

CBHPC Executive Committee Meeting

October 16, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Karen Baylor
Erika Cristo*
Ian Kemmer (for Veronica Kelly)
Noel O'Neill
Daphne Shaw
Javier Moreno

Walter Shwe
Deborah Starkey
Arden Tucker
Tony Vartan
Uma Zykofsky.

*=Remote Attendance

Committee Members Absent: Monica Caffey, Barbara Mitchell, and Susan Wilson

Staff Present: Jenny Bayardo and Naomi Ramirez

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Deborah Starkey called the meeting to order, welcoming Council Members. Attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was established with 11 of 14 members present.

Accept June 2024 and August 2024 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Chairperson Elect Tony Vartan asked if committee members had any changes to the June 2024 and August 2024 minutes. With no changes requested, Tony Vartan moved to record minutes as accepted. Minutes accepted as written.

Nominating Committee Update

The Executive Officer, Jenny Bayardo, provided an update on the status of the selection of nominating committee to be transparent about the existing process. The operating policies and procedures were included in meeting materials.

The current Chairperson, Deborah Starkey, passes her responsibilities on to the Chairperson-Elect, Tony Vartan at the January 2025 meeting. The full Council will vote on the Chairperson-Elect who will take over the responsibilities of the Council Chairperson for the 2027-2028 term. Jenny Bayardo shared that a nominating committee consisting of a representative from each appointment category is established. An e-mail went out from the Executive Officer to all Council Members soliciting volunteers. Council Members were reminded to let the Executive Officer know if they are willing to volunteer. The nominating committee will meet before the end of the year to select a nominee to propose at the January 2025 meeting.

Javier Moreno asked a clarifying question, “The nominating committee is just for the Chair-Elect position, correct?”. Jenny Bayardo confirmed that the nomination is for the Chairperson-Elect as the current Chair-Elect was voted in previously and will step into the Chairperson role with the “Changing of the Officers” at the January 2025 meeting.

Expenditure Reports & Budget Updates

Chief of Operations, Naomi Ramirez, reviewed the 2023-2024 Close-Out report and the Fiscal Year 2024 expenditure report to date. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) salaries exceeded the allotted amount however shifts in other categories were made to keep us within the total allotted amount for MHSA. Naomi then reported that for the 2023-2024 SAMHSA Close-Out report, we spent less on salaries due to the Policy and Legislation position being vacant all year. As of this meeting, allotments for the current fiscal year have not been released.

Naomi Ramirez shared that as of October 1, 2024, the state has adopted the federal reimbursement rates. We anticipate this change to increase our travel spending. Uma Zykofsky asked if the Council is still required to limit travel for training. Naomi Ramirez confirmed we are still limiting travel to business required activities and not sending members to conferences solely for training purposes.

Council Membership Update

Chief of Operations, Naomi Ramirez, reviewed the appointment list and update included in the meeting packet. She reported that the Council currently has 2 vacancies: 1 Family Member, and 1 Direct Consumer. Council Staff continue to attend conferences tailored to consumers and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) to recruit potential applicants.

Tony Vartan requested Council staff prioritize the TAY population to be consistent with Behavioral Health Services Act changes that added TAY to the Behavioral Health Boards and the Oversight and Accountability commission. Javier Moreno suggested we connect with organizations that certify peers. Arden Tucker expressed support for Tony Vartan’s suggestion to recruit TAY and asked it to be a person of color.

Prop 1 Implementation: CBHPC Ad Hoc Update

Jenny Bayardo provided the update on behalf of the ad hoc. The group was created by the Executive Committee in June of 2023 to assist in the Council’s responses to Prop 1 implementation and consists of Barbara Mitchell, Javier Moreno, and Susan Wilson. At the August Executive Committee In-Between meeting it was decided that the Council needs to prioritize their concerns. The goal was to focus on the top three to five items. It was also decided that input was needed outside of the ad hoc and most, if not all committees need to focus on Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) Implementation. All committees need to have some part in monitoring BHT implementation.

Council staff created a cross walk of priority topics in the Behavioral Health Services Act identified by the ad hoc. The document also includes the codes related to the topics and a column to identify relevant committees. This list can be modified or added to before prioritization. Javier added that there are not enough resources to address all aspects of the Behavioral Health Services Act, so we want to be hyper focused and invest resources in a few areas to facilitate impactful change.

Council staff are attending the listening sessions and providing responses on behalf of the Council by the established deadlines, when appropriate, to be included in the public summary documents. Per the Department of Health Care Services feedback may be submitted even after the deadlines have passed. Jenny Bayardo also shared that all letters related to the Behavioral Health Transformation (Prop 1) implementation are posted on the Council's webpage. Uma Zykofsky asked that the letters be grouped by Fiscal Year to make them easier to find. Uma also stated the Council is doing a lot of public responses and we need to post them timely.

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) & Behavioral Health Bond (BHB) Implementation Prioritization (Action)

Following the update, the committee reviewed and discussed the crosswalk created and shown during the update. The discussion was around:

- Agreement with the topics
- Gaps/missing topics
- The top priorities
- Committee input on recommended committee assignments

A few topics were added to the list. The committee decided not to prioritize and reduce the list. Instead, all topics were identified as critical, and committees will talk about which they can address.

Uma Zykofsky noted that the State is creating various committees to respond to Behavioral Health Services Act implementation and the voice of consumers and family members is not being integrated into these groups. This devalues and diminishes the strides we have made statewide over the years. This is also a lost opportunity to include the experience of persons with lived experiences of Substance Use as well. The Council should advocate for the inclusion of person with lived experiences as both consumers of behavioral health services and family members.

Some key points brought up during the member discussion included:

- Behavioral Health Transformation implementation is moving faster than we can keep up with. (Uma)
- Implementation does not align with our committee structure in both timing and topic. (Uma)

- Voluntary and involuntary services are buried in BHSA/this topic does not clearly align with a Council committee. (Uma)
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a huge component of BHSA and may warrant a more formal group than the SUD workgroup. (Noel)
- No value in a separate committee for SUD, this is an opportunity to fold SUD into Systems and Medicaid committee to more successfully integrate. (Javier)
- The Council has started integrating SUD and should continue to focus on integration (No separate committee). (Javier)
- Should imbed Council members in all Department of Health Care services committees around BHSA. (Tony)
- Examine our committees and see if/how we need to adjust. (Tony)
 - We may need to increase meetings to complete all the work for some committees (example: Systems and Medicaid Committee)
 - In 2025, we should brainstorm redesigning the structures of the committee if needed.
- All BHT work in the committees needs to filter back to the full Council during General Session. (Tony)
- The document created by staff is excellent, suggest adding how the work is being communicated back to the other committees and the larger Council. (Tony)
- Need to address how the Ad Hoc will ensure committees are addressing assigned topics. (Karen)
 - Ad Hoc envisioned as the group to sort out the initial framework and once sorted out to committees, committees take on responsibility. (Javier)
 - Ad Hoc is transitional work but during the transition there is a need to make sure work is completed, passed to the right committee and progress is communicated. (Tony)
- Document created excellent & well done; adding a communications flow would be helpful. (Karen)
- Some of the SUD and Mental Health delivery systems now sit with the plans which is not incorporated into our current structure. (Uma)

Jenny Bayardo walked through each topic identified on the cross walk and the committees assigned. The committee confirmed and edited where appropriate; the document was updated in real time to be used at committee meetings over the next few days of the October Quarterly meeting. Topics added included crisis continuum, fiscal, evidence-based practices, workforce, and diversity equity and inclusion. Committee Chairpersons that had time set aside to discuss BHT agreed to review the topics and committee assignment with their committees for their input. Jenny Bayardo stated the committee will not be able to prioritize the list today, but we can have a follow-up in-between meeting, the members agreed.

Committee Meeting Facilitation Materials

Chairperson-Elect Tony Vartan reminded committee members that at the April mentorship forum chairpersons suggested creation of documents to use at committee meetings to help with meeting facilitation. In June materials were developed and used.

Staff have updated the housekeeping slides based on Council Member feedback. Tony Vartan shared how the guidance is intended to create an environment where all Members are encouraged and feel comfortable contributing.

Karen Baylor asked that the information on “tabling a motion” be added to the “How to make a Motion” document. It was not known to all in a recent meeting that a motion to table takes precedence. Tony Vartan agreed.

Tony Vartan walked through each housekeeping slide to ensure all chairpersons were familiar with the content. Naomi Ramirez identified the two areas that changed since June based on member feedback and shared staff will review the housekeeping guidance. Naomi asked that committee chairpersons make an opening statement about the development of the guidelines to make staff feel more comfortable when reviewing for this first meeting. A script was provided in the meeting packet.

Tony Vartan directed a comment to the Chief of Operations, Naomi Ramirez, suggesting the script/statement be put at the beginning of the next few quarterly meetings while members get used to the new guidance. This should also be embedded in New Member Orientation. Tony also asked Naomi to have staff gauge how it’s going and how long it takes, he also requested to have the guidance printed and available at the meetings to help reduce the time spent.

Appointment Categories (Action)

Chairperson Deborah Starkey reviewed the summary of categories previously presented as options for the “Direct Consumer” appointment category at the June committee meeting. Committee members have discussed this at the past two meetings and agree the name needs to be changed however, clarification on the federal requirements was requested and is included in the packet. Naomi Ramirez, Chief of Operations stated that the two options that meet the guidance are “Peer” and “Person with Lived Experience”.

Tony Vartan stated that the category we use should not have stigma attached to it. Arden Tucker agreed that the language we use important. Javier Moreno suggested we align with current terms being used and suggested peer. Uma Zykofsky asked about the “Consumer Related Advocate” category and Naomi Ramirez stated that in June we agreed if we change the category “Direct Consumers” we will need to change that appointment category as well. Uma Zykofsky agreed that we need to choose a name that eliminates stigma, but we do not want to dilute the importance of individuals with lived experience. Karen Baylor shared concerns about using the word peer as it may get confused with peer certified individuals. Walter Shwe stated that in his experience most individuals we refer to as consumers use the term lived experience. Javier Moreno thanked Walter Shwe for sharing his preference and asked if we asked other consumer members about their preferences. Jenny Bayardo shared that Direct Consumer members on the Council recommended “Peer” and “Person with Lived Experience” and both fall in line with the committees concerns about non stigmatizing language.

Motion: Daphne Shaw made a motion to change the appointment category for “Direct Consumer” to “Person with Lived Experience”. Noel O’Neil seconded the motion.

Deborah Starkey opened the floor for discussion, there was not additional discussion from the committee.

Deborah then asked for public comment on the vote. Theresa Comstock commented on the fact that we have someone on the Council that represents and organization. Lanita Mims stated she is very excited about the proposed new title as a person with lived experience. Steve Leoni stated he likes the idea of person with lived experience, but it does have a broader implication.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 11 members present voting “Yes”. Absent: Monica Caffey, Barbara Mitchell, and Susan Wilson.

Report from CA Coalition for Behavioral Health

Daphne Shaw reported that the CA Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) meet on October 2, 2014. There were several presentations on workforce planning. The coalition also discussed federal bill House of Representatives (H.R.) 494 about the routing of 988 calls. Currently calls are routed by area code and the proposal is that they be routed to the closest cell tower. Federal bill H.R. 6928 expands access to crisis care. The coalition took a vote on both federal bills and the Council abstained as the Legislation and Public Policy committee had not discussed either bill. There was also a member discussion on priorities for next year and the coalition developed a nominating committee for officers for 2025.

Report from CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards (CALBHB/C)

Executive Director, Theresa Comstock, reported that the CALBHB/C is updating all materials due to the passage of Proposition 1. There is interest from the Behavioral Health Boards in understanding the new components of Behavioral Health Services Act and the new stakeholder process.

General Public Comment

Steve Leoni commented that he admired the inclusion of public comment on the Executive Committee Agenda for the action items. He suggested the other committees model their agenda after the Executive Committee.

Steve also stated he supports Uma’s suggestion to integrate the voice of consumers and family members in the BHT implementation committees.

Wrap-Up and Plan for Next Meeting

The next meeting is on January 15, 2025, in La Jolla, California.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.