

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

Performance Outcomes Committee

September 24, 2023

Meeting Summary

Committee Members present:

Susan Wilson, Chairperson

Noel O'Neill, Chair-elect

Walter Shwe

Steve Leoni

Karen Baylor

Invited External Partners present:

Theresa Comstock, CALBHBC

Samantha Spangler

CBHPC Staff present:

Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer

Justin Boese

Linda Dickerson

Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

Susan Wilson and Noel O'Neil welcomed all committee members and guests. A quorum was reached.

Item #2: Setting the Stage for Today's Meeting

Noel O'Neil reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting. The purpose of this interim meeting was to discuss the next steps for the committee regarding performance outcomes measures, following the 2-day event on the topic during the April general session. Noel highlighted some of his key takeaways from the panelists for that event to frame the discussion. These included:

- Thinking about who the "audience" is when it comes to performance outcomes measures for the behavioral health system.

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- Starting with 2-3 outcomes to focus on that people feel passionate about.
- Making sure that the performance outcomes measures that are selected are practical; the best data is data that people are doing to actually use.

Item #3: Performance Outcomes Measures: Next Steps

Noel then opened up discussion on the topic. Committee member shared their thoughts on what direction the committee, and the Planning Council, could go next. This included discussion about the kinds of data that may be useful, the potential process for the collection and review of the data, and how the work of the committee (including the data notebook) could change to increase focus on performance outcomes.

In response to the idea of choosing 2-3 measures to focus on, Steve Leoni commented that it would be better to frame them as 2-3 goals or topics of priority, each one of which could have several measures attached to them. He said that with the increase in the amount of data across the system, having so few actual measures is too limited.

Noel said that both quantitative and qualitative measures should be utilized, and that data should be used to highlight programs that work rather than just challenges in the system. He mentioned that in the past, the council would actually travel around the state to different counties to review performance outcomes. This included interviewing people at the county level. He also brought up the possibility of the Planning Council hiring a contractor to help collect and analyze qualitative data.

Walter Shwe said that he felt the committee should stop collecting the “Part I” data for the data notebook so that the committee could focus on performance outcomes measures. He also suggested that the committee focus on data that is already available but isn’t being utilized and agreed with the idea of hiring a contractor to help. Lastly, Walter suggested avoiding MediCal claims data, as it is not necessarily useful for people. Steve Leoni responded that as part of the massive changes that CalAIM is bringing about, claims data should have much less lag than before and should be more relevant.

Susan Wilson brought up the role of the Planning Council in WIC 5772, which states that the CBHPC is meant to review and approve performance outcomes measures. She said that while the council is not in a position to review every measure necessarily, it is important to find a way forward on this topic. She suggested hiring a consultant who

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could help develop some measures based on areas of priority. This could include surveying the local behavioral health boards and commissions on what measures they are interested in.

Theresa Comstock said that the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) has an issue brief on performance outcomes that includes some common measures. There is a page on the CALBHBC website that lists what outcomes data are collected by each county. She suggested that the Planning Council settle on some outcome measures and set up an online portal for counties to review and comment on those measures. That would then go to the Planning Council.

Noel agreed that county specific data would be useful. He also agreed with Walter's suggestion to end the "Part I" questions of the Data Notebook to focus on performance outcomes measures. Noel suggested pairing the Data Notebook online survey with county visits for qualitative interviews.

Karen Baylor returned the topic of the Planning Councils statutory role in reviewing and approving performances outcomes measures. She noted that the Planning Council currently has no role in reviewing behavioral health outcomes collected by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). She also said that the department should be highlighting successful programs, and that she hoped the data lag will reduce so that data will be timelier and more relevant.

Samantha Spangler encouraged the committee to not rush through this process and should take their time to do it well, even if that means not having a 2024 data notebook. She commented that qualitative data is very difficult to analyze, but also said that counties tell their success stories best. Steve Leoni commented that learning from mistakes is also important for system improvement. Regarding the number of measures, Samantha said that more is not always better, and that the goal should be to maximize the number of measures you can get from the same data set.

Steve Leoni brought up that at one point the Planning Council had a list of priority outcomes measures. Linda Dickerson said that she had a hardcopy of that somewhere and would send it to Justin, Susan, and Noel.

Item #4: Public Comment

The committee then took public comment.

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Jerry Hall from San Diego had a comment regarding the 2023 Data Notebook on stakeholder engagement, specifically the parts on the Community Program Planning (CPP) process. He said that the CPP had the potential to address a lot of issues in the behavioral health field if used properly, but that funding for CPP activities were severely underutilized in many counties. Jerry expressed an interest in working with the committee on this topic.

Steve McNally commented that while there is a lot of behavioral health data, it is not easy to find or accessible for most people. He also commented that rather than one large data notebook each year, the Planning Council could reach out to the boards and counties with several smaller assignments over the year to make it easier to participate.

Item #5: Wrap Up and Plan for Future Activities

Susan Wilson thanked the committee members, partners, and members of the public for a productive meeting. She went over the agenda for the upcoming October quarterly meeting and noted that minutes for this interim meeting will be provided to the committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.