

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
July 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), Jackie Jackson, Christine Montague-Hicks, Heidi Ilyavi, Ray Rice, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Tianna Celis-Webster, Forrest Wells, Kristin Will

Members Absent: Asianna Saragosa-Torres

Members Excused: John Betlach, Naomi Crozier, Jon Fujii, Kathlee Merriam, Lea Dias

Staff and Guests Present: Jocelyn Nazareno, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand, Madeleine Hiraga-Nuccio, Raelyn Reyno

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- **Call to Order:** Meeting convened at 9:05 AM by Chairperson Katherine Aumer.
- **Roll Call:** Conducted by Secretary Mary Pat Waterhouse. Quorum established with 9 members present.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **June Meeting Minutes:** Approval tabled due to lack of materials.

III. Announcements and Updates

- **Disaster Preparedness:** Emphasis on hurricane season preparedness. Members were encouraged to visit the health.hawaii.gov website for disaster preparedness resources, including psychological first aid and skills for psychological recovery.
- **Hawaii Health Workforce Summit:** Scheduled for September 6th at JABSOM campus. Registration is free, and members are encouraged to attend. Discussion on potentially holding an in-person council meeting on the same day.
- **Bylaws and Membership Onboarding Guide:** Members were encouraged to review updated bylaws and the membership onboarding guide. An ad hoc communication committee has been created to oversee updates and tools for the website.

IV. Community Input

- **Raelyn's Testimony:** Raelyn, a concerned community member, raised issues regarding the lack of guaranteed legal counsel for assisted community treatment orders and the need for proper medical assessments at crisis centers. She highlighted the importance of ensuring legal rights and proper medical evaluations for individuals with mental health issues.

V. Old Business

- **Legislative Advocacy Updates:**
 - Several bills supported by the Council passed and were signed into law, including Bill 1322 and the state budget.
 - The Governor signed into law funding allocations for healthcare workforce development and healthcare education loan repayment programs.
 - Concerns were raised about the reduction in funding for the Hawaii State Hospital. An HSH update was requested.
- **Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) Tour:**
 - Members shared positive impressions of the BHCC, highlighting its open-door policy, comprehensive services, and the inclusion of facilities for pets.
 - Discussion on the need for similar services for adolescents and the importance of raising awareness about the BHCC's services.

VI. New Business

- **Sunshine Law and Board Packets:**
 - Discussion on the implications of the Sunshine Law for the Council, particularly the requirement to make board packets available three full business days prior to a meeting.
 - Emphasis on ensuring compliance with the new statutory deadlines.
- **Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Permitted Interaction Group Recommendation:**
 - New federal guidance and potential changes to the block grant structure were discussed.
 - Emphasis on workforce development initiatives, with a proposal to prioritize workforce pipeline development in the MHBG application.
 - The importance of aligning needs, priorities, targets, and budgets was highlighted.

VII. Informational Reports

- **Island Representative Reports:**
 - **Oahu Service Area Board:** No meeting in June due to an error in the invite.
 - **Hawaii Service Area Board:** Two new members joined, doubling the number of board members.
- **State Agency Reports:**
 - **DOE:** Successful rollout of behavioral threat assessment and management for high schools. Suicide prevention education and

awareness initiatives are underway. School attendance campaign continues.

- **Social Services:** Exploration of mental health resources and services. Upcoming branch meeting with NAMI in-service. Discussions on decision-making and cognitive screening tools for workers.
- **Specialty Area Representative Reports:**
 - **Providers:** Concerns about prescribing controlled substances to outer islands and the impact of North Shore Mental Health losing its case management contract. Discussion on the need for better coordination with pharmacies and addressing barriers to medication access.
 - **Parents and Family Members:** Stress and anxiety among individuals with mental health diagnoses due to federal funding issues. Emphasis on the need for clear communication and support from the state.
 - **Youth and Consumer Advocates:** Certification of three new youth peer support specialists.

VI Meeting Evaluation and Closing Announcements

- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for August 12th.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

#end#