

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH) MEETING

December 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting via Zoom and

in-person at Hale F Conference Room, 2201 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City 96782

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Katherine Aumer, John Betlach, Heidi Ilyavi, Lea Dias, Jackie Jackson, Kathleen Merriam, Ray Rice, Richard Ries

Members Absent: Antonino Beninato, Eileen Lau-James

Members Excused: Naomi Crozier, Jon Fujii, Jean Okuda, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Kristin Will

Staff Present: Jocelyn Nazareno, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Courtenay Matsu, Valerie Yin

Guests: Raelyn Reyno, KITV 4 Island News, G. Miyamoto, Juliet Kalikikane, Dr. Alex Lichten

I. Call to Order

Katherine Aumer, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:06 am and quorum was established. She warmly welcomed members and guests.

II. Announcements

Meeting protocol

- In case of communication technology-related interruption that could not be restored in 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically be terminated and resume on December 19th, 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.

Membership Update:

- Kau`i Seguancia officially stepped down as Council member.
- Naomi Crozier and Jean Okudara are still excused from Council meetings. The emergency proclamation because of the Maui disaster has not been rescinded.
- The Boards and Commissions Office have acted on Fern Yoshida's application as Education representative to the Council. For holdovers, the applications of John Fujii, Ray Rice and Lea Dias have also been forwarded to the Senate. Those who are in a holdover status should reapply because holdover status cannot extend beyond the next legislature session. We are looking to fill the vacancies for the service area boards of Maui and Kauai and consumer advocate. We also should encourage applicants who can fill the youth seat
- All Council members are required to take the Ethics Training every four years. Most completed it in 2022. Those who needed to completed received an email reminder.

- The Council will be hearing from Dr. Alex Lichton at 10:00 am instead of 9:30 am
- The conference room at the Department of Transportation has been reserve for the February 13, 2024 State Council Planning Retreat. This meeting will be an in-person meeting and requires the meeting to be publicly notice. The negotiating PIG for the Retreat will work with support staff on retreat details.

III. Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023

Lea Dias moved to approve the minutes. J. Jackson seconded. The minutes was approved unanimously.

IV. Community Input

None

V. New Business

A. Presentation by Dr. Alex Lichton on House Bill 1300 (2023 Legislative Session)

Dr. Lichton introduced himself as the chairperson of the Hawaii Psychological Association' Legal Action Committee. He explained that stakeholders have been working on the bill for 3 years trying to get it pass. There is shortage of mental health provider in Hawaii. Hawaii ranks near the bottom in terms of access to mental health treatment. HB 1300 would help with that problem. The bill would provide a few 100 additional therapists to be reimbursed by insurance. The bill would allow for a provisional license to allow individuals in the medical field who just graduated but do not have enough hours for their license, get a temporary license that would allow for some type of billing or compensation while they work to get the hours needed to get their license. The bill would also create more postdoctoral opportunities; have money coming in while individuals complete their postdoc year; makes it easier to become a psychologist; and help to diversify the profession by having people from different backgrounds other than those from affluent backgrounds.

Question and Answer, Discussion

Q. What might be reasons for pushback on it?

A. Nobody's really opposing the bill, at least not publicly. The only people would be the insurance companies who have a financial interest. In the last session, the House was late in sending a lot of bills to the Conference Committee. And so they were up against a deadline, they had a new House Finance Chair, there were a lot of mental health bills and a lot of bills that suffered a similar fate, which passed House and Senate just didn't make it out of the Conference Committee. The Governor even floated the idea of a special session, just to fix some of these bills that could pass, but it didn't happen.

Q. Is the same bill being introduced with the same wording as last year's HB1300?

A.Yes

Q. Where does HPA (Hawaii Psychological Associaton) stands on this? Are they supportive of it?

A. HPA is in very strong support of the bill.

Q. The provisional licensing will go through the DCCA. Is DCCA the one who will give the provisional licenses? There is also an interest to lobby or create a bill that will increase the number of staff providing licenses in the DCCA.

A. The biggest obstacle is the DCCA bottleneck. They are having trouble with the licensing. DCCA did succeed in getting the bill delayed last year, the implementation was pushed back to give them time, and have some pressure on them to upgrade the computer systems, hire the staff, whatever they need. So, the legislature is willing to work with them and give them some extra time. And there is some funding for DCCA in the bill to hire additional staff.

Q. What about the DCCA itself? Has anybody asked them what they think they would need in terms of resources to handle this? And what about who handles these interns?

A. Yes, we have met with DCCA. They expressed what we just talked about, that it'd be some extra work, they need additional staffing. It would be a supervisor in the agency they are working for who will handle these interns.

There was discussion on additional training for meds or psychiatry added on to psychologists as a specialization to address the shortage of psychiatrist in the State of Hawaii. Dr. Lichten mentioned that there are two bills for prescription privileges for psychology and they have a subcommittee working to push to grant prescription privileges for psychologist this year. Dr. Lichten could have someone come and do a presentation for the Council at the next meeting.

John Betlach requested a presentation on prescription privileges and HB 1300 to the Hawaii Service Area Board.

VI. Old Business

A. National Family Caregivers Month Presentation by Ms. Savina Makalena Thank You Letter (handout).

R. Ries motion to approve the Thank you letter to Savina Makalena. L. Dias seconded. The thank you letter was approved unanimously.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on 2024 Legislation Update

K. Aumer, as member of the Ad Hoc Committee on 2024 Legislation, shared that the group met on December 6th and went over legislative subjects that the Council had last year, The Committee divided the topics among its members, and will proceed like last year (See handout- 2023 Legislative Bill Subjects Assigned to DOH AMHD and CAMHD)

The Committee also agreed that there is a need for facts and some grounding information to continue to have discussion. It also encouraged the Council to be collaborative with other stakeholders who are seeking action on bills.

Those present suggested that the following be added in the list:

- Stabilization beds
- First Responders
- Supportive Housing
- Crisis stabilization
- Workforce Development
- DVR consults with Lea

J. Betlach shared that the Legislature's Public Access Room has educational resources on the legislative process.

C. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) on Introducing Legislation Update

K. Aumer, as member of the PIG, reported that the PIG did not have a lot of time to meet and investigate but agreed that the Council should support lawmaking activities on the following topics.

- Provisional licensing. A provisional license would allow individuals in the clinical field who just graduated but do not have enough hours for their license, get a temporary license that would allow for some type of billing or compensation while they work to get the hours needed to get their license.
- Psychotherapy in inpatient setting. The Committee encourages that a legislative resolution be sought to support this. The Council has talked about this topic but the PIG realized that there is much that needs to be established on what this idea will cover.
- Supportive housing like Kauhales. The PIG is recommending that a resolution be sought as well, which can include the need to explore and establish good data.

R. Ries wondered if this was the time to bring out also the Maui Wildfire and the aftermath of having more mental health reaction from the survivors, caregivers, providers, and government staff. He suggested that the Council write a letter to the Governor to please look after the people who were involved in the response on the ground such as government staff, first responders, providers. He pointed to their need for resiliency care.

J. Betlach made a motion to write a letter to the Governor to request for resiliency care response for the first responders, government workers, community leaders, and non-profits that were involved in the care and the direct action to help the people in Maui. R. Ries seconded. R. Ries moved to create a negotiating PIG to work on the letter to the Governor to encourage resiliency care for all responders to the Maui wildfire disaster. J. Betlach seconded. It was pointed out that the copies of the letter be sent also to the Chief of Staff, Vice Chief of Staff, and Tia Hartsock. Jackie Jackson commented that she would like to see the letter before it is sent to the Governor. K. Aumer and R. Ries volunteered to be the PIG who will work together to provide a draft letter and present it to the Council at the next meeting in January.

D. Hawaii 2024 State Council on Mental Health Report Preparation and Discussion

Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand pointed out that this year's report will follow last year, including reporting MHBG Performance Annual Results (See handout). Following last year's protocol, the Report needs to be submitted via DOH. Then, the internal deadline was December 20. Because the Council will not meet again until 2024, she recommended the approval of the draft with a negotiating PIG overseeing the completion and submission.

R. Ries moved that the Report draft be approved with a negotiating PIG reviewing the final report to be submitted. J. Jackson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Aumer and R. Ries agreed to be the PIG members.

VII. Information Reports

A. Island Representative Reports

Oahu Service Area Board (OSAB). J. Jackson

- SAB met on November 15, 2023. NAMI Hawaii was offering support groups they can be reach at 808-591-1297 or Namihawaii.org.
- SAB received an informational presentation on the mandated Comprehensive Integrated Search Service Area Planning. The following workforce needs and possible action areas were highlighted:
 - High vacancy rates
 - Competency in the workplace
 - Collaborative team-based care that they should embrace
 - The providers rate study
 - Career pathways.
- Dr. Shirley talked about the licensing procedures, uniformity between the social workers, the LCSW to LMFP. There are three different courses that they could take, but there is no uniformity in them. Dr. Shirley also mentioned about not being in favor of psychologists being able to prescribe medications.
- The SAB also put out the requests for people to apply for boards.
- There will be no December meeting due to people traveling and general busy schedules.

B. *Hawaii Service Area Board (HSAB).* – J. Betlach

- Response time for crisis were discussed. Hawaii Island does not have CMO to show up when the police are dealing with somebody that is having some issues. There's a move to build five or six different measures to kind of track response time because a lot of the police are getting frustrated, they don't feel supported. A lot of the people calling in are left feeling like these people aren't getting help. A Representative from the Mayor's Office will give a presentation on some measures to track response times and propose some interventions so that we can help people in the community better that are in crisis. They are looking at a pilot model based in Phoenix to propose a crisis center in Hilo.
- The SAB would like the Council to give input on the Fitness Evaluation that the State use to do for intakes. Should MD only so it or can psychologists, social workers or

unlicensed people do it? Evaluation is a big bottleneck for the departments in terms of being able to provide services because they have to do this evaluation.

- Discussed about high burnout and low training for people who work at residential programs. Issue about the kinds of support for these people beside pay were also discussed.
- Carolyn gave a presentation also on the role of service area boards in comprehensive service area planning, which was well received.
- SAB is thinking about doing an RFP to analyze the hiring process issues for the state and the needs to speed up that process because the hiring process is very long.
- There was a sustainability mental health summit for services in Hilo. People from different organizations, therapists, and family members from the community attended the summit. Meetings were also held to talk about different issues, about having more breakout meetings and who would facilitate these meetings.
- Mental Health Kokua is working with the County in the conversion of Hotel Manago to affordable housing for nonprofit sector workers.

K. Aumer took time to recognize Maui and that the Council hearts goes out to them, and hopefully someday soon we'll hear a report from the Maui SAB.

C. State Agency Representative Reports

1. *Behavioral Health, Department of Health (DOH). K. Merriam.*
K. Merriam reported that Marian Tsuji and Dr. Matsu just spoke to the Council last meeting. She suggested that Tiana (Fontanilla) and others be invited to walk members through the BH808.hawaii.gov. What's really nice about ADAD's data is they have their programs outlined with numbers of consumers that are being served. The Mental Health programs and data are not as well laid out. They must be under construction and the Council can ask more about this.
2. *Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services (VocRehab). Lea Dias.*
L. Dias share data report for Vocational Rehab (see handout). She also noted that she shared a success story narrative that staff requested for the Council Report.
3. *Judiciary. K. Will. No report*
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4. *Social Services. Ray Rice*
 - APS is still putting out effort to identify community mental health resources. For example, the City's Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Program (CORE) agreed to come and do a presentation to administrators and workers. APS also had a presentation from NAMI for administrators and workers.
 - APS is also continuing to look for new services or services and anything that can help workers provide better services.

D. Specialty Area Representative Reports

1. *Providers. R. Ries –*

- Colleagues, those that are towards the earlier end of their career, are applying for the Hawaii Health Care Education Loan Repayment Program, which was put out by Governor Green. People are having some difficulty getting the information that is required from their loan servicing organization in a timely fashion. The HELP has extended the deadline and has reached out to people, notifying them that if they are not selected for the first round, they will be automatically moved over into the next round.

2. *Family members.* Heidi Ilyavi

- People in the mental health industry right now are pretty beyond burnout. A lot are looking for other jobs, just because the pay isn't great, there is more work, and the hours are becoming much longer. There is a lack of case management in the Westside of Hawaii. Care Hawaii is understaffed. Mental Health Kokua is understaffed. Clubhouse is currently closed because they don't have staffing. Care Hawaii IOP Program was closed for a while because they didn't have staffing. They've recently increased staffing and started opening up.
- My boss and I have worked really hard to identify the issues at hand. We applied for the workforce development grant for not only Manago Hotel conversion to workforce housing, but also for \$4 increase for our staff members who are making 12 to \$15 an hour. They are now making up to \$18 an hour, which is severely low for Hawaii, let alone the Kona side, the wealthy side. So, it's the wealthy, and then those of us that work or tried to live and work in the community. So, pay are low, work is high, housing is impossible, all these different things. So, we're working really hard to figure stuff out.
- For those of you that have stuck through it, way to go, because you're needed and appreciated for all that you do.

V. Meeting Evaluation/ Future Agenda Items

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Handouts Before and During the Meeting

1. Public Notice and Agenda December 12, 2023 Meeting
2. Attendance Log November 14, 2023 Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of November 14, 2023 Meeting
4. Letter from DOH Director To SCMH Dated November 7 2023
5. Draft Letter to Ms Savy Makalena 111423 Presentation
6. Draft Meeting Notes December 6, 2023 SCMH Ad Hoc Committee on 2024 Legislation
7. Report of DVR VRA for SCMH dated 120523
8. Preliminary Draft SCMH 2024 Report to the Governor and Legislature

