



**CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES • March 8, 2017**

TIME and LOCATION: CLCC assembled at 1:00 pm, in the MHSOAC Steinberg Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Khatera Aslami-Tamplen (Chair), Reneeta Anthony (Vice Chair)

CLCC members: Herman DeBose, Tando Goduka, Michael Helmick, Elisa Jimenez, JoAnn Johnson, Kalima Llyas, Rita Mehia, Elaine Peng, Hector Ramirez, Ed Soto, Miriam Vega (via teleconference), Poshi Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kimberly Diggles, Leslie Hillenbrand, Kali Patterson

MHSOAC Staff: Toby Ewing, Filomena Yeroshek, Brian Sala, Tom Orrock, Keely Connelly, Katherine Elliott

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS:

Chair Aslami-Tamplen welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 1:02 pm. Roll call was taken. Minimum quorum was met. Vice-Chair Anthony welcomed the committee members. MHSOAC Executive Director, Toby Ewing welcomed the members and thanked them for their involvement. He stated that our ability to listen should distinguish us from other larger state agencies and that doing this will allow the Commission to translate what is heard into policy and practice which will transform the mental health system and help us meet the goals of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). All members of the CLCC introduced themselves and gave a short statement about their background and experience with the public mental health system. Members shared about their interest in the MHSOAC Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee.

PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE MHSOAC

Brian Sala, MHSOAC Deputy Director, provided an overview of the purpose, goals, and expectations of the MHSA and the MHSOACs role in carrying out the goals of the Act.

He discussed the role of the committees as being a conduit for serving the needs of the Commission to transform the public mental health system.

The Commission has created the committees for specific purposes. The committee's role is to provide help to the Commission in order for it to achieve its objectives. Deputy Director Sala read the MHSOAC mission statement to the committee. It was pointed out that in this mission statement are many opportunities for the committee to participate. Information about the Research and Evaluation components of the Commission activities were shared. The research and evaluation budget is limited which means that the Commission needs to be specific about how it uses the resource. We need to leverage those funds in key ways to allow the funding to go further toward the goals of the MHSOAC. In April, a Fiscal Transparency tool may be available which will raise awareness about the mental health expenditures made by counties as well as unspent funds in county accounts. The hope is that the tool will bring about a greater level of engagement from the community at the county level. Holding county MH accountable for how money is spent is an important part of transparency. At the next meeting of the CLCC we can look at Phase II of the transparency tool. The transparency tool will allow information about best practice which can be spread around to other counties. We are trying to create an ethic of continued quality improvement. The MHSOACs role is really to connect the dots between counties.

Deputy Director Sala also highlighted the SB 82 Crisis Mental Health Triage grant program. This program provides 32 million dollars per year for Crisis services. These funds provide personnel for crisis intervention programs in 24 counties. The new RFA will be released in the spring of 2017. It was shared that Stakeholder contracts will be awarded to seven organizations. Awards will be made on March 23rd. It was shared that the MHSOAC conducts county three-year plan review. Counties are to submit their plans to the MHSOAC not for approval but review. If the MHSOAC recognizes issues with the plans, those concerns are communicated to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for enforcement. The Commission also approves county Innovation (INN) plans. A subcommittee has been designed to review the process for approving INN proposals. In 2011 the Legislature removed the role of the MHSOAC in INN and in 2012 in restored the role.

Deputy Director Sala discussed the current projects underway with the MHSOAC i.e. Children's Crisis Services, Criminal Justice and Mental Health, Schools and Mental Health, Issue Resolution Project, and a Project on Fiscal Reversion policy.

Public Comment:

No public comment

COMMITTEE GOALS, EXPECTATIONS, AND REVIEW OF THE 2016/17 CHARTER

Chair Aslami-Tamplen led a discussion about last year's Charter for the CLCC. Asked for input from the committee about items that should be considered for this year's Charter. Chair Aslami-Tamplen suggested that we have fewer items with more impact.

Hector Ramirez asked if we would be using workgroups or subcommittees. Chair Aslami-Tamplen stated that this would be considered moving forward.

Herman DeBose asked for clarification as to what it means to assist with special projects of the Commission. Herman asked to see a list of the Commissions special projects prior to the next meeting of the CLCC.

Michael Helmick requested that the Charter state that a member from the CLCC be on each committee of the MHSOAC. Michael also stated that the cultural competence requirements are far behind and that counties are wanting direction from DHCS regarding the requirements. Michael stated that the California Reducing Disparities Project plan should involve updates on the project and he wondered why there is a delay on this.

Chair Aslami-Tamplen stated that it would be helpful for the items discussed to find their way onto future agendas. She would like input from all members so that we can vote on the Charter at the next meeting.

Hector Ramirez talked about the intersectionality of cultural identifiers. Example: How do we serve someone in the MH system who is both AA and LGBTQ? He stated that we also need to address needs from our immigrant communities and how best to provide services to them.

Tando Goduka asked if it would be possible for CLCC members to be involved in the policy research. The Research and Evaluation agenda suggests what is presented and who presents to the Commission at meetings. A suggestion was made to provide training in cultural and linguistic competence to the Commission.

Poshi Walker made a suggestion to add to the Purpose and Goals section "differences in abilities, gender, and gender identity". She also shared that she had a concern that race was not brought up at the Criminal Justice/MH meeting. She stated that the committee needs to have a real presence not a haphazard presence.

Herman DeBose shared statistics about who receives services in LA County. Specifically addressed AA and Hispanic. He stated that he would like research about what we could do to reduce the number of African Americans and Hispanics in the Criminal Justice system. He believes that much of this is due to trauma. In LA County there is a small population of trauma survivors but they make up a large number of folks in the CJ/MH system.

Katherine Elliot shared about how focus groups have worked as an alternative to having people speak at community forums. One of the things she has worked on in the past was to put a protocol in place to address cultural and linguistic competence from the beginning of projects. This information has been gathered and can be shared with the committee.

Michael Helmick urged that before MHSOAC projects move forward they put representatives from the CLCC on the committees.

Rita Mehia feels that we need to find ways to reach out to immigrants who are living here right now. Wondered how counties are reaching out to these folks in their communities.

Herman DeBose stated that Katherine's work is important and that it is important to have this input at the beginning of projects.

Katherine stated that she will move forward to create a draft for protocols to ensure involvement of cultural and linguistic components at the beginning of all projects both state and local.

Herman DeBose asked if we could get a draft before the next meeting. Chair Aslami-Tamplen suggested that it would need to be out at least ten days prior to the meeting in May.

Miriam Vega wondered if we could focus on addressing community trauma in a more effective way, especially in schools.

Edward Soto welcomed public comment on the draft protocols and stated that he would be happy to provide an update on CRDP in the future.

REVIEW OF BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

Filomena Yeroshek, MHSOAC Chief Counsel, presented to the committee on the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act (Act) and how it relates to the committee functions. Items discussed centered on the three main duties under the Act. Transparency is one of the main focuses of the Act. The goal is to have the state conduct their meetings in open and transparent ways. The Act applies to the MHSOAC and the committees that are organized or created by the Commission. It also applies to any group of three or more individuals who are a part of the committee. If there is a meeting with a specific purpose of the majority of members to hear, discuss and deliberate, it's a meeting. It is not only when you are making a decision or voting. Gathering does not require a physical meeting. Emails can be considered a meeting if there are several members using Reply All to each other. We ask that members Reply but not Reply All. Violations of the Act are typically not intentional. One of the main issue to consider which occurs with teleconference meetings is that the address from where you are calling has to be public and the address has to be listed on the agenda. Calling from home is not an

option and so the staff will help members find a public location. This needs to be done well prior to the meeting because agendas have to be posted ten days in advance. The agenda has to have a brief description of the items with enough information to allow the public to make a decision about whether they want to come to hear about the item or make public comment on the item. You may not discuss items or take action on items that are not on the agenda. All documents that are given to the majority of the members must be provided to the public as well.

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

MHSOAC staff, Keely Connelly, shared information about travel procedures. Packets were distributed with all necessary forms. Standard form, 204 was explained and discussed. Ms. Connelly asked that it be filled out and turned in so that travel expenses can be reimbursed. The Travel Expense worksheet was explained and discussed. This form is filled out for every meeting with the date, meeting, and receipts attached. It is important for everyone to have an email listed on this form so that communication can take place via email. Everything must be signed in blue ink pen. Ms. Connelly invited members to email her with any questions or help that they may need to make travel and reimbursement for expenses more efficient.

PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR 2017 AND NEXT MEETING TOPICS

Chair Aslami-Tamplen reviewed the possible agenda items for the next meeting. These included: MHSOAC projects update, Research and Evaluation Transparency tool, Katherine's community involvement protocol, and adoption of the draft Charter. Vice Chair Anthony suggested that shorter agendas allow for a deeper dive into the subjects.

Next committee meeting is May 10th, 2017. Other dates were shared, July 12th, September 13th, and November 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32PM.