCS already has. Executive Director Ewing stated the

Commission is at the table with the DHCS and is trying to make use of existing data and work with counties to improve their ability to utilize their own data.

Commissioner Danovitch suggested improving communication and messaging to avoid summarizing the issue each time it is discussed at a meeting. It would be helpful for the Commissioners to have a timeline on this project so Commissioners know what comes next. Executive Director Ewing agreed. He stated this was not started as a project, but as a way to report on unspent funds that evolved into a project because of the challenges. He suggested making this a formal project with a more formal project management strategy.

Action: Commissioner Boyd made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Danovitch, that:

*The MHSOAC authorizes the Executive Director to enter into contracts for an amount not to exceed \$225,000 for ongoing support of a platform-as-a-service for display and visualization of data regarding MHSA-related programs, providers, and services.*

Motion carried 12 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted “Yes”: Chair Carrion and Commissioners Anthony, Aslami-Tamplen, Boyd, Brown, Buck, Danovitch, Gordon, Mitchell, Poaster, Thurmond, and Van Horn.

## **INFORMATION**

### **3: Exploring Topics for Potential New Policy Projects**

**Presenter:** Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director

Executive Director Ewing referred to the list of potential new policy projects in the meeting packet and asked Commissioners to identify themes for staff to research and prepare brief outlines to present to the Commission to help Commissioners determine the policy research projects to undertake for 2017. He added to the list the following themes: workforce, the intersection of the health care system and mental health, and the mental health needs of law enforcement officers.

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen suggested homelessness, suicide prevention, and peer certification. Commissioner Thurmond suggested criminal justice and mental health and the mental health needs of immigrant communities. Commissioner Danovitch stated there could be major changes to the health care system depending on what happens with the Affordable Care Act and thus there is a need to look at how to safeguard mental health parity. Commissioner Gordon suggested looking at the needs of young families with children ages 0-5. Commissioner Mitchell suggested looking at the definition of “adult” as used in the mental health system. Chair Carrion suggested needs and programs across the lifespan be added to the list.

Commissioner Brown encouraged the Commission to only do one or two projects per year and not try to do too much. Commissioner Van Horn suggested emotional wellness be removed from the list because the Surgeon General is working with researchers at UCLA on this topic. Executive Director Ewing stated that some of these topics can be learning collaboratives or handled through other activities and need not be projects. Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen mentioned that the Commission’s Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee is very stated on the needs of immigrants and could work on it.

## **Public Comment**

Simon Vue, Program Assistant, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), suggested the following priority themes: mental health disparities among culturally diverse racial/ethnic communities, the increased bullying and harassment faced by communities of color, community health workers, and peer certification.

## **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen suggested that the Committees work on topics that are not chosen as Commission policy research projects for 2017.

Chair Carrion agreed that there are other ways to address some issues outside of policy research projects.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested combining similar themes into one.

Commissioner Poaster suggested that the brief outline/analysis on each topic cite other work that is already being done on each of these issues.

## **ACTION**

### **4: Legislative Priorities**

**Presenter:** Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director

Executive Director Ewing summarized three issues for possible future legislation: (1) accessing data to enable the Commission to measure outcomes identified in the MHSA; (2) establishing a Mental Health Fellowship for Consumers and mental health professional; and (3) permitting the OAC to conduct site visits of facilities that are not public such as jail, state hospitals, etc. Executive Director Ewing also highlighted a letter from Commissioner Beall asking for support of his legislation on mental health and the schools to be introduced in the coming legislative session.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Vue suggested including discussion topics with the Legislature on reducing disparities or accessing county information on reducing disparities, such as collecting demographic data.

Steve Leoni, consumer and advocate, suggested including the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) in legislation as a sister group to the Commission. He stated it is difficult to get data on the utilization of locked facilities and residential board and care facilities. These facilities cannot be properly managed at the state and county level without that data.

Elizabeth Oseguera, Senior Policy Analyst, California Primary Care Association, spoke in support of legislation around data collection to see who is receiving services and where more services are needed.

## **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen suggested including peer certification and SB 614 in discussions with the Legislature.

Executive Director Ewing mentioned that this discussion is regarding legislation that the OAC would sponsor. This would not preclude supporting existing bills.

Commissioner Thurmond stated there are legitimate reasons for an exception to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to enable the Commission to do its work. He asked if the Newspaper Association, advocates for protecting open government, has indicated conditions that might be important for them to support the Commission's legislation, such as allowing an observer to be present with Commissioners, and if similar efforts have been pursued for other agencies that need to have an exemption.

Executive Director Ewing stated the Newspaper Association indicated they would be willing to discuss it, but a meeting has not yet occurred. The Public Utilities Commission and other bodies have provisions that are narrowly drafted and often have requirements around immediate reporting out or recording conversations that are confidential but that are disclosable under certain situations.

Action: Commissioner Boyd made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen, that: *The MHSOAC authorizes the Executive Director to pursue discussions with the Legislature on the following topics:*

- *Accessing data to enable the Commission to measure outcomes identified in the Mental Health Services Act.*
- *Establishing a Mental Health Fellowship for Consumers and Psychiatry.*
- *Amending the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to permit the Commission to conduct oversight by visiting facilities that are not public, including but not limited to, jails, prisons, mental health facilities, and state hospitals.*

Motion carried 11 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted "Yes": Chair Carrion and Commissioners Aslami-Tamplen, Boyd, Brown, Buck, Danovitch, Gordon, Mitchell, Poaster, Thurmond, and Van Horn.

## **INFORMATION**

### **5: MHSOAC Committees**

**Presenter:** Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director

Executive Director Ewing stated the Commission has five standing committees and five subcommittees for each of the Commission's policy research projects. There has been discussion about reframing the review and approval process of Innovation projects to a committee. He stated staff would work with the Chairs of the five standing committees to convene a joint meeting to discuss lessons learned and develop ideas on how to improve support for the Commission's projects and increase public awareness and access for those projects, particularly around reducing disparities. The goal is to improve the ability to hear from the public and subject matter experts, improve the committees' communication strategy, and bring a proposal for 2017 to the Commission about how to more effectively utilize those committees, and determine if the creation of a new Innovation subcommittee is necessary.

## **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen stated the two-year term for Committee members ends in December and suggested convening the Committees prior to member turnover to expedite the work of the Commission. Executive Director Ewing agreed that it is important to have the discussion with experienced members and to shape the incoming Committee membership based on current member input. He mentioned that the goal is to enhance the input and create more pathways so that people who are not selected to be on committees also have a voice. With support from the Legislature, the Commission increased the funds for stakeholder contracts to help increase the public engagement.

Commissioner Danovitch suggested including that evaluation and dissemination on Innovation projects should be folded into the projects and be part of what the counties take on, as opposed to the Commission taking on those responsibilities.

Commissioner Van Horn stated Innovation is critically important, but the Innovation projects being submitted recently are not the kinds of changes intended by Proposition 63. Adaptations of other projects do not merit new Innovation funding. Much more energy needs to go into the Commission review of Innovation projects. The bar needs to be raised and it may take the creation of a subcommittee or focusing current Committees on Innovation issues to do that. Executive Director Ewing stated staff has been working on that issue and will report their findings in a future meeting.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Vue spoke in support of a public engagement process that includes consumers, family members, and representatives from underserved communities in the discussion on the role and membership of the Committees. He stated the need to return to more robust Committees that work in collaboration with the Commission and advise the Commission on important items prior to Commission meetings.

Mr. Leoni stated the Committees are valuable but they have struggled, especially the Services Committee. He agreed with the need for clarity of the role of Committees in relation to the Commission, and the need for data to feed into Committee discussions. He stated there needs to be a sense of ownership among the Committees and that the recommendations they bring to the Commission are respected and acted upon so the Commission does not lose Committee members and their expertise. He suggested including in the discussion how to excite new members and make them feel like family.

## **INFORMATION**

### **6: No Place Like Home Overview**

**Presenters:** Ben Metcalf, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and Lisa Bates, Deputy Director, HCD

Ben Metcalf, Director, HCD, provided an overview of the recently-enacted No Place Like Home legislation, what the path forward looks like over the next year to implement that new authority, and the role the Commission may play in advising and supporting implementation of the program. He briefly summarized the background and current state of homelessness in California and nationwide, the ongoing work to address homelessness, and the general structure of the No Place Like Home program. He stated

the HCD, the agency identified in statute to implement this program, will convene an advisory committee of partners and stakeholders, including the MHSOAC, and release a framework document by the end of the year on how to operationalize the program. After gathering input in a public stakeholder process, HCD will develop program guidelines by the end of next summer. The program is expected to roll out in the beginning of 2018 after the completion of a validation process with the courts.

### **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen stated the concern that not every city has rent caps. She gave the example of a resident in an apartment complex for seniors in Alameda County with Section 8 housing who was served notice of a \$600-per-month rent increase. She asked about statewide rent caps and discriminatory policies against the homeless population.

Mr. Metcalf stated counties are asked to think comprehensively about homelessness before No Place Like Home funding will be released to them. There is not one solution to end homelessness; it takes the engagement and coordination of many agencies and the utilization of many tools. Senate Bill (SB) 1380 creates a new state interagency coordinating council to look at all state policies that touch homelessness to standardize language and efforts. He stated HCD has been working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development on increasing the flexibility of the voucher system to rise more quickly with market-rate rents.

Commissioner Van Horn stated the concern that the commitment to provide the services individuals need is not part of No Place Like Home. He asked if counties and community agencies will provide the services needed for individuals in the program. Mr. Metcalf stated services need to be part of the package. There is an affirmative obligation to any project that receives No Place Like Home funding to match those funds with services that are commensurate to the need of the individuals in the program.

Commissioner Anthony asked if county ten-year plans to end homelessness will be used for this initiative or if another planning process will be required to incorporate any changes in the new legislation. Lisa Bates, Deputy Director, HCD, stated county plans that already incorporate permanent supportive housing in a continuum of care most likely will be relevant to the initiative.

Commissioner Poaster asked if the seven percent will come off the top of the MHSA fund, not just from the services component. Mr. Metcalf stated that was correct but it will be gradually phased in through one percent per year over a seven-year period.

### **Public Comment**

Anna Hasselblad, Steinberg Institute, spoke in support of the implementation of the No Place Like Home program and thanked the Commission and HCD for their leadership and commitment to this issue.

Mr. Leoni stated the advisory committee to be convened by HCD is made up of professionals and one consumer who must be a member in the housing project. He stated the concern that the consumer may be fairly early on in their recovery, may not have the knowledge and experience to understand the issues discussed, and may not have much policy experience. This does not serve the client community well. He stated it is difficult enough for an experienced advocate to be the sole consumer on a board. He suggested



appointing a minimum of two consumers to the advisory committee and including family members and representatives of cultural communities that would be served by the initiative. He also suggested the creation of a subcommittee that feeds into the advisory committee that includes a diverse group of stakeholders. He stated the need for the legislation to be amended because one lone consumer will not be enough, no matter how much they put their heart into it.

Heidi Strunk, Advocacy Coordinator, California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations (CAMHPRO), echoed Mr. Leoni's comments about the lone consumer spot on the advisory board. She asked that the advisory committee members be expanded to include those who the initiative is intended to serve. She asked the HCD to put forth good faith efforts to advertise meeting times and hold them in areas where stakeholders can be involved. She suggested using the MHSOAC mailing list to distribute information.

Michael Helmick, Assistant Director, REMHDCO, agreed with Mr. Leoni that the advisory committee is not representative of the community. He urged the HCD to engage with stakeholders and members of the community so that it is representative of the MHSA. He requested the HCD provide frequent updates to the MHSOAC.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

## **INFORMATION**

### **7: Farewell to MHSOAC Chair Carrion**

Commissioner Poaster stated Chair Carrion has stepped down from the Commission after five years of service to continue his work as Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. He presented Chair Carrion with a California Senate resolution in appreciation for his years of service with the Commission.

## **ACTION**

### **8: Madera County Innovation Plan**

**Presenter:** Brian Sala, Ph.D., Deputy Director

**County Presenters:** David Weikel, PsyD, Program Supervisor, Madera County Department of Behavioral Health Services, and Debbie DiNoto, MHSA Coordinator, Madera County Behavioral Health Services

Commissioner Buck recused himself from the discussion and decision-making with regard to this agenda item pursuant to Commission policy.

Deputy Director Sala provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation regarding the proposed five-year \$685,592 Madera County Innovation (INN) project, titled "Tele-Social Support Services."

Debbie DiNoto, MHSA Coordinator, Madera County Department of Behavioral Health Services (MCBHS), continued the slide presentation and discussed the Madera County profile and learning goals of the proposed INN project. She gave an example scenario from client and family perspectives of a situation seen on a regular basis in rural Madera County, which has no local mental health treatment facilities.

David Weikel, Psy.D., Program Supervisor, MCBHS, continued the slide presentation and discussed the instruments to be used, including the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System, to measure and evaluate the proposed INN project.

### **Commissioner Questions and Discussion**

Chair Carrion asked if the PROMIS system will be translated into Triqui, Mixteco, and Zapoteco languages. Dr. Weikel stated the Binational Center in Fresno will translate the material.

Commissioner Boyd commended the county for bringing something new that is needed in the community.

Commissioner Brown commended the county for bringing a project that is truly innovative.

Commissioner Van Horn agreed and suggested expanding the vision without spending more money by including iPhones and Facetime out in the community rather than bringing the family into the office to contact their loved ones via the professional-level equipment. Ms. DiNoto brought up the issue of confidentiality and the secure office lines that are housed in three locations throughout the county. It is something the county will look into.

Chair Carrion stated the families may need to speak to staff or a peer after connecting with loved ones. Dr. Weikel stated the family will, at minimum, have a peer, if not a case manager, with them for support.

Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen stated her appreciation that family members also will have opportunities to connect with peer support staff. She asked if the peer support staff will be trained in WRAP, the Wellness Recovery Action Plan. Dr. Weikel stated the training will be included in step 1 to bring a holistic look at needs and benefits for clients and family members.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Vue stated REMHDCO commends Madera County for their INN project that increases access to care. He asked if there was outreach to Latino and Native American communities in the design process. He asked if there will be a requirement or emphasis to hire individuals who represent and speak the languages of local communities and are culturally competent in order to effectively serve the population. Dr. Weikel stated there is outreach to all underserved populations. The county holds meetings in underserved communities and Rancherias so residents can attend meetings locally. Surveys have been another way to outreach. More than 50 percent of the county's staff and a larger percentage of peer support workers are of Spanish descent.

Ms. Strunk commended the county for their use of peers throughout the county. She agreed that taking cellphones to families would be helpful in cases where family members are unable to miss work to travel to the office.

Action: Commissioner Boyd made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Aslami-Tamplen, that:

*The MHSOAC approves Madera County's INN Project as follows:*

*Name: Tele-Social Support Services*

*Amount: \$685, 592*

*Program Length: Five Years*

Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted "Yes": Chair Carrion and Commissioners Anthony, Aslami-Tamplen, Brown, Danovitch, Gordon, Mitchell, Poaster, and Van Horn.

## **INFORMATION**

### **16: Executive Director Report Out**

**Presenter:** Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director

Executive Director Ewing presented his report:

#### Staff Changes/Vacancies

New staff members were introduced earlier in the meeting.

#### Communications

- A draft of an editorial on work done on triage and criminal justice will be presented before the end of the year.
- The documentary on the mental health needs of veterans aired in approximately twenty-four municipal television markets around the country with over fifty broadcasts.
- Jennifer Whitney, MHSOAC staff, will present a Draft Biennial Report on Commission activities in the January meeting to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature.
- The Draft Regulatory Implementation Report is at the printers and staff is working with a graphic designer.

#### Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence

Mayor-elect Steinberg helped to create two Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence at UCLA and UC Davis. Staff has been working with the Centers to improve the connection between the work of the Centers and counties. The MHSOAC convened a meeting with the principals of the Centers with the behavioral health directors and the Center for Behavioral Health Solutions to discuss ways to strengthen the connection between the Centers of Excellence and the individuals in charge of the community mental health system. Staff put together proposals for everyone to think about ways to make that partnership more robust.

## Triage

Staff continues to work with subject matter experts to think about the lessons learned from the first round of grant awards. A Request For Application outline for the next round of triage grants will be presented to the Commission for approval in early 2017.

## Projects

### Regulation Implementation

Staff is working on an implementation strategy.

### Children's Crisis Services

Executive Director Ewing and Commissioner Boyd will be presenting in Southern California in three weeks on the Crisis Services project.

### Issue Resolution Process

A draft report is expected to be presented at the February meeting.

### Fiscal Reversion

Staff continues to work on fiscal reversion as part of the fiscal transparency tool and is working with the DHCS to ensure that counties have input in the draft modification of the DHCS Annual Revenue and Expenditure Report form.

### Commission Meeting Calendar

The Commission does not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> but the date or location will need to be moved due to a festival that weekend, which will make securing hotel rooms and parking difficult. Staff will update Commissioners soon.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.