

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH) MEETING

March 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In-person at Hale F Conference Room, 2201 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City 96782 and via
Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Katherine Aumer, John Betlach, Heidi Ilyavi, Jackie Jackson, Kathleen Merriam, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Kristin Will, Fern Yoshida, Marian Tsuji (ex-officio)

Members Excused: Naomi Crozier, Lea Dias, Jon Fujii, Eileen Lau-James, Jean Okuda, Ray Rice, Richard Ries

Guests: Shannessy Ahu, Pauline, Amanda Patrick, Christine Montague-Hicks, Kealailiahi Ford, Ayada Bonilla, Jack Barile, Norene Machida, Trina Orimoto, Kevin Thompson, Raelyn Reyno, Dr. Dang

AMHD and CAMHD Staff Present: Jocelyn Nazareno, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Valerie Yin

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Katherine Aumer, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Quorum was established at 9:10 am.

II. Meeting Announcements

K. Aumer welcomed members and guests. She had the following announcements.

- If communication technology-related interruption could not be restored in 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically be terminated and resume on March 19 at 9 am using the same zoom links used of this meeting.
- Community input will be received in the designated part of the agenda as well as throughout the meeting.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. By the next meeting, the Council needs to initiate participation or develop an activity plan.
- June's Council meeting falls on a holiday. The Council needs to decide whether to do activities like last year's training and tour in lieu of meeting.

K. Aumer requested, and the Council took a moment of silence for the tragedy that happened in Manoa, which has affected the broader community.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Mary Pat Waterhouse moved to approve the February 13, 2024 meeting minutes. John Betlach seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Community Input

Pauline Aralano provided community input. P. Aralano had a daughter who was diagnosed with bipolar illness. The daughter was admitted to Kahi for her violent behavior and was given psychiatric medications to calm her down. P. Aralano's testimony in brief: A doctor from Castle prescribed her medication Lithium and Prozac for her diagnosis that made her a vegetable for eight months. She went to the Wahiawa Clinic, where the doctor who had seen her disagreed with the diagnosis. They found out that she had a thyroid condition and the lithium she was taking put her in a vegetative state. With this new diagnosis and change of medicine, they were able to get her out of this vegetative state. She can now walk, talk, feed, and dress herself; she is normal again. P. Aralano asked those listening to join her in asking the Legislature to approve Senate Concurrent Resolution 34 and House Concurrent Resolution 144 regarding thyroid testing before psychotropic medicines are administered. Clinical Labs says the testing costs \$58. She is asking the Legislature to form a committee to form a round table to address this issue. Her goal is for others not to go through what her daughter and family went through. Also, for others to get tested first for this, like those in the Hawaii State Hospital or the prisoners.

Council members thanked her for her testimony and advocacy, highlighting the connection between physical and mental health and the whole approach to health. K. Aumer concluded that the Council needs to look into this further.

Marian Tsuji, ex-officio, thanked the Council for the support at the opening of the first Behavioral Health Crisis Center and legislative testimonies. She said that as (the DOH) builds the system, she hopes that the Council also remains on the same page. She congratulated all the member-nominees who had Senate hearings last week.

V. New Business

A. “Mental Health Support and House Bill 1906” presented by Fern Yoshida and Ayada Bonilla. See slide presentation.

See attached copy of slides for more details.

HB1906 is part of the Department of Education (DOE) effort to support the implementation of the Strategic Plans Implementation Plan which has ten goals and 27 desired outcomes.

HB1906 is requesting support to ensure that DOE has that single entry point platform available for DOE schools and students so that educators can identify, and address students' needs with the intervention that best support them. Trust Circle is a unique mental health and well-being platform that helps foster emotional resilience, prevention and early interventions for students and staff at scale. DOE is asking for funding to be able to introduce this resource now so that it is at DOE's fingertips moving forward.

Discussion, Q&A.

Q. Ramifications on/reactions of students and teachers, and how to collaborate more with DOE on this.

A. It's been a wonderful experience to work with the developers of trust circle, we did meet with the State student council. And we talked with those students to ensure that the application would be something that they would engage in, and they suggested similar things to you like, making it or adding elements of a game or a challenge. So, Trust Circle has incorporated challenges where students can earn jewels, and they can see progress. It really is to share ideas and to inspire students with different things they could do that could impact their well-being.

Q. I have a seventh grader with special needs. And recently I've seen the news reports of raising your children with special needs, being photographed and being assaulted. Some of these safety surveys, are they modified to include children who have special needs? Are they able to participate in this survey taking programs?

A. Yes, absolutely. As part of the proctoring for this survey implementation, the person administering the survey in the schools are able to read the questions out loud, and implement required accommodations as part of the IEP. There is also apps that connect to it so that if students need it to be read to them, and or other needs, it engages in that way so that students have access.

Q. Are the apps on the students own personal devices? Are these devices supplied to the students?

A. Trust Circle will be made available on any device. So, if a student doesn't have a device, they can have access through a school device. They can put the app on their phones and their own devices. This is encouraged so they are able to have access to it outside of school hours. And as part of the panorama system, it is not an application like a student app on a phone. It is surveys that are generated through their Department of Education email address and often time, it's done in school together in class on the computer or laptop. And if a student is not able to attend and they wouldn't be able to take it at that time, a window of administration is usually open for several weeks at a time.

Q. How long would the funding naturally last?

A. So we're hoping for regular funding for these two items. They're based on subscriptions. So, it would be an annual reoccurring need.

Q. I can imagine the needs outweighing the resources to provide help for students? Is there anything in discussion about that? Are there support systems and resources in place?

A. As part of the multi-tiered system of support that all schools are required to implement, we want to use that data that we're receiving about our students in a meaningful way and ensure that there's interventions that are provided. In an earlier slide, we shared what that tiered intervention support could look like. Both offer data in different ways, but allows school to offer the right services for the right needs. So, this increases our ability to be more effective with the resources that we have. They offer us

an opportunity to strategize and to be really impactful with the services and resources. We may have students who really would benefit from support. If that percentage is a large percentage of our school, then we will push more schoolwide resources. If it's a small percentage having very high needs, then we know we can push our resources in that direction.

B. 2024 Statewide Quality of Life Survey presented by Trina Orimoto and John Barile from University of Hawaii and Kevin Thompson from Office of Wellness and Resilience (see slide presentation).

See attached copy of slides for more details.

Presenter introductions:

-Trina Orimoto is a clinical psychologist by training. She wears several different hats, including at CAMHD and DDD. She is a researcher and supporter of the 2024 Statewide Quality of Life Survey and the Office of Wellness and Resilience and at the University of Hawaii.

-John Barile is the Director of the UHM Social Science Research Institute and a professor in the Psychology. He does research generally in health-related outcomes.

-Kevin Thompson is the official representative of the Office of Wellness and Resilience for Hawaii Island.

The work that the OWR are arranged in the four categories -data and assessment, program and policy development, training and technical assistance, and then partnership and collaboration. OWR decided to collaborate with UH to help with two surveys- community quality of life survey and workplace wellness survey. The first survey is the larger statewide one that is going out to all residents living in Hawaii and that is to evaluate the status and quality of life. The second is focusing on government workplace wellness survey. Because there's a lot of vacancies at the state, there's a lot of turnovers, we need to figure out how can we create a better workplace for people in the state.

Discussion. Q&A

Q. Using the term trauma informed care I think the public will really resonate with that one. Maybe we can bring it to the community in that language.

A. That's one of the reasons why we're using the term "trauma inform care" to gauge if people even know what that means? As we begin to collect this data and find out that people don't know what that is, that gives us more data to where we need to start going out to the community and figuring out ways to provide that realistic definition.

Q. What is the estimate time to take the survey so some people can get an idea of how much or when they should take the survey when they get the URL or the CAPTCHA?

A. It usually takes about 15 minutes.

Q. Is there any inclination to merge some of the data with the behavioral health dashboard? Or will it be separate?

A. We want to get data out as fast as possible so probably the first passes will probably just be the survey, but our hope is to be able to layer the data on to other existing datasets.

C. *Nomination for 2024 SCMH Officers*

All current officers were nominated and, Mary Pat Waterhouse agreed to be nominated for Secretary because of the possibility that E. Lau-James will not accept the nomination.

VI. Old Business

A. *“Meet and Greet, Talk story on Breaking Silos.”*

Council members shared their thoughts and reflections on Governor Green’s talk.

- There can be some good intentions and talking about things but there’s some work that needs to be done. I’m talking about getting the people from the different silos together and doing team building.
- Important to have funding so that they can do the team building or be interactive with the stakeholders in the community or on the boards, or in the trauma informed rollout that includes non-profits.
- Important to keep the bridge open with the different state agencies and maintain the relationship.
- Acknowledge some of the things that have been done. There’s been some significant changes, not limited to him but as a whole here in Hawaii. We should acknowledge and show the gratitude for those changes, and that they keep going in that direction. The data that we’re getting across all islands, the acknowledgement of some of the needs on the other islands was amazing. We should show some gratitude for all the things that we are seeing in the change, and that it keeps going in a positive direction.
- Impressed with how much he really did seem to care about mental health, genuinely care. He was genuinely informed, knowledgeable, and acknowledged how important mental health care.
- This is the first time that we have a leader who was so focused on mental health in general, and including the mental health of our employees, many of whom are sort of first responders.
- Governor Green sends out the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) staff to a lot of different community meetings including our State Council which been here several times in our meetings, that’s been exceptional. He took on some difficult questions and was very helpful. He is also very clear and well informed.
- The Governor did mention the provisional support for positions at hospitals that are not funded. Questions to the Governor: How can the Council support you? What are your needs? And the Council would like to support the trauma informed care going forward?

B. 2024 Legislation Updates

M.P. Waterhouse, chairperson of the Council's ad hoc 2024 legislation committee led the presentation of bill updates, to decide whether the Council will continue to provide testimony.

HB 1830 HD2. K. Aumer moved to support the bill. J. Betlach seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB1826 HD1. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. M. Waterhouse seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

SB3094 SD2. K. Aumer moved to support the Bill. J. Betlach seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

SB3139 SD2. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB1831 HD1. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB2345 D2. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

SB3141 SD2. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB2159 HD2. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. The following voted in support of the motion: K. Aumer, K. Merriam, J. Betlach, M. Waterhouse, H. Ilyavi, and J. Jackson. The following voted to abstain: L. Dias. The motion passed. Reflecting that the support was not unanimous, the Council testimony will state that "majority of the Council members" support...

HB2451 HD3. H. Ilyavi moved to support the bill. J. Betlach and K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB1941 HD1. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. L. Dias seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

SB3137 SD2. J. Betlach moved to support the bill. K. Aumer seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

HB1906 HD1. M. Waterhouse moved to support the bill. J. Jackson seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

SB2992 SD2. K. Aumer moved to support the bill. J. Betlach seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

C. Council Planning Retreat

Council staff, C. Weygan-Hildebrand and J. Nazareno, updated that they were working to secure the facilitator.

VII. Informational Reports by Council Members

A. Island Representative Reports

1. Oahu Service Area Board (OSAB). J. Jackson highlighted the following events:
 - NAMI Conference March 25th, from 9am to 3pm.
 - Kalani High School sign waving to bring awareness to drunk driving.
 - Violence Awareness waving at Waianae High School
2. Hawaii Service Area Board (HSAB). J. Betlach highlighted the following:
He is looking into two County Council bills on housing rentals (short-term, vacation). He mentioned a traveling nurse who said that she would not come back to work in Hawaii if they got rid of vacation rentals. With the pay that she is getting, she would not be able to afford to work and stay in Hawaii. He also highlighted that there is a Mental Health Awareness event in May.

B. State Agency Representative Reports

1. Behavioral Health. K. Merriam commented on H. Ilyavi's message to the Council regarding Kona Paradise Club, that Kona closed and never reopened full time since COVID. She elaborated that there used to be a Statewide Clubhouse Plan to have strong clubhouses, which went by the Clubhouse's international standards. For said standard of operation, there needs to be four or five staff at least. Unfortunately, Hawaii hasn't moved forward with fidelity to the model.

A request was made to have a presentation on Clubhouse purposes, funding and services on the different islands.

2. Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services (VocRehab). L. Dias sent her report, which has been emailed as part of the meeting packet.
3. Judiciary. K. Will highlighted that the First Circuit Specialty Courts Service Fair will be held on Friday at the Downtown Courthouse from 10 am to 12 noon.

There were no other reports.

VIII. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

State Hospital updates and today's community input were recommended for future meeting agendas or presentations. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Handouts

1. Amended Agenda for March 12, 2024 Meeting
2. Attendance Log as of February 2024
3. Draft Minutes of the February 13, 2024 Meeting
4. 2024 Legislation Update for March 12, 2024 Meeting
5. SCMH DVR-VRA Report for March 12, 2024

Attachments start on the next page.

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