

**Sacramento County**  
**Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Services**  
**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2022, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Meeting Location**

Webinar and phone conference

**Meeting Attendees:**

- MHSA Steering Committee members: Diana Burdick, Karen Cameron, Genelle Cazares, Ebony Chambers, Laurie Clothier, Julie Field, Anatoliy Gridyushko, Crystal Harding, Sharon Jennings, Evin Johnson, Melissa Lloyd, Brad Lueth, Ruth MacKenzie, Ryan McClinton, Susan McCrea, Lori Miller, Arushi Mishra, Noel Mora, Ryan Quist, Koby Rodriguez, Marlyn Sepulveda, Christopher Williams
- General Public

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>I. Welcome and Member Introductions</b>	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. MHSA Steering Committee members introduced themselves.
<b>II. Agenda Review</b>	The agenda was reviewed; no changes were made.
<b>III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes</b>	The January 2022 draft meeting minutes were reviewed; no changes were made.
<b>IV. Announcements</b>	<p><b>Sharon Jennings, SC Member:</b> Joshua’s House Hospice facility in South Natomas has been approved. Groundbreaking is targeted for May. The facility will have over 15 rooms. The facility is designed for terminally ill-unsheltered individuals.</p> <p>In December my audiologist diagnosed me with 70% hearing loss in both ears. She told me about CapTel, which is a program where I can have a phone at home that has a large screen with captions. The caption phone is available through a federally funded program, so it does not cost anything. The great news is that as of this January you no longer have to be certified by an audiologist. You can self-certify on their website: <a href="https://www.captel.com/">https://www.captel.com/</a></p> <p><b>Crystal Harding, SC member:</b> I wanted to share how challenging it was last month not being able to participate fully due to my conflict of interest. I would like you to consider how complex the system is, navigating the mental health system is not easy. I really hope there is a way for us to work with not just Dignity Health but the entire platform that we are in to make these changes as we talk about equity, transformative care, and being respectful of gender and how people self-identify. I hope we can have a thorough conversation about next steps and how when we do see an issue we can address and fix it with the partners we currently have without just canceling out.</p>

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	<p><b>Koby Rodriguez, SC member:</b> Congratulations to Ebony named Sacramento Bee’s Top 25 Change Agent in Sacramento!</p> <p>Also, next Thursday we are hosting a session on The LGBT Center’s Facebook Live called Disrupting Anti-Blackness. This is for everyone who is not black and is interested in working to create a more liberating world. I will send the link and hope you will forward it out. <a href="https://fb.me/e/35xjTV02q">https://fb.me/e/35xjTV02q</a></p> <p><b>Christopher Williams, SC member:</b> As previously mentioned, the creation of a new ten-year Student Mental Health and Wellness Plan for Sacramento County has begun. We have completed the stakeholder engagement phase and finished hosting six different listening sessions. If you were not able to attend, we are developing a survey that will go out. I will email the link so we can get this out to steering committee members and student mental health wellness stakeholders and continue to provide opportunities for folks to participate.</p> <p><b>Ebony Chambers, SC member:</b> My organization, Stanford Sierra Youth and Families, will hold a Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion Community Forum on March 2, 2022. We invite providers and community members to join in for a dialogue around how we can create a more diverse and inclusive environment for all. See <a href="#">Attachment A – Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion Community Forum flyer</a>.</p>
<p><b>V. Executive Committee / MHSA Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Executive Committee Updates</b></p> <p>Ebony Chambers, SC Co-Chair, requested those present to submit post-meeting evaluations and also shared the updates below:</p> <p><u>Zoom Participant List</u>            Tonight you will notice a change to the Zoom participant list. Primary Steering Committee members will have a “#” before their names and Alternate Steering Committee members will have a “*” before their names. This allows us to see at a glance who is a part of the Steering Committee. This meeting group is very large, so it is helpful for us as we move through Steering Committee comments, motions, and votes, as well as public announcements.</p> <p><u>Abstention From Voting</u>            Based on feedback from last month’s meeting, we would like to provide a review of how abstention votes work during voting of an action item. Abstentions are counted and noted, but not as a “yes” or “no” vote. Abstention does not affect the voting result but does contribute to the member quorum. All members have a right to abstain and are not required to vote.</p>

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**MHSA Updates**

Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director, provided the following updates:

COVID-19 Update

We are doing a lot better from our peak around January 11. We are down to 546 cases per day, which is lower than our peak during previous surges. 500 is still a lot of people out in the community with COVID, so please continue to be careful and consider what choices you make in terms of personal interaction. This week we did see a change to the Sacramento County public health order. Indoor masking is no longer required for individuals who are vaccinated. However, it is still recommended. If you have not gotten booster vaccines, please talk to your health care provider around your concerns and consider doing that.

Black History Month

This month-long celebration renews our commitment to Black excellence and provides opportunity to acknowledge historic and recent achievements of African Americans, highlighting their contributions and undeniable impact on American history. The theme for Black History Month 2022 is Black Health and Wellness; this takes a look at how American healthcare has often under-served African communities. The focus is on the importance of Black health and wellness and considers activities, rituals, and initiatives Black communities participate in to get and stay well.

Sacramento Bee Top 25 Black Change Makers

I know that you have already all talked about our wonderful celebration that our very own Ebony Chambers was acknowledged and identified as a Sacramento Bee Top 25 Black Change Maker within our community. I want to add my congratulations to that – it is well deserved. She has done so much to contribute to our community. You can read her bio here: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/equity-lab/representation/article258053603.html>. I really want to take a moment and celebrate her accomplishments and everything she does for our community. Thank you so much, Ebony.

I also want to acknowledge another member of our behavior health community who was also acknowledged as a Top 25 Change Maker. Michael Lynch is the founder and CEO of Improve Your Tomorrow, which is an education non-profit organization dedicated to academic success and advancement of young men of color and he receives funding through a couple venues funded by MHSA, those being the African American Trauma-Informed Wellness Program and the Community-Driven Prevention and Early Intervention grant. It is great that a couple of our behavioral health community members were recognized in this way.

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	<p><u>Lunar New Year</u>  Lunar New Year was celebrated on Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is one of the most valued holidays within many Asian cultures and is a few days of the year during which members of the extended family gather and celebrate together.</p> <p>I want to lift up these cultural observances and you all are good at bringing these forward as well. I appreciate you all for your contributions to acknowledging and celebrating the cultural diversity of Sacramento County.</p> <p><u>Implementing Contract Rate Increase</u>  We are working diligently at revising contracts in order to implement your recommendation regarding the 10% rate increase so providers can be more competitive in recruiting and retaining staff and the 7% increase in capacity and expansion of our existing Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs.</p> <p><u>Mental Health Board Subcommittee</u>  The Board of Supervisors recently approved the Mental Health Board bylaws, which put in place a subcommittee that will provide advisory recommendations to the County and the Board of Supervisors regarding the implementation of the Wellness Crisis Call Center and Response Team. Keep an eye out for applications for individuals interested in being a part of that subcommittee.</p> <p>Julie Leung, Acting MHSA Program Manager, provided the following updates:</p> <p><u>Adult Outpatient Services Transformation</u>  We held the virtual overview meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. For those who missed the meeting or individuals who would like to see the presentation again, the meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the Adult Outpatient Services Transformation webpage.  <a href="https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Adult-Outpatient-Services-Transformation.aspx">https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Adult-Outpatient-Services-Transformation.aspx</a></p> <p><u>MHSA Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Update Timeline</u>  We plan to post the Annual Update in April for a 30-day public review and comment period and will come before you at your April meeting to present the Annual Update and receive your collective comment. The Mental Health Board will conduct the public hearing in May after which we will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval and submit to the State by June 30, 2022.</p>
<p><b>VI. MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Program Presentation:</b></p>	<p>Debrah Deloney-Deans LMFT, Program Planner, Cultural Competence Ethnic Services Unit, provided background and context regarding the Trauma-Informed Wellness Program for the African American/Black Community (TIWP).</p>

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<p><b>Trauma-Informed Wellness Program for the African American/Black Community (TIWP)</b></p>	<p>See <a href="#">Attachment B – African American Trauma-Informed Wellness Program presentation</a>.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amaya Noguera, Program Officer Sierra Health Foundation -The Center <a href="mailto:anoguera@sierrahealth.org">anoguera@sierrahealth.org</a></li> <li>• Charles Bolton, Director of Strategic Partnerships Improve Your Tomorrow <a href="mailto:charles@improveyourtomorrow.org">charles@improveyourtomorrow.org</a></li> <li>• Timothy Poole, Hooked on Fishing Not on Violence Program Manager Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center <a href="mailto:djonegone@yahoo.com">djonegone@yahoo.com</a></li> <li>• Yolanda Stevenson, Director, Social Services &amp; Program Manager Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center <a href="mailto:y Stevenson@rfcecenter.com">y Stevenson@rfcecenter.com</a></li> <li>• Ranita Harris, Program Manager African American Healing Network Roberts Family Development Center <a href="mailto:ranita.harriis@robertsfdc.org">ranita.harriis@robertsfdc.org</a></li> <li>• Kawanda “KeKe” Brown, SoulSpace Empowerment Advocate OnTrack Program Resources <a href="mailto:mskekebrown@gmail.com">mskekebrown@gmail.com</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Member Questions and Discussion</b>  <i>[Many SC members praised the presentation as well as the presenters for the work they do]</i></p> <p>What does the restorative justice part of RFDC look like?  <i>We had a cultural competency training last year for returning citizens so we like to address individuals formerly incarcerated as returning citizens coming back into the community and we had a group discussion on what that culture looks like. Some of the things that happen in the jail system and outside of jail system surrounding mental wellness include individuals returning home, barriers they face and how we can help with those barriers.</i></p> <p><i>Our agency model is based on prevention, so we try to engage with them while they are young. We work with the youth starting in first grade all the way up to the high school. We focus on making sure to fill the gaps. For us, restorative justice looks at prevention. As you all know, the summer is peak time when kids really need a lot of attention and activities. Seven years ago, we collaborated with Children Defense Fund along with Rose Family Creative Foundation to do our Freedom School. During the summer, these kids are learning so much while having fun at the</i></p>

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	<i>same time. That is part of our restorative justice framework; we just do not just look at how people are reconnected once they have been in the system, but also what we can do to keep them from entering the system.</i>
<b>VII. General Steering Committee Comment</b>	<b>Crystal Harding:</b> I want to give gratitude for the investment in the lives of our African American children and families. I love early prevention and intervention. Thank you so very much for the work you all are doing by affecting and changing lives of our families.
<b>VIII. General Public Comment</b>	<b>Susan McCrea:</b> I have been involved with mental health for quite a while because one of our daughters, Christianne Noel McCrea, started experiencing mental illness at the age of 22. On November 30, 2010, Christianne took her life; she committed suicide, and it is the hardest thing to have my daughter die that way. It took me about ten years to be able to write about it. I want to share with you a story that I have written about Christianne, called "In the Arms of Angels." I just want to share her story; to me it is very redeeming how even something good can come out of a suicide. I think it can help other people and bring hope for others that have to go through the devastating experience of having someone in the family commit suicide. I am grateful to be part of the Steering Committee and a wonderful outlet and a wonderful way of working out my grief over my daughter and now this is a fruit that I have been able to share, and I wanted share with you all too. See <a href="#">Attachment C – In the Arms of Angels</a> .
<b>IX. Adjournment / Upcoming Meetings</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 17, 2022</li> <li>• April 21, 2022</li> </ul>

Interested members of the public are invited to attend MHSA Steering Committee meetings and a period is set aside for public comment at each meeting. If you wish to attend and need to arrange for an interpreter or a reasonable accommodation, please contact Anne-Marie Rucker one week prior to each meeting at (916) 875-3861 or [ruckera@saccounty.gov](mailto:ruckera@saccounty.gov).