

NYC Community Services Board

5/3/2019 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm



Action Items for DOHMH:

- Edit the suicide prevention objective in the LSP to be more action-oriented.
- Strengthen language in the LSP unmet needs sections to further clarify rationale for need.
- Incorporate “ethnic equity” into the Medicaid redesign and racial equity sections in the LSP.
- Send a doodle poll to change the July meeting to August, and add workforce to the next meeting agenda.

Call to Order: Call to order 3:05 PM

Agenda Topic 1: Welcome and Introductions

- Co-Chair Gail Nayowith and Dr. Hillary Kunins welcomed the Community Service Board.
- Dr. Hillary Kunins briefly updated the CSB on: a) DOHMH’s preliminary budget hearing with City Council and the upcoming executive budget hearing, b) DOHMH involvement in the measles outbreak, c) upcoming mural arts painting events in Staten Island and Brooklyn, d) Mayor’s executive order banning alcohol advertising on city property, and e) the new ThriveNYC office at City Hall under Susan Herman.
- Gail Nayowith recognized Rosa Gil in absentia for her suicide prevention work in the Latino Community and conveyed that the suicide prevention goal in the Local Services Plan (LSP) should be strengthened.

Agenda Topic 2: CSB Subcommittee/Committee Updates (since the Last Meeting):

- **Mental Health:** Marnie Davidoff mentioned that the meetings primarily focused on discussing the LSP but also discussed workforce (including cultural and linguistic diversity), DOHMH’s efforts to support the Peer Workforce, and how to better understand the unmet mental health needs among immigrant populations.
- **Substance Misuse:** Henry Rosen mentioned that the committee discussed disproportionate impact of criminalization among people of color, strategies for ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities, and continued work via the Cannabis legalization Taskforce whose recommendations can be found at: <http://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/A-Fair-Approach-to-Marijuana.pdf>
- **Developmental Disabilities:** Janice Chisholm mentioned that at the April 2019 meeting, the committee primarily focused on the LSP for 2020. The committee will continue conversations on how to measure unmet needs through outreach to and engagement with intra-city partners.
- **LGBTQ:** Janice Chisholm mentioned that the group did not meet last quarter. At the next meeting, the committee will review relevant LSP objectives; discuss outcomes of a recent survey to gauge members’ experiences and expectations of their work with the committee; and discuss the committee’s future contribution to the Division’s Family Acceptance project.
- **Criminal Justice:** Demetrius Thomas shared that the subcommittee worked on reviewing the redesign of the crisis system and what is available in terms of care and treatments, and discussed the five intercepts of the crisis system. The group is compiling an informational guide of services in the community at the intercept levels.

Agenda Topic 3: CSB Review of 2020 Local Services Plan

- Gail Nayowith shared Rosa Gil’s concern that suicide prevention needs more attention in the LSP and suggested that the suicide prevention objective be edited to be more action-oriented. Jun Matsuyoshi and Roberto Lewis-Fernandez agreed.

- Louise Cohen inquired about the table displaying worsened unmet behavioral health needs and suggested strengthening language in the unmet needs sections to further clarify methodology to assess need. DOHMH to revise document. Mental health service system can use more resources from the State since behavioral health has been historically underfunded.
- In response to questions from two CSB members about what happens when the need is not met and whether we track this, Gail Nayowith said that historically we haven't but started tracking last year, and that the LSP has become a statement of our priorities and resource needs to the State. Gail added that while DOHMH proposed LSP template changes to include a section for resource needs, the template hasn't changed, and that we will continue to advocate for it and include resource needs in the LSP to hold the State accountable.
- On assessing the impact of Medicaid redesign on the NYC's service system, Gail Nayowith said that it would be good to know who is getting served and what is happening at the State level.
- Yoshi Pinnaduwa highlighted the proposed five priority issue areas of: 1) Housing, 2) Crisis services, 3) Workforce recruitment and retention, 4) SUD outpatient services and 5) Medicaid redesign and racial equity and the associated resource needs. Roberto Louise-Fernandez suggested adding "ethnic equity" to sections that discuss racial equity.
- The CSB passed a motion to approve the draft LSP pending the incorporation of the changes requested.

Agenda Topic 4: NYS Budget Updates on areas prioritized by the CSB:

- Jacob Kraemer mentioned a) that the Mayor's executive budget will restore the State's Article 6 cut (\$59 million loss to DOHMH), b) \$10 million for supportive housing- significantly less than our request, and c) that the Cannabis legalization was excluded from the State budget bill.
- Yoshi Pinnaduwa added that the State passed a 2% increase in direct care worker salaries (but no COLA increase) and expanded Medicaid to cover Applied Behavioral Health Analysis treatment for children with autism. There are also some funding and policy changes to support services for immigrants impacted by harsh federal policies. However, funding for crisis services and suicide prevention, and CFTSS enhanced rate expansion were not included in the final budget.

Agenda Topic 5: Clinic Workforce Survey

- Ken Mort provided an overview of the survey conducted by DOHMH in which 240 Article 31 main clinics and satellites participated, at a 70% completion rate. Overall, clinics had a more difficult time recruiting than retaining BH professions. The most difficult to recruit were Child Psychiatrists followed by Geriatric Psychiatrists, Adult Psychiatrists, Physicians, and Psychologists. The most common reasons for difficulty recruiting across all titles included a) salary was not competitive, and b) lack of candidates trained in the title available to hire, followed by other reasons.
- CSB members agreed to add workforce to the next meeting agenda to discuss the survey results further, and to discuss strategies and next steps for addressing behavioral health workforce issues in NYC.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30PM