



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Commissioner Oxiris Barbot, MD

12/17/19

Mental Health Subcommittee of the Community Services Board

9:30am-11:30am

Materials: Agenda, LSP goals and objectives handout

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Subcommittee Attendees (by phone): Devon Bandison, Warren Berke, Tony Hannigan, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Stephanie LeMelle, Jo Park, Liz Roberts,

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Attendees: Krista Becker, Stephanie Buhle, Marnie Davidoff, Myla Harrison, Jessica Jeavons, Anastasia Roussos

Minutes:

Local Services Plan: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) provided updates on work accomplished to date in each of the four priority areas identified by the subcommittee in 2018-2019

Priority Areas:

1. Workforce:

- In 2019 DOHMH distributed and analyzed the results of a Workforce Survey aimed at gathering information about the recruitment and retention difficulties in NYC article 31 clinics
- The subcommittee's recommendations for tackling the workforce issues were shared with the full CSB at their November 2019 meeting
- In Fall, 2019 CYF launched the Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) Coalition in partnership with the state to engage and support mental health providers to successfully maintain their Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) workforce.
- CYF released an RFP in October 2019 for a new Training and Technical Assistance Center for the peer workforce, a 6-year contract beginning in July 2020. The goal of the new Family Strengthening Training and Advisory Center will be to provide ongoing training, capacity building, and technical support to service providers working in family-serving community-based organizations and agencies.
- In 2019 The Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) at DOHMH released a toolkit for providers that employee peers to help organizations support and integrate peers and community health workers.

2. Suicide Prevention:

- Surveillance activities within the DOHMH include for the ability to detect any increases in suicide-related Emergency Department visits in NYC. The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) has created a protocol to respond to any increases that are detected by the surveillance system. BMH is working with Bureau of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) to expand the protocol to children and adolescents, if we detect an increase in suicide-related visits.

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- BMH is preparing a Vital Statistics data report on suicide for 2018 which will encompass information about adult and youth deaths.
 - One of The Commissioner of Health's (COH) priorities is preventing premature mortality, which includes addressing opioids and suicides which are among the top ten causes of premature mortality. Both BMH and CYF are exploring the role the health department plays in preventing suicide related deaths
3. Immigrant Communities:
- Dr. Myla Harrison (BMH Assistant Commissioner) testified on immigrant MH in front of City Council in October
 - DOHMH created a Public Charge flyer in 16 languages (sent via email) that providers can use to help individuals who are uncertain about the impact of the public charge rule on their access to healthcare
 - Note that the public charge rule was set to go into effect on October 15th, however federal judges in three states issued a temporary injunction that prevented it from taking effect. This issue currently sits with the courts, and it make take months or years for a final determination on this rule.
 - More information on the public charge rule can be found [here](#)
 - DOHMH has begun engaging with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to collaborate on how we can remove barriers to care for these communities
4. The Aging Population:
- The 2020 LSP did not include goals or objectives for this population
 - DOHMH published a Healthy Older Adults [report](#)
 - BMH has begun thinking about how to work with supportive housing providers who have an aging population, to be sure they understand the specific needs of this population of people with serious mental illness who are aging in place in their supportive housing programs.

Suggestions for areas of focus for 2021 LSP and/or new areas to focus on: The subcommittee was asked if they felt there were any additional areas we should be prioritizing as a subcommittee and in the LSP

1. Immigrant communities:
- CSB members report continuing to hear a tremendous amount of fear from immigrant communities; city has done a good job getting information out, but given the national news and what communities are experiencing in terms of ICE enforcement, there is understandable skepticism
 - Liz Roberts will reach out to immigration law team at her organization regarding what their needs might be related to helping clients access safe health and mental health services
2. Bail Reform:
- Subcommittee members expressed that they would like to prioritize supports to people who will be released following arrest due to issues around bail reform. for people with mental illness, specifically around information about the criminal justice system and these changes that may be unknown and unfamiliar to the mental health provider community. Examples of information mental health providers need include: They recommended the variety of criminal justice services available; the pathways between supervised release, court dates, mental health assessments, and treatment; how providers can ensure that they are knowledgeable about and aware of the needs of clients as they relate to arrest, incarceration, supervised release, etc.



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- The subcommittee agreed to create a sub workgroup to create a FACT or FAQ sheet for behavioral health providers to help clarify connections between supervised release and mental health care/interventions as more individuals are diverted from jails to communities who will be in need of mental health care
 - BMH will convene stakeholders from this subcommittee, the Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the CSB, DOHMH's new bureau-Health Promotion for Justice Impacted Populations (HPJIP), The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), and Legal Aid to begin this short-term workgroup.
 - Stephanie LeMelle committed to be on this subcommittee
 - If anyone else from the subcommittee is interested in participating, please email Krista Becker at kbecker@health.nyc.gov
 - DOHMH will send subcommittee members the City's press release on expanded services available in response to bail reform
2. Increases in Suicide among Black Children and Youth:
- Following the recent [NYT op-ed](#) on the national increase of young black people dying by suicide and having increased suicide attempts, a subcommittee member suggested looking at mental health and mental health care trends among young men of color
 - Liz Roberts noted that about five years ago, their clinic recognized that although young black and brown men are more likely to be victims of violence, yet they are much less likely to come to Safe Horizon for help pointing to significant gaps in care and potential bias and stigma. They have offered trauma treatment to young men of color. This member also suggested looking at ways that young men of color aren't seen as vulnerable and the role racism is playing in this population not getting connected to care
 - When the latest suicide data is available, DOHMH will be looking further at this population

Other Updates:

1. 30 Day Review: DOHMH has been undergoing a [30 day review of intensive mental health intervention programs](#). When an updated press release is issued it will be shared with the CSB.
2. Mental Health Equity Conference: DOHMH will be jointly hosting with the YNYS Office of Mental Health, a mental health equity conference in late Spring/early Summer for mental health providers and asked subcommittee for suggestions for speakers, programming
 - We can consider having Safe Horizon discuss their programming for traumatized young boys/men of color, and also look for a presentation on the issues around suicide increases among young black people

2021 LSP Timeline

1. Between January and March, DOHMH will be working on draft
2. The Subcommittee will use March 17th subcommittee meeting to share the in-progress 2021 LSP and gather feedback/input
3. The full CSB will be reviewing the LSP at their May meeting
4. DOHMH will submit the LSP to the state in early June

Next Steps and Follow up:

1. criminal justice related information sheet for the mental health community. If any subcommittee members are interested in being involved in the planning of a FACT/FAQ sheet for Behavioral Health providers on Bail Reform, please email Krista Becker at kbecker@health.nyc.gov



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2. If subcommittee members identify any other broad categories that are emerging that you want us to prioritize, let us know
3. DOHMH will poll subcommittee members to see if another Tuesday in March works better, as at least one member will be unavailable to attend a Children's Behavioral Health Conference held on the same day (3/17/20)
4. When released, DOHMH will forward the press release on 30-day review.
5. DOHMH will begin sharing relevant City Hall press releases with subcommittee members as they are released

Relevant City Hall Press Releases:

1. [10,000 New Yorkers Receiving Accessible and Affordable Health Care](#)
2. [City Invests \\$391 Million in Communities and Comprehensive Reforms to the Criminal Justice System](#)
3. [Safe and Healthy City: Mayor de Blasio Orders 30 Day Review of Intensive Mental Health Intervention Programs](#)
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