

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH) MEETING

January 9, 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

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Katherine Aumer, John Betlach, Lea Dias, Jon Fujii, Heidi Ilyavi, Kathleen Merriam, Richard Ries, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Kristin Will

Members Absent: Antonino Beninato

Members Excused: Eileen Lau-James, Jackie Jackson, Ray Rice, Naomi Crozier*, Jean Okudara*

*Covered by Emergency Proclamation re: Maui Wildfire Disaster

Staff Present: Jocelyn Nazareno, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

Guests: Specialty Courts, Cynthia Dang, Chad Koyanagi

I. Call to Order

Katherine Aumer, chairperson, called the meeting to order and quorum was established at 9:07 am.

II. Announcements

K. Aumer warmly welcomed members and guests.

Meeting protocol:

- In case of communication technology-related interruption that could not be restored in 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically be terminated and resumed on January 16th, 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:

- The Council has several seats that should be filled this legislative session- youth, housing, consumer advocate, family members, and 2 service area board representatives. The four different service area boards also have many seats to fill.
- Election of officers. The Council bylaws call for annual election of officers. The nominations for officers need to be set up in March and election will be in April.

Events and resources:

- The Legislative Session for 2024 will open on January 17th, 2024.
- Dr. Chad Koyanagi will be joining the Council to talk on Behavioral Health Crisis Center. Like in past meetings, the Council will proceed with its agenda but will pause discussions if needed when the speaker is ready to join us.
- The Council Planning Retreat is scheduled on February 13, 2024

III. Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023

John Betlach moved to approve the December 1, 2023 minutes. Mary Pat Waterhouse seconded. The minutes was approved unanimously.

IV. Community Input

No community input given

V. Old Business

A. Thank you letter to Dr. Alex Lichten

J. Betlach moved to approve the letter. M.P. Waterhouse seconded. Letter was approved unanimously.

B. 2024 Legislation Updates and Discussion

M. P. Waterhouse reported that the Ad Hoc Committee assigned different members to different bill subject matters. The Committee will wait until the bills get introduced this year and then everyone will be assigned to the bills according to the topic.

C. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) on introducing legislation

M.P. Waterhouse reported that the PIG on introducing legislation recommend the following directions for proactive action, such as bill or resolution introduction:

1. House Bill 1300 (provisional licensing)
2. Supportive housing
3. Psychotherapy in Inpatient setting
4. Negotiating PIG/s for approved actions

M.P. Waterhouse moved that all four directions be approved. J. Betlach seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

M.P. Waterhouse recommended that it will be easier to have only one negotiating permitted interaction group to cover all topics. And if people are interested in one and not in the others, then they just attend those meetings.

The following members volunteered to be part of this PIG, provided that the number does not exceed quorum:

Kathleen Merriam, Eileen Lau-James, Ray Rice, Jon Fujii, Katherine Aumer, Mary Pat Waterhouse, John Betlach, Jackie Jackson

D. Hawaii 2024 State Council on Mental Health Report

Based on what the legislators can be looking for in this report, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand has recommended further changes to highlight what the Council wants the Governor and Legislature to consider, including what the directions that were just approved. Council members reiterated that Maui should be included and what is going on there.

E. February 13, 2024 Council Planning Retreat Update

The State Council Planning Retreat will be February 13, 2024 and will be a full day in person meeting. C. Weygan-Hildebrand, and Jocelyn Nazareno, SCMH support staff, are handling the logistics of the meeting. The Department of Transportation Conference room at the Honolulu International Airport will be the venue for the Retreat. Information of the meeting site and parking will be provided. J. Nazareno is working on the travel arrangements for the neighbor island members. The possible candidates for the facilitator are Peter Adler, Valerie Koenig and Elizabeth Kent. K. Merriam suggested Ku`ulani Keohokalole and Heather Puerucki who has some kind of mental health connection and cultural grounding. The selection of facilitator will be done in consultation with the assigned negotiating PIG. Based on suggestion, the meeting will start at 9:00 a.m instead of 8 a.m. C.W. Hildebrand sought ideas for a lunchtime keynote speaker. The names suggested include Governor Green, First Lady Green, Dr. Curtis Toma, Tia Hartsock, or consumers. For the inspiration keynote, topics suggested included: Breaking out of silos: Maui situation; children from an education and mental health perspective. For agenda items, suggestions included: Council's role 3-5 years from now; Focus on big uses such as resiliency care, suicide, and human services.

VI. New Business

A. Resilience Care Letter to the Governor

Council reviewed the letter and made some grammatical corrections.

Suggestions included: Take out the second word "tirelessly" and change it to relentlessly; Change Resilience Care to Resiliency Care; Insert sentence "if you've already implemented some of these actions, we would like to know these details in your response. We are ready and willing to support you in those efforts. And thank you for all your work"; Commending the Governor on creating the office of resiliency and appointing Tia Hartsock, asking for details of what his office or Tia's office might have already implemented; Adding another line saying specifically, to draw special attention on government workers that may not be in a first responder capacity that were active in the aftermath of the wildfire; Add to that the first responders without a badge or a vest (boots on the ground).

Heide Ilyavi motion to approve the letter with amendments. J. Fujii seconded. The passed unanimously.

B. Informational Presentation on Behavioral Health Crisis Center Presentation by Dr. Chad Koyanagi

Dr. Chad Koyanagi is the Medical Director of Crisis Continuum for the Adult Mental Health Division. One of his responsibilities is to help oversee the complex process of the state building, the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC), which is called the Iwilei Resource Center. The building is a four-story building. owned by the City and County located on Iwilei Road.

The idea was to create a place other than the traditional emergency rooms and psychiatric units. The BHCCs are meant to be these "No Wrong Door" facilities where patients can be dropped off by the police, then they are boarded, welcomed quite warmly, and then assessed and triaged at that point.

The first floor of the facility will be 23:59 observation unit where the patients are observed for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes. There are psychiatric care nurses, peer specialists, case managers and security on site. The patients are fed three meals a day, linked with their existing providers. Within the 24 hours window, they are either discharged back to the community or transferred to other places like crisis shelters, stabilization beds such as Ekoru, LCRs, or Stabilization Intensive Case Management (SICM). The second floor is for patients who require 7 to 10 days of crisis resolution. The 3rd and 4th floor will be used for supportive housing units.

The Iwilei BHCC will be unable to take in MH1s patients. As of now, it can take patients who are acutely suicidal, referrals from Hawaii Care Line, from ERs, and patients who are helped by CMO workers who are responding to a suicidal patient or patient in crisis. The goal in the future is to take all patients, walk ins, other community referrals, MH1/MH2 and jail diversion.

The goal is to decrease the amount of time that police officers spend waiting in ERs for MH1 type patients to be disposed to create alternative venue where patients who tend to typically not be treated in the optimal way. And then to improve outcomes to link with traditional resources and housing.

Question and Answer (Q&A), Discussion

Q. For the soft opening, is there a plan for any tour or there has already been tours for the facility?

A. Once the construction, and all the logistic are done, there can be opportunities for visitation.

Q. What are some of the legislative statutes that would have to be amended to allow and open up for more MH ones? Do you know the current bills that are being looked at regarding opening it up for the Iwilei Center to be open for all the MH ones?

A. It is currently the wording in the statute that MH1 are allowed to be dropped off at psychiatric facilities. The BHCC is not considered a psychiatric facility. We are working with our Attorney General and the Senate to change the statute. DOH is responsible for the bill.

Q. With the soft opening, how many people do you foresee will be served immediately, capacity wise? As for the 3rd and 4th floor will it be later be part of this legislative agenda for funding?

A. The goal is to have 16 chairs on the first floor. But we're just going to have eight for now. For the mezzanine, there are 10 to 12 capacities. We will start with the MH1s that are suicidal, and the referrals through Hawaii Cares line. Maybe in about a month, we will get a sense whether the numbers are too low, or we need to expand our criteria, or whether we can leave it the same until the statutes changed, We want to open the 1st and 2nd floors first and then focus on the 3rd and 4th floor.

Q. Will the same provider for the Resource Center run the support housing units? So, it could be any supportive housing provider. It's not decided yet if the housing unit will be 8-16 hrs. or 24 hrs. supervised?

A. No, it will be a separate RFP (Request for Proposal). There will be probably different agencies that will be lined up. The skills set of acute care/ psychiatric crisis care is very different than supportive housing. The units will be independent housing with staff 8 hrs. a day to help.

Q. Do you need to be presenting to the neighborhood boards for approval?

A. We met with Downtown, Chinatown and Kalihi Palama. Tonight, I am meeting with Waikiki. For the soft opening the initial target areas where people can be brought in from are Kalihi Palama, Waikiki, Downtown and Chinatown for now.

Q. What is a 2359 chair, is that a category of a person?

A. 2359 is an observation status. For this facility, and most BHCC, they use reclining chairs not beds. Patients are only allowed 23 hours and 59 minutes in the chair.

Q. Are you also expanding on the Big Island?

A. Eventually, Hawaii Island would want to have a BHCC. But looking at the numbers of patients who are brought in by police and to the ERs, it may not cross the threshold for it to be financially or logistically feasible.

Q. For the supportive housing unit, is it envisioned that there is going to be a transition between those folks that maybe are in the first two floors, that they're going to go up in terms of who can go to the third or fourth floors? Or is it going to be sort of independent flows?

A. We haven't totally worked that out yet. But I think it's going to be on a first come first serve basis. Once the housing fills up, then patients will have to be sent to other places. If someone came in through the ground floor and there happens to be units available, the patient can be placed for supportive housing if they are eligible.

VII. Information Reports

A. Island Representative Reports – Jackie Jackson

Oahu Service Area Board (OSAB). No report

Hawaii Service Area Board (HSAB). – John Betlach

See slide presentation for more information on the Health Summit. Health Summit - came together with some different panels and breakout groups where they talked about different issues and tried to address some of the issues that are facing Hawaii and the Hawaii County. The following are covered at the Health Summit: Regional Crisis Call Services; Mobile Crisis Teams crisis; Crisis Receiving Stabilization Services; and Funding and a summary of opportunities and recommendations.

B. State Agency Representative Reports

1. *Behavioral Health, Department of Health (DOH).* K. Merriam

No report, the BHCC covers the DOH presentation today.

2. *Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services (VocRehab).* Lea Dias.

Leah Dias referred to the handout on VocRehab statistics for October to December 2023.

3. *Judiciary.* Kristin Will updated with the following: New Judge for Conditional Release Judge Johnson, he also the administrative judge; New Judge for Mental Health Court Judge Clarissa Malinao; The former Judge for Mental Health Court, moved to Women's Court and Criminal, the criminal calendar and the trial calendar; MH Court has a full unit now, 5 POS and 1 intern; Working on grants to get funding for more bed spaces; and there are 5 clients graduating from mental health court this Thursday.

4. *MedQUEST and HACDACS.* Jon Fujii. For HACDACS, J. Fujii reported that, the HACDACS report was completed in November. Different priorities were discussed including: Stimulant

use disorders and treatment options; Importance of incorporating cultural benefits and traditions and practices into treatment and recovery; Substance use in Native Hawaiian communities and cultural healing; Recovery communities and organizations; Law enforcement perspective on fentanyl and other drugs of abuse; The trauma informed recovery-oriented system of care; Legalization of cannabis and finding cannabis to use temps force. For legislative advocacy, HACDACS layered the 10 guiding principles of recovery. Those principles are hope, many pathways, peer support, culture strengths and responsibilities, person driven, holistic, relational, addresses trauma and respect.

MedQUEST. There was a slide presentation on redeterminations for MedQUEST.

5. *Social Services.* No report

C. Specialty Area Representative Reports

1. *Providers.* R. Ries – No report
2. *Family members.* No Report

VIII. Meeting Evaluation/Future Agenda Recommendations -none

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Handouts

1. Public Notice and Agenda for the January 9, 2024 Meeting
2. Attendance Log December 12, 2023 Meeting
3. Draft Minutes of December 12, 2023 Meeting
4. Draft Letter to Dr Alex Lichton 121223 Presentation
5. Initial Draft of 2024 Report to the Governor and Legislature
6. Draft Letter to Gov Green on Resiliency Care
7. DVR January 2024 Report to SCMH