

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH) MEETING

April 9, 2024, 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, Richard Ries, Mary Pat Waterhouse. Kristin Will

Members Excused: Naomi Crozier, Lea Dias, Jon Fujii, Eileen Lau-James, Jean Okuda, Ray Rice, Fern Yoshida, Marian Tsuji (ex-officio)

Guests: Raelyn Reyno, Carrie Ann Shirota, Forrest Wells, Bryan Talisayan, Dr. Dang

CAMHD/AMHD Staff Present: Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Val Yim

I. Call to Order

Katherine Aumer, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and a roll call established quorum. Maui-based members continue to be excused based on the latest or March 5 emergency proclamation relating to the Maui wildfire disaster continue.

II. Announcements

K. Aumer warmly welcomed members and guests. She announced the following:

- In case of communication technology-related interruption that could not be restored in 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically be recessed and resume on April 16, at 9 am using the same zoom links used of this meeting.
- Two agenda items tabled because the materials are not ready. These are the March minutes and draft thank you letter to the Governor. Staff will complete these as soon as possible.
- There are no presentations today but there are a lot of discussion items. Everyone was encouraged to be mindful of the time.
- As requested last meeting, and with clearance from the Office of Information Practice, the Council can have recess for bathroom and hydration break. This will be between 10:15 to 10:30 am depending on how the meeting is going.
- The May 14 meeting of the Council will be an in-person strategic planning retreat. It is a full day meeting, and every member is expected to attend.
- Several seats continue to be vacant -Kauai Service Area Board, Maui Service Area Boards, housing representative from government, youth, and consumer advocate. Some of the current members have terms ended last June 30, 2023 or will end this June 30, 2024. Some are or will continue as holdovers. Members are encouraged to check their status with staff.
- There will be a kick-off event for mental health awareness month. This will be on May 1 at the Capitol. This can be important also for recruitment given that the Council has vacancies that have been going on for quite some time.

III. Approval of Minutes

The March meeting minutes are not available due to staffing shortage. However, due to a request from the public, the recording was released by the Department of Health Communication via the Youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em_8CjjvymI

There were no questions or comments.

IV. Community Input

K. Aumer brought attention to one of the meeting handouts, a written input on House Bill 2159 from Carrie Ann Shirota from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). There were no additional oral nor written testimony. She reminded that that input will be sought throughout the meeting.

V. New Business

A. Requested Updates on Hawaii State Hospital and Clubhouses -Discussion

K. Aumer reminded that the Council sought updates from the Hawaii State Hospital last month. Dr. Luke, Hawaii State Hospital administrator, sent a message that he regrets not being able to join the Council at this meeting. To keep the flow of communication, he suggested that the Council provide specific questions and information wanted so updates can be provided in one way or the other. The following questions were recorded:

- Mary Pat Waterhouse: What is the occupancy, rate, discharge of patients and reasons? Are the reasons the same as before? What is the status or updates of construction, refurbishment of old units? Are there problems recently with staff or patients that the Council should know.
- K. Aumer: With allusions to the tragedy a few months ago, are there any update in terms of new protocol? Status on the return and reform of the committee that handle complains and concerns.
- John Betlach: Concern on Loss of services by nonprofit providers because of safety issues. Support for nonprofit providers who want to help. Also, what support groups do staff, especially considering vacancies and burnout. What is the vacancy rate and caseloads.

K. Aumer also updated that Steve Pavao and Troy Freitas were invited to join the Council today for updates on clubhouses. Both community mental health center managers could not make it because they are at the IVAT (Institute of Violence, Abuse , and Tauma) conference. They have expressed willingness to come to a future meeting. The following questions, concerns and discussion points were recorded:

- Kathleen Merriam: The concern raised last meeting is about access, taking too long to an orientation session and the Kona Paradise Clubhouse being literally shutdown.
- Heidi Ilyavi: Originally, there was issue about the facility. Now, it is staffing. It is a significant deficit, for a long time now. It has been a longstanding issue, so it should have been addressed. The options offered were driving to Hilo or online, both of which are wanting when you consider where Kona is. Another community member try to fill in the holes and gaps where we can but we have limited financial and staff resources.
- K. Merriam: As part of supportive housing program, clients must engage in meaningful community activities. Psychosocial rehabilitation is a key component, hence clubhouses.
- M. Waterhouse: Is there someone statewide that is overseeing clubhouses? This is from the expertise perspective. Is this something to explore with Marian Tsuji? I volunteered at the Aloha Clubhouse in Waipahu for five years and I have seen how wonderful it has been to its members.
- J. Betlach: Finding a new location has been a challenge, and this is one thing to add.

K. Aumer asked staff, C. Weygan-Hildebrand, if this is something that can be brought to the attention of M. Tsuji. There is more to find out so the Council is not speculating --funding , evidence-base solutions, and others. Staff will do so and mentioned that it will be good to also notify the two mental health administrators and branch managers.

K. Aumer recognized Forrest Wells and asked him and other guests if they have questions or comments. F. Wells thanked everyone, noted that the two topics were interesting, and offered to listen first before making any comments.

B. Election of 2024 Officers

K. Aumer reviewed that all 2023 Officers were renominated last meeting for 2024 officers. M. P. Waterhouse was also nominated for 2024 Secretary. C. Weygan-Hildebrand confirmed and clarified that current secretary, Eileen Lau-James, declined the nomination due to personal circumstances and thank the members for the nomination. K. Aumer acknowledged that E. Lau-James was a wonderful member and contributed so much. She encouraged all to see that she is also a seasoned member who recognizes her limitation.

J. Betlach moved to proceed with open voting (not secret balloting_ . M. P. Waterhouse seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The following were voted unanimously to serve as 2024 Officers:

Chairperson: Katherine Aumer

1st Vice Chairperson: Kathleen Merriam

2nd Vice Chairperson: John Betlach

Secretary: Mary Pat Waterhouse

K. Aumer led in congratulation and thanking the past and elected officers. Richard Ries asked and suggested if the Council can offer some appreciation for service. C. Weygan-Hildebrand shared that she knows that other committees or councils present certificates of appreciation to their outgoing members. K. Aumer welcomed and to put the subject in a future agenda in accordance with Sunshine law.

C. Mental Health Awareness Month

K. Aumer said that the Council was invited to be part of the May 1 kickoff event (see attachment 1). This will be at the Capitol rotunda level, from 9-2 pm for booth tables and 2to 4:30 for sign waving. K. Aumer asked about the Council website and other things to bring to introduce the Council. Staff said that something can be rushed, like a brochure, but the website update has restrictions. Ideas for the booth were shared - balloons, business cards, questions for learning and prizes/spin boards, pens and giveaways.

M.P. Waterhouse moved for the Council to participate in the May 1 kickoff. R. Ries seconded. The motion passed unanimously. M.P. Waterhouse moved, J. Betlach seconded that negotiating permitted interaction group be created to work with staff on details. The motion was unanimously approved. The PIG members are M. P. Waterhouse and K. Aumer.

VI. New Business

A. “Meet and Greet, Talk Story on Breaking Silos” -Thank you Letter.
Tabled. Draft letter not ready.

B. “Mental Health Support and House Bill 1906” -Thank you Letter to DOE.
J. Betlach motioned to approve draft letters. M.P. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. “2024 Statewide Quality Life Survey” -Thank you Letter to UH and OWR.
This letter was included in the motion above and approved.

K. Aumer called for a short recess at 10:07 a.m. and a resumption at 10:15 a.m.

D. 2024 Legislation Update

M.P. Waterhouse, as chairperson of the ad hoc committee on 2024 legislation, brief the members about the ongoing legislative process, with April 11 as date for second crossover of bills. If Senate and House do not agree on bill amendments, the bill goes to conference committee. So, there are no new testimonies at said point but stakeholders can write the conferees letters of support or concerns. Based on the status of bills being tracked, M.P. Waterhouse suggested covering public inputs first.

K. Aumer recognized Carrie Ann Shirota and asked if she wants to read her written testimony or have anything to add. C. Shirota thanked members for their service, and offered highlights:

- The ACLU voice is that of due process under the Fourteenth Amendment of our US Constitution an article on section 5 of the Hawaii Constitution. The ACLU not challenging the fact that there may be individuals who would benefit from ACT. It seeks to ensure that their constitutional rights are provided for.
- There seem to be a misstatement of the public defender's position in the State Council's testimony. The Department of Attorney General has not stated that "Individuals are not entitled to a public defender."
- The ACLU position is that every individual is entitled to legal counsel, whether it's by the public defender's office or by court appointed counsel. That seems to be the testimony consistent with the Department of Attorney General in the past as well as Hawaii Disability Rights Center.
- Other states that sort of pave the pathway for ACT provide for legal representation throughout these proceedings (e.g., New York, California)
- Looking back at the principles of advocating for persons with disabilities, there is a definite emphasis on the principle of human and civil rights.
- For path forward, ACLU continues to encourage the state legislature to ensure that the rights of individual, who are indigent and subject to ACT proceedings are guaranteed the right to legal counsel. ACLU asks that the State Council revisits its testimony, and perhaps reach out to the attorney general's office and asking for a legal opinion on this narrow matter.

Questions and comments for clarification included the following:

- There is a need for middle ground when someone is so sick (or with co-occurring condition) and needs medical attention, and not in the position to decide about treatment, and getting legal representation and proceeding adds further delay. The Attorney General's office is the largest law firm in the state, and its members take the oath to represented person's constitutional rights. So, the indigent can have ACT and rights protected as well.
- Is there a way for this to work for the indigent and get some short-term care in the process? The Council will know these systems and the need is to put investment into these alternative crisis response systems.
- For HB 2159 which has four parts, ACLU is not challenging all parts and challenging the part that repeals legal counsel.
- What about individuals who want to defend or represent themselves. The judiciary can perhaps answer this best.
- There is need for good data to know who the petitioners for ACT or the ones are petitioning them, as well as who is providing the screening. There are really no reports that are coming out from the judiciary.

- For the mental health court program, it is a voluntary program that seeks to motivate individuals to seek treatment. It can often take a long time for them to be evaluated by doctors because of the shortage.
- Moving forward, spending more time and provided more resources that are necessary is needed.
- From a personal experience of family members, California, and the process there was so smooth, and far from the experience here in Hawaii. The process was streamlined.

K. Aumer thanked C. A. Shiota. C.A. Shiota thanked the Council in return and expressed hope to work together in alternative crisis response centers.

M. P. Waterhouse used the handout of bill listing to review the status of each bill that the Council has been following or testifying on. She asked members if the Council wants to send letters of support for the bills that are still alive, and whether it is by the entire Council or individual members. K. Aumer, M.P. Waterhouse, and J. Betlach, echoed the sentiment of the need to continue supporting. Both expressed concern that bills will die if legislators think that they do not have support.

Since Council letters are signed by the chairperson, K. Aumer requested a confirmation of support for letters will be sent to conference committees. K. Aumer said that the letters conference committees will mirror testimonies. M.P. Waterhouse moved for a motion to provide supporting letters to conference committees, for bills that are still alive except for HB2159. The relevant bills are SB3139, HB1830, HB1831, HB2159, SB2345, HB2451, SB3094, HB1800-Mental Health and key topics supported by the Council like youth, workforce development, hospital, crisis services).

More feedback was sought on HB2159 further, and with the following points:

- The more lawyers are involved, the slower the process. The amount of harm done in the delay needs to be weighed also.
- Doctors want clearer guidance. They want to do what is in the best interest of the patient but do not want to be liable for infringing in other's rights.
- DOH advocates for more education and training on how ACT process works.
- A need for clear guidance may be something to work on next legislature.
- The current version leaves it at a judge's discretion if a person needs legal representation.

M.P. Waterhouse moved to support HB2159 HD2 SD2 (currently drafted). J. Betlach seconded. The following voted in favor: K. Aumer, J. Betlach, J. Jackson, H. Ilyavi, R. Ries, K. Will, and M.P. Waterhouse. The following abstained: K. Merriam. C. Weygan-Hildebrand said that the Council testimony for this will state, "The majority of the State Council members support."

J. Betlach pointed out that there were other bills related to mental health that the Council have missed or may have missed -e.g., insurances, source of revenues, medical marijuana medication or licensing. K. Aumer agreed, and she also wants to recognize the Council's limited time and resources. C. Weygan-Hildebrand traced back that, this year, the Council went through a systematic process of identifying themes and the mental health task force as a key collaborator in filtering priorities.

K. Aumer thanked M.P. Waterhouse for her leadership and the other members of the PIG and staff for their support.

D. SCMH Planning Retreat

K. Aumer reiterated that the Council's planning retreat will be on May 9, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at one of the Honolulu International Airport Conference Rooms. She reminded that staff the four members who will be flying in from Maui and the Big Island will be contacted by staff for travel arrangements. The negotiating permitted interaction group reviewed proposals from three facilitators and Peter Adler was recommended. Staff sent our last two annual reports to Dr. Adler. Dr. Adler will also be meeting with chairperson, immediate past chairperson, and others as part of his preparation.

VI. Informational Reports by Council Members

A. Island Representative Reports

- J. Jackson reported that the Oahu Service Area Board did meet and had quorum.
 - Concern raised over the legislation legalizing use of marijuana recreationally. A need to study ramifications was expressed, noting that there is enough problem with alcohol and, concern also for the supply being laced with harmful additives.
 - C. Weygan-Hildebrand went over the County Service Area Plan and sought a need to focus on workforce needs first.
 - T. Freitas briefed members about clubhouses.
 - The CAMHD Administrator/representative will be invited to the next meeting.
- J. Betlach said that the Hawaii Service Area Board did not meet because of the holidays. A few people did reach out to him as follows:
 - Doctors- A need to clarify different insurances, billing, and reimbursements. There is concern about services that are not being covered;
 - People feeling left out of the process- This pertains to legislation that "cut tourism for farms" and people afraid of losing their livelihood like vacation rental owners.
 - Social workers being able to do assessments -expanding the number of those who can do mental health (?) assessment.

B. State Agency Representative Reports

- K. Merriam said she has no additional matter to report which has not been discussed earlier (clubhouses, state hospital)
- K. Will reported that the one of the areas the mental health court system is working on is helping clients get their treatment/medication in a timely manner. The issues are being reviewed, like clients in prison not being seen or pharmacy-related issues or payment/Medicaid issues.
- L. Dias sent her written report.

C. Specialty Area Representative Reports

- R. Ries There was foreign security breach, they call the clearinghouse, that affected private practice providers. This is worrying providers and even some closing doors. The breach affected reimbursements and people end up not getting paid.
- H. Ilyavi (?) wondered whether it is an insurance issue when those who have just gotten out of jail cannot get their medication. It is a part of the transition needs.

- M. P. Waterhouse said she was going to talk about the clubhouses, which has already been covered.

VII. Meeting Evaluation/ Future Agenda Items

- K. Aumer put noted the following:
 - Certificates/awards
 - Jon Fujii to talk about insurance concerns.
 - Medication -resource person to be identified.
- R. Ries suggested a presentation on transcranial magnetic therapy which has become a buzz.

D. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Handouts

01. Agenda
02. Attendance Log
03. Draft Letter of Thank You to DOE F. Yoshida and A. Bonilla
04. Draft Letter of Thank You to UHM and OWR T. Orimoto et al
05. Legislative Measure Tracking Report as of April 7, 2024
06. ACLU Comments for Agenda on 2024 Legislative Update
07. Copy of the April 24 2023 SCMH Letter to Sen. Dela Cruz and Rep. Yamashita
08. Copy of Presentation Slides from OWR and UHSSRI T. Orimoto et al

Attachments to this Minutes

May 1 Kick Off Event Flyer -Mental Health Awareness Month
April 3 DVR Report



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

415 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Mental Health Month encourages a national dialogue about the importance of caring for our mental health to manage stress, difficult emotions, and challenging situations.

Please join us at this public event for a fun learning opportunity with games and giveaways (while supplies last).

9:00-2:00 P.M.

RESOURCE FAIR, THE ROTUNDA

Learn about mental health promotion and prevention! Service providers and community organizations will be sharing about youth and adult prevention activities, support services, treatment options, and community advocacy initiatives.

3:00-4:30 P.M.

SIGN WAVING, BERETANIA STREET BY THE FLAG POLES

Stand alongside mental health advocates and sign wave in support of May is Mental Health Month. You may bring your own sign or borrow one of ours.



Child &
Adolescent
Mental
Health
Division

Questions about this event?

Contact: Jennifer Irvine

E-Mail: jennifer.irvine@doh.hawaii.gov

Hawaii Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (HDVR) Report
State Council on Mental Health
April 3, 2024

Data Report for January 1 to March 31, 2024 (PY23 Q3)

Total PY23 Served				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
VR Participants (VR Case Type)	2869	2925	2897	0
Potentially Eligible: Students with Disabilities (not VR Participants)	1107	1112	1109	0
TOTAL	3976	4037	4006	0

Disability								
Primary Disability Type Group	Q1	Percent	Q2	Percent	Q3	Percent	Q4	Percent
	July – Sept.		Oct. – Dec.		Jan - Mar		April - Jun	
(01-02) Visual	216	7.53	222	7.59	219	7.56		
(03-09) Auditory or Communicative	240	8.37	250	8.55	245	8.46		
(10-16) Physical	479	16.7	494	16.89	486	16.79		
(17) Cognitive	1004	34.99	1013	34.63	1008	34.81		
(18-19) Psychological or Psychosocial	930	32.42	946	32.34	938	32.38		
TOTAL	2869	100	2925	100	2896	100	0	0

Applications					
by Branch	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	Jan - Mar	April - Jun	
Oahu (OB & SBB)	68	65	66		199
Hawaii	7	2	26		35
Maui	6	0	22		28
Kauai	4	0	5		9

TOTAL	85	67	119	0	276
--------------	----	----	-----	---	-----

Eligibility Determination					
by Branch	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	Jan - Mar	April - Jun	
Oahu (OB & SBB)	34	67	50		151
Hawaii	8	4	22		34
Maui	9	0	18		27
Kauai	4	0	8		12
TOTAL	55	71	98	0	224
COMPLIANCE RATE	90%				

Individualized Plan for Employment Developed					
by Branch	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	Jan - Mar	April - Jun	
Oahu (OB & SBB)	43	59	52		154
Hawaii	8	3	23		34
Maui	10	5	18		33
Kauai	3	2	10		15
TOTAL	64	69	103	0	236
COMPLIANCE RATE	90%				

Rehab					
by Branch	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	Jan - Mar	April - Jun	
Oahu (OB & SBB)	1	2	3		6
Hawaii	1	3	8		12
Maui	0	1	1		2
Kauai	0	1	1		2
TOTAL	2	7	13	0	22

Employment at Exit - Participants			
for Program Year/Quarter: 23 through 3/4/24			
Hourly Wage at Exit	Individuals	Median Hours	Median Wage
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	3	19	12
Stockers and Order Fillers	2	37.5	15.88
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2	28.5	14.88
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	1	20	10.1
Fast Food and Counter Workers	1	25	12
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1	33	12
Flight Attendants	1	20	43.87
Shuttle Drivers & Chauffeurs	1	40	23.13
Food Preparation Workers	1	40	12.54
Total	13	25	12.25