

**CSB Attendees:** Sidney Hankerson, Sarah Church, Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, Thelma Dye, Pankaj Patel, Stephanie LeMelle, Rosa Gil, Jun Matsuyoshi, Diane Arneth, Cheryelle Cruickshank

**Call to Order: 3:35 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- CSB Chair, Dr. Sidney Hankerson, and Dr. Michael McRae, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMH), welcomed CSB members to the first quarter CSB meeting of 2022. Dr. Hankerson led the attendees in an icebreaker, “If you owned a restaurant, what type of food would you serve? What would be your role at the restaurant?”

**2022 CSB Priorities**

- Dr. Hankerson explained that the aim of the meeting is for the CSB members to 1) Identify issues and areas of unmet need in the mental hygiene service system, 2) Vote on 1-2 priority issue areas that the CSB members would like to address more meaningfully in 2022, and 3) Develop an action plan for each priority issue area selected.
- Dr. Hankerson reiterated the four issue areas identified by the CSB members at the 2021 Q4 CSB Meeting on December 10, 2021, namely: 1) Behavioral health services among youth, 2) Substance use issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 3) Identifying populations that do not benefit from telehealth, and 4) Workforce shortages in the behavioral health system. Dr. Hankerson invited the CSB members to share any additional issues and areas of unmet need.
  - A number of CSB members identified housing and homelessness as a prevalent issue in the behavioral health system, and recognized that this social determinant of health is one that impacts all the issues already identified. Dr. McRae shared that the intersection of homelessness and severe mental illness is a priority issue area for the Department and Administration, and is a foundation for a number of new initiatives. CSB members ultimately recognized that the housing issue is very broad and all-encompassing, and Dr. McRae recommended that housing instead be highlighted as a theme in the development of action items for addressing priority issue areas; CSB members agreed.
- Dr. Hankerson acknowledged all of these issues interact, and are impacted by social determinants of health, structural racism, inequity and access issues, but also recognized feasibility is important for the group to consider when choosing priority issue areas, given the limited time the group can convene and take action within the year. To that end, Dr. Hankerson invited the CSB members to vote on two priority issue areas they’d like to address more meaningfully in 2022, and the CSB members chose 1) behavioral health issues among youth and 2) workforce shortages in the behavioral health system by popular vote.

**Discussion on Next Steps and Action Items for the Selected 2022 Priority Issue Areas**

- To support the CSB members in brainstorming action items, Dr. McRae invited Marnie Davidoff, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) and Jamie Neckles, Acting Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Mental Health, to share an overview of existing DOHMH initiatives around children’s behavioral health services. Dr. McRae also invited Anita Sambamurty, Director of the Regional Planning Consortium, to provide an overview of past and current initiatives around workforce retention.
- The CSB members shared their experiences and expertise to identify specific unmet needs within each of the priority issue areas, and will be meeting in two separate workgroups next month to further develop an action plan for addressing each priority issue area.

**Updates from DOHMH**

- Dr. McRae provided updates from DOHMH and the COVID-19 agency response, as well as details regarding the newly appointed Commissioner of Health, Dr. Ashwin Vasani, who will begin his tenure on March 16, 2022.

**Additional Comments & Wrap Up**

- Dr. McRae and Dr. Hankerson provided a recap of the meeting discussion, shared that CSB members will receive a Doodle with possible dates for convening the upcoming workgroups, and closed the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 4:57 PM**