

CSB Attendees: Adrienne Abbate, Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Joanne Siegel, Karen Mok, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson, Stephanie LeMelle (Virtual),

Call to Order: 10:33 AM

Welcome Remarks

- Sidney Hankerson, MD, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order and led introductions.
- Jean Wright, PsyD, Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) welcomed members and stated DOHMH's commitment to the health and wellbeing of all New Yorkers while acknowledging the shifting federal landscape.

Local Services Plan (LSP) 2026 Annual Updates

- Janice Chisholm, DrPH, Assistant Commissioner (AC), introduced the purpose and scope of the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan.
- AC Chisholm and EDC Wright read 10 LSP goals, aloud.
- AC Chisholm presented completed/resolved objectives for 2026:
 - Lowered barriers to supportive housing access.
 - Expanded intensive mobile treatment.
 - Explored mechanism for collecting reliable data on staff attrition in the behavioral health system.
 - Partnered with criminal justice and re-entry programs to increase job development and placement.
- CSB members offered comments and posed questions pertaining to completed/resolved objectives:
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate requested DMHy data on staff attrition to help understand community-based provider versus hospital system workforce retention experiences to inform recruitment and related action.
 - AC Chisholm offered to research and shared requested information
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asked if the re-entry programs begin prior to release; suggesting pre-release programs tend to be more effective.
 - AC Yates provided that pre-release re-entry programs are not currently being offered.
 - CSB member Cheryelle Cruickshank asked about next steps for completed/resolved objectives.
 - AC Chisholm mentioned that DMHy will continue to pursue areas of ongoing concern, in priority order and contingent upon available resources.
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate asked if there is a state target to reduce staff attrition now that baseline data has been collected and what the plan is to use this data to drive policy.
 - AC Chisholm reiterated that the data in question has been shared with the state for their discretion and use.
- AC Chisholm presented two new 2026 objectives:
 - Pre- and post-crisis intervention.
 - 1115 Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) waiver rollout.
- AC Chisholm presented a single removed objective per 2026 updates:
 - Reduce stigma associated with criminal legal system involvement. Removed because the work has focused on other tasks even though the objective remains in place.
- Deputy Director of Systems Planning (CYF-DD) and ACs Chisholm, Davidoff, Linn-Walton, Neckles, and Yates presented LSP objectives in process.
- Anastasia Roussos, Deputy Director of Systems Planning and Marnie Davidoff, AC presented Teenspace engagement information.
 - CSB member Karen Mok asked about the availability of Teenspace outcome data.

- Deputy Director Roussos and AC Davidoff provided that the data in question can be shared in the future.
- CSB member Joanne Siegel asked about outcome data for Teenspace users with Developmental Disabilities.
 - AC Davidoff reported that we don't currently collect this information.
- CSB member Adrienne Abbate asked about supports for youth who age out of the service, and outreach efforts.
 - AC Davidoff offered that youth can be referred to other supportive services.
- CSB member Cheryelle Cruickshank asked how Teenspace users learned about Teenspace.
 - AC Davidoff offered that MHy outreached through the Department of Education, social media and tabling events.
- AC Davidoff shared information on the Caring Transitions program: A partnership with H+H Queens and Bronx to support youth after discharge following hospitalization for suicidal behavior.
- AC Davidoff discussed updates regarding the DBT-A pilot program to support BIPOC youth.
- AC Davidoff shared information on increasing capacity for school-based mental health services and support through the Mental Health Continuum.
- Deputy Director Roussos detailed SAHMSA System of Care expansion project: Goal is to engage youth and families to receive feedback about their experience in the MH system, identify priorities, and work with community members to address priority areas.
- AC Davidoff reviewed Youth Committee on Mental Health progress.
- AC Davidoff reviewed development of a website to help community members better understand services and make it easier to navigate services. The website promises up to date information about capacity, plain language descriptions, decisional support, and information from various funding and oversight entities (OMH, DOHMH etc).
 - CSB member Karen Mok asked if the site includes substance use services.
 - Deputy Director Roussos offered that it does not include substance use disorder programs but will have a link to an external site for more specific information about substance use treatment. NYS OASAS is developing new online resources for treatment connection.
 - AC Linn-Walton spoke about an OASAS treatment access tool that offers appointments and the MHy bureaus' efforts to get more NYC providers within the directory.
 - CSB member Joanne Siegel asked if the site would include services for people with developmental disabilities and emphasized the importance of inclusion on the youth advisory committee.
 - Deputy Director Roussos noted that the initial phase includes only mental health services, though there is some information about developmental disabilities (e.g., DOHMH-funded DD services) and we hope to enhance the DD services in a future update.
- AC Davidoff reviewed training and technical assistance to support mental health in early childhood.
- AC Chisholm presented updates on efforts to "expand mental health knowledge, skills and strategies among youth-serving CBO staff".
- Develop partnership to facilitate referrals for youth.
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate asked if they could get the resources that were shared to support similar efforts in their community?
 - AC Chisholm agreed to share the materials and resources on best practices.
- AC Linn-Walton shared updates on LGBTQ+ coalitions to support protective factors or youth at risk of problem substance abuse.
- AC Linn-Walton discussed updates on efforts to increase access to medication assisted treatment for youth in ACS detention facilities.
- AC Neckles reviewed efforts to increase availability of supportive housing units.
 - CSB member Joanne Siegel celebrated this accomplishment and noted that she notices its positive impact reflected in their work.
- AC Neckles reviewed efforts to update public-facing literature regarding housing programs.

- AC Neckles reviewed objective to increase participation in clubhouse programs now that all 13 have launched.
- AC Davidoff covered efforts to collaborate with ACCESS-VR, OPWDD, Mayor's Office to cultivate opportunities for meaningful employment for people with DD.
- AC Davidoff reviewed efforts to increase number of individuals who receive supportive vocational services.
- AC Yates covered efforts to increase court navigator staffing in court houses to support individuals who are currently involved in the court system.
 - CSB Member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asked if this service is only available for individuals who have been incarcerated upstate.
 - AC Yates clarified that the eligibility is not predicated upon on the basis of being incarcerated upstate.
- AC Linn-Walton presented on efforts to increase supports for peers with experience living in shelters.
- AC Yates reviewed efforts to increase connectivity to crisis services for individuals who are served by 988
- AC Neckles presented on efforts to improve interconnectivity among 3 city hotlines (911, 988, 311) to allow non-emergency crisis calls to 911 to be transferred to 988 when indicated.
 - CSB Member Karen Mok asked if are response times still being tracked?
 - AC Neckles offered that the avg is approx. 2.5 hours for crisis response through 988.
 - CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson asked if 988 is impacted by federal changes?
 - AC Neckles said not at this time; NYC 988 volume and staffing has not changed under the new federal administration.
 - Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asked if the Harlem Support and Connection Center falls under contract with Mental Hygiene.
 - AC Neckles confirmed this is in partnership with Mental Hygiene.
- AC Chisholm reviewed objective to make MH services more acceptable to AANHPI community members.
- AC Chisholm presented on efforts to promote Behavioral Health emergency preparedness and response.
- AC Linn-Walton presented on efforts to expand Naloxone distribution in the community using both universal and targeted outreach strategies.
- AC Linn-Walton described efforts to expand RELAY teams to engage people after a non-fatal overdose in the hospital.

Discussion

- Due to time limitations, Chair Hankerson redirected the remaining meeting time for a general discussion on members' impressions, questions, and comments pertaining to the 2026 LSP Updates. EDC Wright agreed, and AC Chisholm offered that DMHy will provide details regarding bureau updates along with meeting minutes, Ppt slides, and any accompanying materials resulting from this discussion.
 - Multiple members expressed appreciation for the 2026 LSP Updates' detail and comprehensiveness.
- CSB Member Stephanie LeMelle noted Neighborhood connection centers seem to be more helpful for people with social needs crisis and less helpful for people experiencing acute substance use, mental health, medical and housing crises. CSB Member LeMelle recommended reviewing outcome data to determine effectiveness based on differential needs.
 - AC Neckles agreed the population scope has evolved overtime with fewer Police drop-offs and shifted to more social needs. AC Neckles agreed to follow-up with Dr. LeMelle to discuss data and program scope.
- CSB Member Adrienne Abbate noted that a possible service gap is having better integration across substance use, mental health and developmental disabilities; suggesting perhaps the state can build on city level success.
 - AC Chisholm affirmed Mental Hygiene's ongoing striving to integrate across the service systems.

- CSB Member Joanne Siegel voiced concerns about impacts of federal policy changes on public mental health. CSB member Siegel noted that there are multiple funding cuts impacting grant funded services, and that families are fearing Medicaid cuts. CSB Member Siegel encouraged programs to start thinking about alternative funding options.
 - CSB Member LeMelle echoed the need to actively consider alternative funding streams in the face of potential cuts.
- CSB Member Sarah Church noted that substance use providers are concerned that telehealth waiver for buprenorphine will expire December 2025 and encouraged mental hygiene to advocate for the life saving effect of this program.

Wrap-up

- CSB Chair Hankerson elevated the question of what is next, especially around workforce and encouraged CSB members to consider how we can advocate for these priorities in our local sphere of influence.
- CSB Chair Hankerson thanked DMHy and CSB members for their attendance, reminded everyone about our meeting in the coming quarter, and brought the meeting to a close.

Meeting adjourned: 11:57 AM