

CSB Attendees: Adrienne Abbate, Sarah Church, Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Dwight Kemp, Karen Mok, Joanne Siegel, Karmita Morgan-Randall, Eman Rimawi-Doster, Sidney Hankerson

Call to Order: 10:33 AM

Welcome Remarks

- Sidney Hankerson, MD, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order and led introductions, including the approval of 2025 Q4's minutes.
- H. Jean Wright, PsyD, Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) welcomed members, and elevated the appointments of Dr. Alister Martin as the new Commissioner of Health, Dr. Helen Arteaga as the new Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services and Nisha Agarwal, former Executive Director of Policy and Communications as the new Commissioner for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. Additionally, he acknowledged the Division's hard work and mobilization during the Cold Blue Response and ended with a call to action to have board members invite him to visit their programs.

CSB 2026 Priority Areas

- CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson reminds members that "access" was discussed during the 2025 Q4 meeting, with examples such as Medicaid recertification, technological barriers, and community outreach. He opened the conversation to identify other priority areas.
 - In response to Hankerson's question, CSB member Joanne Siegel brought up Article 16 clinics regarding clinical services for I/DD children and adults. Unless approved by OWPPD, individuals cannot go to clinics to receive treatment or get a child evaluation. In the past, it was covered by Medicaid through Article 16. Siegel and CSB Member Cheryelle Cruickshank expressed concerns about delayed diagnoses and inability to access Early Intervention for children.
 - CSB member Joanne Siegel states that the regulations surrounding Article 16 are unclear because the consequences have not been fully vetted
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie states additional concerns about undocumented populations and connections to care, especially if ICE agents have access to the clinics and no boundaries are established.
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie brings up the current food stamps requirements, how it's impacted by Clubhouse changes, identifying that interrupting support may impact wellness
 - CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson connects it to work eligibility – how can we support them and retain employment?
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate inquires if youth will remain a focus area – delves into her work in schools regarding the uneven uptakes of social and emotional, learning (SEL) and the need to infuse prevention at every level of school
 - CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson summarizes that access (and all the intricacies that fall under that umbrella) and prevention for youth and families are the two priority areas for 2026.

H.R.1 Medicaid Work and Eligibility Changes

- Senior Director of Policy and Planning Yoshi Pinnaduwa provided updates on H.R.1 Medicaid Work and Eligibility Changes pertaining to Medicaid community engagement and eligibility verification requirements
 - In response to CSB member Sarah Church inquiring about NYC residents who may lose coverage, Pinnaduwa says that there is opportunity for the number to increase or decrease depending on what NYS can do to mitigate impacts; furthermore, emergency Medicaid will not go away, but federal funding will be reduced so states may need to come up with the funds to supplement coverage.

- In response to CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson inquiring 1) how do they define community engagement and 2) how community service and the \$580/month payment balance each other out, Pinnaduwa states that guidance from the federal government will come out in June. Community engagement includes full or part-time, volunteer work as well as education, and those who earn \$580 a month will not need to meet the community engagement requirement. NYS is looking to make attendance in supportive employment programs or PROS and Clubhouse programs as qualifiers for community engagement requirements.
- In response to Assistant Commissioner John Yates asking where the \$580/month comes from, whether it's from an employer or family, Pinnaduwa states that it is calculated on approximately \$8 minimum wage for 80 hours a month.
- In response to CSB member Adrienne Abbate asking if the \$580 can be in the form of a stipend, Pinnaduwa replies that it is not currently defined, but if internships are allowed, it may qualify.
- In response to CSB members Cheryle Hinds-Leslie and Adrienne Abbate inquiring about opportunities to advocate (federally), Pinnaduwa says that OMH held community public forums, and some may be held in the future, and she can send to the Board members. Additionally, advocacy to congress could be meaningful, but the bill has already passed. Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) must issue guidance and for state partners to implement.
- Regarding the Community Engagement requirements regarding exemption, CSB member Joanne Siegel ties it back to the impacts of exclusion from Article 16 and OWPDD designation. She elevated the I/DD community and informs members that if you meet criteria for Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (HCBS), you can be exempt, but many people do not qualify, impacting the disability community. Pinnaduwa assures that the further definition for medically fragile persons is expected to be issued in June.
- In response to CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie inquiring about the right to appeal, Pinnaduwa states that there is a way to appeal especially regarding hardships, with a 30-day resolution window. Children under 18 are exempt. Justice-impacted individuals released within 90 days as well as individuals who are incarcerated are exempt from work requirements.
- In response to CSB member Adrienne Abbate inquiring about children verification every 6 months, CSB member Sarah Church noted that children too must be verified every 6 months.
- In response to CSB member Sarah Church wanting clarification on "medically frail" terminology, with substance use disorder impairing individuals from the ability to work or complete a program for treatment, Pinnaduwa agrees that more guidance is needed.

DOHMH and Bureau Updates

- EDC H. Jean Wright invites DOHMH Mental Hygiene bureau leadership, including Janice Chisholm, AC of the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response and Engagement (BCAARE), John Yates, AC of the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), Jamie Neckles, AC of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH), Marnie Davidoff, AC of the Bureau of Children, Youth, Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) and Shivani Mantha, Executive Director of Research, Surveillance, Policy and Communications, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU).
 - BCAARE
 - In response to CSB member Karmita Morgan-Randall asking how BCAARE envisions the listening sessions for their discretionary subcommittee, AC Chisholm reaffirms Morgan-Randall and all that the CSB members are in the communities, they know the people, and they can bring BCAARE the knowledge on how to meet community members where they are at, to hear what's priority for New Yorkers. Morgan-Randall extends an invitation to BCAARE to a community dinner in late April.
 - CYF-DD

- In response to CSB member Adrienne Abbate expressing concern about ACS' involvement with funding for the Strong Foundations Initiative and the overall lack of trust in the community, AC Davidoff reassures us that there will be no individual data sharing with ACS. It will be at the aggregate level. ACS is moving funding out of their services into the health care systems.

Wrap-up

- CSB Chair Hankerson reiterates:
 - Q2 meeting is on June 16th, focusing on the Local Services Plan
 - Invites Yoshi Pinnaduwa to return with updates following the June guidance around Medicaid eligibility
 - Senior Planning Analyst, Naomi Legros will send a follow-up email with BCAARE's discretionary subcommittee brief and HPJIP's epi data brief on the impacts of incarceration among New York City Adults
- CSB Chair Hankerson brought the meeting to a close.

Meeting adjourned: 12:06 PM