

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2025
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

Members Present: Katherine Aumer, John Betlach, Lea Dias, Heidi Ilyavi, Jackie Jackson, Kathleen Merriam, Ray Rice, Mary Pat Waterhouse, Forrest Wells, Kristin Will

Members Absent: Asianna Saragosa-Torres

Members Excused: Tianna Celis-Webster, Jon Fujii, and Christine Montague-Hicks

Guests: Danielle Bergan, Christina Garton & Joe Raker from Otsuka Precision Health

Staff: Stacy Molina, Jocelyn Nazareno, Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

I. Call to Order

Katherine Aumer, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

II. Meeting Announcements

K. Aumer warmly welcomed members and guests.

- Meeting protocol for audiovisual communication breakdown or zoom bombing incident:

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 9th, at 9 am in person. And this will apply in case of Zoom bombing as well.

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of October Meeting Minutes – Tabled for further review

IV. Community Input

No community input

V. New Business

- A. Presentation “Rejoyn – Transforming Major Depressive Disorder Symptom Treatment with Digital Therapeutic” by Otsuka Precision Health** (see presentation video).

Presented by Christina Garton, Associate Director, and Joe Raker, Associate Director of Clinical Evidence. Rejoyn is the first and only prescription digital health product for treatment of major depression disorder (MDD) symptoms in conjunction with an antidepressant.

Questions and Answers

Question: What is the current pricing model and is it covered by Medicaid and private insurance? Thinking in terms of access.

Answer: Working on getting on a lot of plans. Currently on several plans across the country like Blue Cross Blue Shield and in talks with Cigna Healthcare. Not on Medicaid yet. App prescription retails at \$200 and currently offering 6-week prescription for \$50 with 10-week access.

Question: Any testing done with demographically diverse group? Hawaii has very diverse ethnic groups.

Answer: In trial itself, not necessarily tested diverse ethnicities. Demographics used were what you see in the US broadly. Ongoing research to better understand what it looks like across different demographics.

Question: Sounds like all patients were prescribed medication, were they successful? Were there changes to medication during the trial?

Answer: To be eligible for the app trial, patients were already on antidepressant medication that they were not exhibiting a response to. Patients were tested with their current medication prescription. No changes to medication during the trial.

Question: Is the data from the app linked to patient's clinician, therapist, or primary care provider?

Answer: Yes, data is accessible. It is an additional optional purchase to receive data from the app; it is not offered to everyone. App includes nurse support and will provide reminder calls if opted in.

Question: If people have disabilities such as hard of hearing or sight, are they excluded?

Answer: No one is excluded, but it is up to clinical judgement. Closed caption is available so you don't necessarily need to hear the app, but you do need to see it. No testing done on any specific disabled population.

Question: Is the app gamified? Do you move up levels?

Answer: It is an engaging and interactive experience. It includes progress markers with positive messages, and you are able to review how you are doing with each exercise. We are always experimenting to improve app experience.

Question: What is the age group for the prescription?

Answer: Label indicator is 22 years old and up. FDA software medical device regulation is 22 years old and up.

Question: Any thoughts on testing target pilot sample in Hawaii?

Answer: My department, Applied Research Team, are engaging real world evidence studies with partners who decided to adopt Rejoyn. Always an opportunity for those who are using Rejoyn and would like to answer questions about it.

Question: Does use of the app require cellular or wireless service? Digital equity comes into play.

Answer: Yes, app is designed specifically to be used on a phone.

Comment:

Forrest Wells – The Queens Health Systems will be purchasing at least 50 prescriptions to be used as a trial in Maui as part of grant funding. They will take initial data on draw and demand. It's not an actual clinical trial but trial on demographics in Hawaii to see how effective it is with expanding treatment using limited number of providers available. With approval, I will provide data results in a future presentation.

Christina – Test license codes available to any providers for trial.

B. Organizing for 2026 – Discussion & Feedback

1. 2026 SCMH Officers – Nominations

K. Aumer opened nominations and nominated the following to continue their roles; Mary Pat Waterhouse as Secretary, Kathleen Merriam as 1st Vice Chairperson, Jackie Jackson and Forrest Wells as 2nd Vice Chairperson.

M.P. Waterhouse nominated K. Aumer to continue as Chairperson.

All who were nominated indicated willingness to serve.

C. Weygan-Hildebrand shared J. Betlach's concern about limited capacity as serving as Hawaii Service Area Board Chairperson.

Nominations can also be emailed to K. Aumer.

Add election of Council Member Officers and recruitment of Service Area Board Members to January agenda.

2. 2026 SCMH Legislative Advocacy – Priority Themes

Motion by F. Wells seconded by M.P. Waterhouse to create a committee for 2026 legislative session. Council unanimously agrees to create the committee and M.P. Waterhouse agreed to lead the advocacy committee for the council again.

Council concerns for next Legislative session are housing, 24-hour group homes, homeless sweeps, funding needed for co-respondent to accompany HPD. Council will touch base with other organizations to see who aligns with Council's concerns.

VI. Old Business

A. Presentation (Past)

Rural Health Transformation Initiative Grant and Approval of Thank You Letter – Tabled for further review

B. Organizing for the Year – Update, Discussion & Feedback

C. Weygan-Hildebrand reported on Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) target and goals for last two years. Planning committee available to review reports (see attached report).

VII. Informational Reports by Council Members

A. Island Representative Report

1. Oahu Service Area Board Meeting – Jackie Johnson – No report
2. Hawaii Service Area Board Meeting – John Betlach – No report

B. Government Sector Representative Reports – Mental Health Care

1. Behavioral health sector – Kathleen Merriam – No report
2. Social services sector – Ray Rice

Continue to explore mental health resources and services in communities for work. Upgrading to new data integrated systems for programs. Current system is thirty-three years old.

3. Judiciary/Mental Health Court – Kristin Will

On November 3, 2025, graduation ceremony held at Supreme Court for Specialty Courts; Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court. Kristin Will to send pictures of graduation to C. Weygan-Hildebrand for documentation. State of Hawaii Specialty Courts will soon inherit Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court.

4. Vocational Rehabilitation – Leah Dias – No report

C. Specialty Area Representative Reports – Mental Health Care

1. Providers – Forrest Wells

With federal shutdown, Medicare and Medicaid consumers distressed over continued healthcare benefits. Telehealth ended for Medicare.

2. Parents, family members, consumer advocates – Katherine Aumer, Heidi Ilyavi, Mary Pat Waterhouse

Heidi Ilyavi kudos to Big Island for coming together to support each other during federal shutdown.

Danielle Bergan, Chairperson for Maui Service Area Board, reported that Dr. Thompson, Psychiatrist from Maui Memorial Hospital, continues to help youth and improve intake process. Currently, youth must stay overnight if checked in after 6pm to receive treatment or be diagnosed. New residential stabilization program by Child and Adolescent mental health Division (CAMHD) to open this month. It is an eight-bed program to help 10–17-year-olds in crisis as a step down from acute or hospital-based treatment. From CAMHD, Dr. Adam Kohl retired and will be leaving in January 2026. Amy Boater, Clinical Psychiatrist, joining Dr. Yamashida. Hale Pono Youth Shelter has been open for a year with a focus on reuniting 12–17-year-olds with family and finding long-term solutions. It is not a treatment center. Completed application to become an official Council Member.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Handouts

Hawaii Mental Health Block Grant 2026 Report