

**STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH)**  
**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and In-Person Location at Hale F Conference Room,  
2201 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, HI 96782**

**Members Present:** Katherine Aumer (Chair), Lea Dias, Jackie Jackson, Kathleen Merriam, Christine Montague-Hicks, Ray Rice, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Forrest Wells, Kristin Will.

**Members Absent:** Tianna Celis-Webster, Asianna Saragosa-Torres

**Members Excused:** John Betlach, Naomi Crozier, Jon Fujii, Heidi Ilyavi

**Staff Present:** Chanel Daluddung, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Courtenay Matsu, Jocelyn Nazareno, Valerie Yin.

**Guests:** Danielle Bergan, Amber Kawamura, Raelyn Yeoman.

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Katherine Aumer called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. A quorum was established at 9:30 a.m.

**II. Announcements**

- Chair Aumer welcomed members and guests.
- In the event of a technical disruption (e.g., audiovisual failure or Zoom bombing) lasting more than 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically recess and reconvene on April 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. using the same Zoom link.
- Senate's Health and Human Services Committee has reviewed the Governor's nominations. Interim appointments are expected due to some applications not being finalized.
- Mental Health Awareness Month (May):
  - *May 8:* Sign waving at Waipahu High School from 12:30–1:30 p.m., followed by gathering at Waipahu Clubhouse.
  - *May 30:* Children's Mental Health Hui tabling and resource-sharing at Pearlridge Mall.
  - *Maui:* Sign waving by Maui Family Guidance Center on Kaahumanu Avenue, 8:00–9:00 a.m.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- **October 14, 2024 Minutes:** Tabled.
- **March 11, 2025 Minutes:** Motion to approve by M.P. Waterhouse; seconded by F. Wells. Motion passed.

#### **IV. Community Input**

Raelyn Yeoman raised concerns about Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) orders, particularly the lack of mandatory legal counsel for individuals subjected to forced treatment—arguing this violates constitutional due process and SAMHSA guidelines.

- M.P. Waterhouse noted that guardians are appointed, and judges may assign counsel as needed. Approximately 13–15 ACT cases have occurred over 2–3 years, primarily involving IHS clients.
- Yeoman reiterated the importance of mandated legal representation, citing constitutional rights and SAMHSA guidance.

Chair Aumer supported further discussion and suggested inviting Connie Mitchell or another expert for a presentation. The Attorney General was recommended in the chat.

Motion to Add Agenda Item: Chair Aumer proposed converting a Thank You letter to Dr. Christopher Knightsbridge into a Letter of Support for research on Maui wildfires. Motion by M.P. Waterhouse; seconded by F. Wells. Motion passed.

#### **V. Informational Reports by Council Members**

##### **A. Island Representative Reports**

- *O'ahu Service Area Board*: Report given.
- *Hawai'i Service Area Board*: (J. Betlach excused)

##### **B. Government Sector Representative Reports**

- *Behavioral Health*: No report.
- *Social Services (R. Rice)*: APS staff receiving NAMI Crisis Intervention Training. Seeking community resources.
- *Med-QUEST/HACDACS*: No report (J. Fujii excused).
- *Judiciary (K. Will)*:
  - New probation administrator.
  - Staff attending national and trauma-informed care conferences.
  - Fire/Bomb threat training with HPD scheduled April 15.
- *Education (C. Montague-Hicks)*:
  - Conducted various youth mental health presentations and trainings.
  - Attended NAMI State Conference.
  - Participating in IVAT and NATCON conferences.
- *Vocational Rehabilitation (L. Dias)*:
  - Written report in the handout
  - Concerns over potential dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education.
  - Uncertainty over future funding and positions at state level.
  - Working on state response to WAM's proposed deletions of longstanding vacant positions.

### **C. Specialty Area Representative Reports**

- *Providers (F. Wells):*
  - Concerns over treatment access for Medicaid/Medicare clients.
  - Long lead times for outpatient visits (up to 3 months).
- *Parents/Family Members/Consumer Advocates:* No report.
- *Youth/Consumer Advocates:* No report.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Letters of Acknowledgment**

- *Thank You Letter to Dr. Sugimoto:* Tabled.
- *Letter of Support for Dr. Knightsbridge (Maui Wildfire Research):*
  - L. Dias requested outcome data.
  - K. Aumer to follow up with Dr. Juarez and Dr. Maunakea for possible presentation.
  - Motion to send a support letter by L. Dias; seconded by C. Montague-Hicks. F. Wells abstained; 6 members voted in favor. Motion passed.

### **B. Legislative Agenda Updates**

- Council reviewed updated bills.
- Noted progress of resolution to expedite hiring of mental health workers statewide.
- C. Weygan-Hildebrand highlighted HB300 (state budget) as key.
- K. Aumer proposed sending a focused support letter for mental health initiatives within HB300.

Motion:

M.P. Waterhouse moved to allow the negotiating PIG to write a letter of support to WAM and House Finance committees. Seconded by F. Wells. Motion passed.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Planning Council Presentation by Dr. Courtenay Matsu**

- Outlined CCBHC goals and emphasized community-informed certification processes.
- Explained expectations and format for participation on the new Planning Council.
- Discussed state flexibility and need for cultural and geographic diversity.
- Planning Council will meet bi-monthly; workgroups will draft specifics.
- Invited SCMh members to be part of the Council

- Stakeholder involvement is essential—particularly from courts, clubhouses, and underserved areas.

See attached PowerPoint slides

## Questions and Answers:

### *Accreditation Scope*

- Q: Are we targeting new or existing clinics?
- A: A combination of both. Existing clinics, like those on Maui, are currently self-attesting and must be certified to qualify for rates. New applicants, including FQHCs offering behavioral health, may also seek certification.

### *Consideration for Service Variations*

- Q: What about differences like Mental Health Courts or after-hours needs?
- A: Services like case management and crisis support vary by island and setting (e.g., courts). The CCBHC model must be adaptable to local needs. Hybrid solutions (e.g., expanded clinic hours, CMO teams) and stakeholder input are essential for designing responsive services.

### *Planning Council Requirements*

- Q: What are the requirements for council membership?
- A: No strict federal rules, but SAMHSA encourages majority participation by peers, consumers, and those with lived experience. Broad community representation is key for culturally responsive and locally appropriate service design.

### *Council Format and Function*

- Q: How will the council operate effectively?
- A: Workgroups (e.g., clinical, data, payment models) will do detailed work and bring recommendations to the planning council for review and feedback. The council will likely meet bi-monthly to ensure adequate discussion time.

### *Membership Expansion*

- Q: Are there other targeted groups for recruitment?
- A: Yes, clubhouses and underrepresented areas are being considered to ensure diverse perspectives.

### *Role in Grant Oversight*

- Q: Will the council review SAMHSA grant funding?
- A: No. Grantees handle their own budgets and SAMHSA reporting. The council focuses on certification standards compliance.

### *Time Commitment*

- Q: What's the expected time involvement?
- A: Quarterly or bi-monthly meetings, lasting 1–1.5 hours each, throughout the year. If Hawai'i becomes a demonstration state, the council may continue, assisting with certification and expansion planning.

## **B. SCMH Planning Items**

- Behavioral Health Crisis Center (Iwilei) Tour: Council tours coordinated by Carolyn; available Mon/Tues/Thurs.
- Retreat and Data Improvement Planning: Council to consider integrating a data improvement plan into its strategic retreat agenda.
- SCMH Logo Use and Communication:
  - Chair Aumer recommended establishing an Ad Hoc Communications Committee.
    - Motion by C. Montague-Hicks; seconded by J. Jackson. Motion passed.
    - Volunteers: K. Aumer, C. Montague-Hicks.
    - Additional volunteers encouraged to email Carolyn.

## **VIII. Closing Announcements**

- ADAD and CAMHD will present rate study updates in the May meeting.
- Dr. John Lewin, new administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency is said to be revamping the healthcare system. It was recommended that he be invited to present to the Council.  
C. Weygan-Hildebrand to follow up.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Chair Aumer adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

## **Handouts:**

1. April 8 2025 Public Notice and Agenda
2. State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) Legislative Tracker April 4 2025
3. Copy of Concurrent Resolution 67 SD 1 or SR51
4. SCMH 2023 Legislative Session Letter
5. Department of Education (DOE) SCMH Report March 11, 2025
6. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Report April 8, 2025
7. Flyer for May 8, 2025 Sign Waving Mental Health Awareness Month