

Sacramento County

Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Services

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee

Our Mission

To provide a culturally competent system of care that promotes holistic recovery, optimum health, and resiliency.

Our Vision

We envision a community where persons from diverse backgrounds across the life continuum have the opportunity to experience optimum wellness.

Our Values

Respect, Compassion, Integrity • Client and/or Family Driven • Equal Access for Diverse Populations • Culturally Competent, Adaptive, Responsive and Meaningful • Prevention and Early Intervention • Full Community Integration and Collaboration • Coordinated Near Home and in Natural Settings • Strength-Based Integrated and Evidence-Based Practices • Innovative and Outcome-Driven Practices and Systems • Wellness, Recovery, and Resilience Focus

August 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Virtually (Zoom) and phone conference

Meeting Attendees - General Public and MHSA Steering Committee members:

Stakeholder Group	Primary	Alternate
Mental Health Board	X Patricia Wentzel	Brad Lueth
Mental Health Director	X Ryan Quist	Jane Ann Zakhary
Service Provider - Children	X Laurie Clothier (River Oak)	Mary Sheppard (Uplift Family Svcs)
Service Provider - Adults	X Erin Johansen (TLCS)	Marlyn Sepulveda (Hope Cooperative)
Service Provider - Older Adults	X Genelle Cazares (El Hogar)	Martha Sinclair-West (El Hogar)
Law Enforcement	Corey Jackson	Laura Mueller
Senior and Adult Services	X Heidi Richardson	Mary Parker
Education	X Christopher Williams	Brent Malicote
Department of Human Assistance	X Julie Field	Carmen Briscoe
Substance Use Prevention and Treatment	X Lori Miller	Michelle Besse
Cultural Competence	Koby Rodriguez	Lakshmi Malrouth
Child Welfare	X Melissa Lloyd	Kim Pearson
Primary Health	X Andrew Mendonza	Noel Vargas
Public Health	X Olivia Kasirye	Staci Syas
Juvenile Court	Dena Coggins	Sarah Davis
Probation	Lynsey Semon	David Linden
Veterans	X Rochelle Arnold	Vacant
Consumer - TAY	Arushi Mishra	Vacant
Consumer - TAY	Vacant	Vacant
Consumer - Adult	X Hafsa Hamdani	Vacant
Consumer - Adult	Leslie Napper	Chezia Tarleton
Consumer - Older Adult	Vacant	Vacant
Consumer - Older Adult	X Sharon Jennings	Vacant
Family Member/Caregiver of Child age 0-17 Yrs	Ebony Chambers McClinton	Vacant
Family Member/Caregiver of Child age 0-17 Yrs	X Crystal Harding	Vacant
Family Member/Caregiver of Adult age 18-59 Yrs	Susan McCrea	Ellen King
Family Member/Caregiver of Adult age 18-59 Yrs	Ryan McClinton	X Diana Burdick
Family Member/Caregiver of Older Adult age 60+ Yrs	Vacant	Vacant
Family Member/Caregiver of Older Adult age 60+ Yrs	X Anatolii Gridyushko	Vacant
Family Member/Consumer At-large	Karly Gonzalez	Evin Johnson

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Agenda Item	Discussion
I. Welcome and Member Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. MHSA Steering Committee (SC) members introduced themselves.
II. Agenda Review	The agenda was reviewed; no changes were made.
III. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes	The June 2023 draft meeting minutes were reviewed; no changes were made.
IV. Announcements	<p>Heidi Richardson, SC Member: There is a new funding opportunity from Sacramento County Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services, for eligible residential adult and senior care facilities. These deferred capital projects cover repairs or operational costs in order to bring the facility into compliance with licensing standards. This is only for facilities that serve seniors or adults receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). This is an OpenGov Determination of Interest link for the Community Care Expansion and Preservation Program (CCE). The intent of the funding is to prevent closure of existing eligible licensed adult and senior residential facilities. This funding opportunity was just posted this week: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/saccounty?departmentId=1280&status=active (select Child, Family and Adult Services from the drop down).</p> <p>A Sacramento County Adult Protective Services Family Justice Center support group for adults over the age of 60, who have experienced abuse by their children, starts September 12th.</p> <p>Patricia Wentzel, SC Member: NAMI Sacramento not only has a Transitional Age Youth (TAY) warm line, but a dedicated TAY Support Group led by peers.</p> <p>Crystal Harding, SC Member: Public Health Advocates' program, All Children Thrive, is seeking nonprofits to apply for \$200,000 grants for a 2–3-year time-limited project. The application process begins with a Readiness Assessment which is open now until August 25. They are looking for 13 organizations to take the Readiness Assessment and interview. Organizations will then be invited to apply for the non-competitive Request for Application process. Readiness Assessment can be found here: https://act-ca.org/readiness-assessment/.</p> <p>Stephanie Ramos, member of the public: The Assembly hearing on SB326 is on Tuesday August 22nd. For more info, contact: https://conta.cc/3OWZa6W</p>

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<p>V. Executive Committee / MHSA Updates 6:20</p>	<p>Executive Committee Update</p> <p>Christopher Williams, SC Co-Chair, requested that meeting participants submit post-meeting evaluations. He also shared the following update on behalf of the Executive Committee:</p> <p><u>MHSA SC membership changes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Primary Health primary seat is now held by Andrew Mendonza, Primary Manager Division Manager. In this role, he serves as the Director of the Sacramento County Health Center. As a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist with licensure in over a dozen states, he is a subject matter expert in the areas of substance abuse and behavioral health. He is Board Certified and has served in high level executive positions within both private and public sectors. 2. The alternate Primary Health seat is now held by Primary Health Division’s Deputy Director Noel Vargas. 3. Judge Dena Coggins now holds the the primary seat for Juvenile Court. 4. Koby Rodriguez is transitioning out of his role as the Chief Program Officer at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and will therefore resign from the Cultural Competence primary seat. We want to thank Koby for his contributions to the SC, the Executive Committee, and the Innovation Subcommittee. <p><u>Member vote results for the Executive and Selection Committees:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Karly Gonzalez b. Hafsa Hamdani 2. Selection Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Crystal Harding b. Sharon Jennings c. Lori Miller d. Christopher Williams <p>MHSA Updates</p> <p>Andrea Crook, MHSA Health Program Manager: We are still waiting for some SC members to submit photos and bios for the Steering Committee webpage. Thank you to those members who have already submitted.</p>
<p>VI. DRAFT MHSA Innovation Project Plans, INN 6: allcove Sacramento and INN 7:</p>	<p>Neeki Gilani and Melissa Planas provided the MHSA Innovation (INN) component overview and presented the DRAFT MHSA Innovation Project Plans, INN 6: allcove Sacramento and INN 7: Community-Defined Mental Wellness Practices for the African American/Black/ African Descent Unhoused. See Attachment A – INN Projects 6 & 7 Plans presentation</p>

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Agenda Item	Discussion
<p>Community-Defined Mental Wellness Practices for the African American/ Black/ African Descent Unhoused Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Discussion • Public Comment • SC Collective Comment 	<p>Member Discussion, Questions and Collective Comment</p> <p>If funding no longer becomes available for these projects in the next few years, what happens to the program? For example, if there is a downturn in the economy and our MHSA funds drop, what is the process?</p> <p><i>Currently, there are INN funds and each year we have INN funds based on our annual MHSA allocation. The total budget is a combination of what we have now and what we anticipate receiving in future years.</i></p> <p>It may be a challenge to measure success for INN 7. I hope there is attention paid to how we measure success so that we know that \$3 million is being spent in a wise way.</p> <p>Can you share more about substance use services for youth through the allcove project? What will that look like, inpatient and outpatient?</p> <p><i>allcove will provide mild to moderate level services that include co-locating SUPT providers to provide early prevention and intervention services. Youth who need outpatient SUPT services will be referred and linked to those services.</i></p> <p>There is a need for residential substance use services for youth. It's crucial – in CPS we see kids 13-17 with significant addiction. Sometimes we have to refer youth for residential services out of the county which brings additional layers of trauma.</p> <p><i>There is a shortage of residential substance use services providers. If you know any organization that can provide these services, please bring them forward.</i></p> <p>Will allcove be one site or multiple sites in Sacramento?</p> <p><i>There will be one allcove site located in Oak Park administered by e Greater Sacramento Urban League.</i></p> <p>Given the data and over representation of black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), I want to applaud Sacramento County for doing this work. It is essential that we do things differently rather than the same thing with greater intensity. I also want to applaud the team for including individuals who are BIPOC and have experienced being unhoused or have been adversely affected by the social determinants of being unhoused. This is very important work. Thank you.</p> <p>The MHSA SC is in support of moving these INN Projects forward.</p>

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<p>VII. Senate Bill 326 (Behavioral Health Services Act)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Discussion • Public Comment • SC Action 	<p>Senate Bill 326 (Behavioral Health Services Act)</p> <p>Christopher Williams, SC Co-chair: In short, SB 326 is calling for a ballot measure for the Governor’s plan to modernization MHSA. Around 30% of the state’s MHSA dollars will be redirected, which will have a direct impact on budgets for MHSA services that for which this committee meets. MHSA SC Executive Committee met in July to discuss whether the Sacramento MHSA SC would like to take a position on this. This would go on the ballot as early as March 2024. The Executive Committee crafted a draft letter, not in opposition to serving the homeless, but that taking funds from one group and giving it to another doesn’t make sense.</p> <p>Sharon Jennings, SC Co-chair: SB326 has had several amendments. The Assembly is having a hearing on August 22, 2023. Information is not coming to the public very quickly. For example, the senate health committee held an information hearing with testimony, and they couldn’t speak well to the amendments because they had just gone through the previous day. The bill is moving through the legislature very quickly.</p> <p>Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director: An important distinction – the proposed plan is not for homeless services but is limited specifically to housing. One of our ongoing points of advocacy is that we want more services for the homeless. The state would be taking more off the top before we get our portion, and then a third of what’s left will be re-allocated. This doesn’t include the dollars that are matched by Medi-Cal in these services, so it will likely have a 65% impact on our outpatient and crisis management system. Some other concerns is that only 25% of the housing bucket being used for capital investments. In Sacramento, we need to build more and create additional housing.</p> <p><i>Draft letter reviewed. See Attachment B – Senate Bill 326 letter (DRAFT)</i></p> <p>Member discussion</p> <p>Please remove the descriptive word “needy” as there is negative connotation. Housing will mean nothing without supportive services. MHSA dollars are certainly already benefiting the unhoused or precariously housed. Do you know the percentage of funds already working in support for the unhoused?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>We do not have that data on hand.</i></p> <p>The new housing services will be serving those with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD), though housing for SUD is optional under the new amendments. It’s not accurate to say that it is for homeless individuals in general.</p>

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	<p>Fifty-one percent is for Early Intervention, and then 51% of <i>that</i> is for Children/TAY.</p> <p>Prevention activities will now be implemented only at the State level. No local Prevention programs.</p> <p>Can we include Sacramento County specific statistics, like the disproportionate rates or the impact and progress we have accomplished with this funding? We could highlight positive outcomes and correlate them with the new proposed population. We can show we are already positively supporting the governor's initiatives or "desires"?</p> <p>Where will the money be pulled from and where will it go? <i>We will have new buckets (of money). So, every part of our services will be affected. This committee will have to reprioritize the funding as our system of care will be restructured.</i></p> <p>Didn't we get more funding for individuals living with SMI? I haven't seen funding go that way. I am for more intervention, and I am open to this new bill.</p> <p>Can we use Enhanced Care Management (ECM) funds through Medi-Cal? Some of the Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services are a little duplicative. <i>Yes, as a county we have committed to this, but this will not make up the funds we have to reallocate.</i></p> <p>Data is important to include and mention how including the Medi-Cal matching funds means more cuts.</p> <p>Which fiscal year will this take effect? And will this affect our current innovation projects? <i>At this time, if passed, the change is scheduled to take place in January 2025. We are hoping that this is still open for discussion. For current projects, we will move forward with the budget as it stands now.</i></p> <p>To be clear, this is not a one-time cut, it will be our budget structure from now on. This means we would have to fundamentally change the way we enact services, which is a major shift in a lifeline.</p> <p>Maybe we can express that we are open to change, but that this isn't the way to do it.</p> <p>Are there other organizations, departments, or programs that would be willing to co-sign the letter? And if there are opposition letters already written, would it be possible to endorse/support that letter instead of drafting our own?</p>

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	<p><i>From Co-Chair Sharon Jennings: Since this would be time-consuming and we hope to submit this letter within a couple days, it is not feasible to solicit multiple teams to sign out letter.</i></p> <p>The Mental Health Board (MHB) created an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the impact of SB326. The MHB's role is to advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS), so the MHB will not take an independent position but make a recommendation to the BOS. The next MHB Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be on August 28, 11 am. The meetings will be public noticed. To get on the MHB listserv, email Jason Richards, BHS Program Planner, at richardsja@SacCounty.gov</p> <p>The language (in the draft letter) needs to be changed to say this is for unhoused people with SMI and SUD, not just the general homeless population.</p> <p>We want to support those experiencing homelessness, but this is not the right way.</p> <p>This letter is not going into the official analysis because the deadline has passed, but all of the SC members will receive a copy of this letter.</p> <p>Motion Olivia Kasirye, moved to support the letter with suggested changes and approve the MHSA SC Executive Committee Co-Chairs to sign on behalf of MHSA SC. Seconded by Andrew Mendonsa.</p> <p>Member discussion on Motion None</p> <p>Public Comment on Motion</p> <p>Once it goes on ballot it will be very appealing to the general public and they won't know all the implications. I also encourage everyone to show up to the August 22, 2023 Assembly hearing.</p> <p>Thank you for the work, and I agree that the letter should speak to the impact on Sacramento County. I advise you to include data rather than speculation. Talk about Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI). I am offended that there is a general opinion that all homeless individuals have behavioral health disorders. My organization has taken a neutral position with concerns, and then we have delineated those concerns. We want to move forward with modernization.</p>

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	<p>I support the suggestion to take a neutral position with concerns and to cite more specific information about Sacramento County.</p> <p>It will be harder to fight it once it is on the ballot. We already don't have enough mental health services. I would like to advocate that the wording is changed to say you "may" spend 30% on housing.</p> <p>SC Action on Motion Motion passed.</p>
VIII. General Steering Committee Comment	Request for a California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) presentation.
IX. General Public comment	As you discussed Innovation Plans, over the next year and a half, consider including the anticipated changes that will come with CalAIM and SB326.
X. Adjournment / Upcoming Meetings	Upcoming Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 21, 2023 • October 19, 2023

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@sacounty.gov.