

HAWAI‘I STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH (SCMH)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Via Zoom with in-person location at
Hale F Conference Room, 2201 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, 96782

Members Present: Katherine Aumer, Forrest Wells, Danielle Bergan, Lea Dias, Heidi Ilyavi Jackie Jackson, Christine Montague-Hicks, Tianna Webster, Courtenay Matsu (*Acting Ex-Officio*)

Members Excused: John Betlach, Kathleen Merriam, Jon Fujii

Members Absent: Asianna Zaragosa-Torres

Staff Present: Richalle Patague (AMHD), Chanel Daluddung, Pua Hee, Keli Acquaro

Guests Present: Marissa “Squirrel” Celeste

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Katherine Aumer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. She acknowledged the administrative support staff and thanked all participants for joining. Chair Aumer reviewed meeting technology protocols, including the procedure for reconvening the meeting if communication technology fails for more than 30 minutes.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. *Mental Health Awareness Month Activities*

Chair Aumer highlighted statewide events held in May, including:

- Children’s Mental Health Acceptance Day
- Sign-waving events inspired by CAMHD
- Community resource fairs and wellness activities through AMHD and community partners
- NAMI Hawai‘i and Mental Health America of Hawai‘i support groups, workshops, and education events
- Mental Health America of Hawai‘i’s Annual Mental Health Awareness & Awards Celebration on May 20, 2026

B. *Membership Update*

No major changes to report since last month.

Vacancies include the one created by the resignation of Ray Rice.

C. Ex-Officio Message

Dr. Courtenay Matsu provided updates on:

- Legislative session outcomes, including passage of the CCBHC Certifying Office bill
- Submission of Hawai'i's CCBHC Demonstration Application to SAMHSA and CMS
- Efforts to prepare Medicaid structures for potential CCBHC reimbursement rates, with anticipated go-live of January 1, 2027
- Rural Transformation Project- Behavioral Health initiatives, including:
 - Expansion of peer specialist positions
 - Development of mobile clinics starting on Hawai'i Island
 - Exploration of adult care consultation services modeled after CAMHD's pediatric consultation line
 - Long-term goals for, on the CCBHCs, expanded access, earlier intervention, and sustainable funding. Overall, an interest in expanding access, and beyond the currently restrictive to people with serious mental illness. There is a need to build this judiciously.

Chair Aumer and several members expressed appreciation for the long-term planning and asked clarifying questions around early access and service expansion.

III. COMMUNITY INPUT

No written or oral testimony was received.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mental Health Block Grant Presentation

Presentation:

Early Serious Mental Illness (ESMI) & CAMHD's OnTrack Hawai'i Program

Presenters: Dr. Puanani Hee & Ms. Keli Acquaro

Key points included:

- Overview of Hawai'i's child-serving systems
- CAMHD's eligibility and service array
- Federal Mental Health Block Grant 10% ESMI set-aside requirement
- Statewide incidence data for first-episode psychosis
- History and growth of OnTrack Hawai'i, including adoption of the coordinated specialty care model
- Program components: therapy, family education, medication management, youth partner support, supported education & employment
- Funding structure including the new Medicaid coordinated specialty care reimbursement rate
- Program challenges: workforce capacity, need for fidelity monitoring, desire for statewide expansion

- Program goals: strengthened evidence-based practices, increased outreach, improved data reporting, potential addition of group services

Members asked questions about:

- Diagnoses served
- Youth partner roles and training
- Coordination with DOE, Girls Court, and trauma-informed initiatives
- Possibilities for a future public data dashboard
- Youth lived-experience representation in service design

Presenters agreed to send slides to Council staff for distribution. (See attached slides)

B. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Chair Aumer opened the floor for corrections. No corrections were noted. The motion to approved minutes by Heidi Ilyavi, seconded by Danielle Bergan, and approved unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Following advice of the Office of Information Practice, the agenda relating to legislative bill updates was canceled. The concern raised related to lack of details provided in the agenda.

VI. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Island Representative Reports

O‘ahu – Jackie Jackson

No formal report; meeting agenda was invalidated due to insufficient specificity.

Hawaii Service Area Board

None

State Department Reports

Department of Education – Christine Montague-Hicks

Updates included:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor training (12 new instructors)
- Child Safety Summit held April 16
- Attendance at NATCON and Mental Health First Aid Summit
- Participation in Children’s Mental Health Acceptance Day
- Ongoing suicide prevention and SafeTalk training rollout
- Recognition of Sher Takeda by Mental Health America of Hawai‘i
- Upcoming Montana Summer Institute focused on positive experiences research

Vocational Rehabilitation – Lea Dias

Highlights included:

- Serving over 3,800 participants and 1,100 students this program year
- Nearly 28% of participants have primary psychosocial disabilities
- Significant statewide staffing shortages (approx. 31% vacancies)
- Employment outcomes across broad industries, with a median wage of \$24.55/hour
- Emphasis on individualized, supportive employment services
- Impact of recent state funding reductions

Judiciary – Mental Health Court – Kristin Will

Court activity remains high; new young adult specialty court (“YAZI”) is forming for individuals approximately ages 18–26. More information forthcoming.

Provider / Specialty Area Reports

Forrest Wells

Reported concerns regarding:

- Statewide shortage of mental-health-specific residential programs
- Gaps in case management due to transitions in CCS contracting
- Need for clarification on new contracted provider

Parents & Family Members

No updates.

Youth & Consumer Advocates

Danielle Bergan

Shared updates on:

- YouthLine volunteer training (May 31–June 5)
- School outreach and recruitment
- Maui suicide prevention task force activities
- ASSIST training scheduled for July 6–7
- Sources of Strength programs in local schools

Tianna Webster

Shared updates on:

- Mālama Mind event in Hilo
- Foster Care Awareness Month tabling
- Youth Peer Support Certification (June cohort)
- Upcoming presentation for the Family Violence Interagency Committee
- Youth partner collaboration and statewide convenings
- Ongoing partnerships to strengthen youth voice in policy

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Aumer adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Chair indicated interest in some type of in-person site visit, pending staff coordination.