

**CSB Attendees:** Cheryelle Cruickshank, Diane Arneth, Louise Cohen, Sidney Hankerson, Pankaj Patel, Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, Rosa Gil

**Call to Order: 2:04 PM**

**Welcome and DOHMH Updates**

- Dr. Michael McRae, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMH), welcomed CSB members to the second quarter CSB meeting of 2022. To begin the discussion Dr. McRae reflected the division’s active efforts to support individual and community mental health in the ongoing presence of COVID-19. Notably, the Bureau of Mental Health is particularly involved in key initiatives. As such, Dr. McRae called on Jamie Neckles, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Mental Health, to provide updates on the launch of 9-8-8 and the new Continuous Engagement between Community and Clinic Treatment (CONNECT) model. In response to a question, Jamie Neckles will provide the CSB members with a document detailing the locations and hours of the clinics involved in the CONNECT program.

**Recap from CSB Workgroup on Youth Behavioral Health**

- CSB Chairperson, Dr. Sidney Hankerson, reminded the group that the CSB members voted on two focus areas for the Q1 meeting: 1) youth behavioral health and 2) workforce. Dr. Hankerson provided key findings from the discussion at the CSB Workgroup on Youth Behavioral Health on April 26, 2022, including: 1) The potential impact of the 9-8-8 hotline program on access to children’s mental health care, 2) Outreach to high risk, low-income families who may need support with navigating the youth behavioral health system (including working with the Board of Education to identify families in need), 3) The importance of engaging and educating parents/guardians included in the youth’s treatment plan, and 4) Creating a collaborative care model between behavioral health providers and schools to provide and improve school-based mental health services.
- Dr. McRae acknowledged and thanked Dr. Hankerson for his active role in the Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup. As previously noted, youth behavioral health is a significant area of focus for the department, reflecting the Commissioner’s keen focus on mental health needs, and especially for youth who experienced great disruption during the ongoing health crisis. The department’s interest in supporting youth mental health is evident in much of our current and future endeavors, and the Workgroup’s attention to this area is timely. Dr. McRae called on Marnie Davidoff, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families to provide updates on ongoing work as a follow-up to the discussion from the Workgroup. Marnie Davidoff shared that the agency has been working with a consultant on a COVID-19 child mental health response strategy to better understand needs, gaps, and opportunities. Finally, in response to CSB members’ recommendations from the Workgroup Meeting around improved outreach and collaboration with school systems, Marnie also shared that the agency has been working closely with the NYC DOHMH Office of School Health and the Department of Education to increase schools’ and families’ awareness and use of NYC Well and children’s mobile crisis teams.

**Brief Updates on Ongoing DOHMH Workforce Initiatives**

- Carlton Whitmore, Senior Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs in the Bureau of Community Engagement, Policy and Practice, provided brief updates on ongoing DOHMH initiatives to help inform the CSB discussion on workforce, particularly around workforce expansion, training opportunities, advocacy, and peer support.

**Recap from CSB Workgroup on Workforce**

- Dr. Hankerson provided a few key findings from the discussion at the CSB Workgroup on Workforce on May 3, 2022, including: 1) Understanding the workforce culture shift, including the high rates of workers leaving their organizations within 3-5 years or leaving the behavioral health workforce entirely for other industries, 2) High starting salaries for provider positions in private and other sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with, and 3) Gaps in available data on workforce.

**CSB Discussion on Workforce**

- Dr. Hankerson invited the CSB members to share ideas for how the group can make an impact on the workforce issue within the next five years, including possible policies, key indicators, and recommendations that the group can make to the city.
- CSB member Dr. Pankaj Patel raised the need for an innovative mechanism to increase reimbursement rates for clinics and community behavioral health centers. Similarly, Marnie Davidoff shared that members of the CSB Mental Health Subcommittee also elevated the need for payment and regulatory reform that would allow community-based organizations (CBOs) to find innovative ways to provide and integrate services.
- Dr. Patel also promoted the need for professional development opportunities for providers via a scholarship model. Dr. Gil also recommended professional development programs targeted to the immigrant population in NYC to promote cultural competency in the behavioral health workforce.
- CSB member Louise Cohen shared a recent legislative campaign spearheaded by her organization, the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), around measuring and ultimately increasing reimbursement for primary care in NYS and offered resources for developing a similar strategy for behavioral health.
- A few CSB members also raised the importance of innovative community-based partnerships to provide integrated behavioral health care, and Dr. Hankerson suggested that the group can advocate for the expansion of these types of partnerships as a sustainable strategy to promote access to care.
- CSB member Diane Arneith raised the issue of different payment structures across provider positions, and the lack of data on how many providers in the city are per diem or salaried and whether this has an impact on workforce/client retention and clinical outcomes. Dr. Hankerson suggested that the group advocate for the city to collect this information on the CONNECT sample of clinics, and that he and Dr. McRae have intentions to meet with OMH to discuss what data is being collected around this issue. Dr. McRae agreed to the recommended approach, and acknowledged a plan for he and Dr. Hankerson to pursue discussions with state partners to better understand and leverage their data collection and any other relevant actions.

**Additional Comments & Wrap Up**

- Dr. Hankerson provided a recap on the discussion, and shared that the CSB members will receive a summary of their recommendations organized by possible short-term goals (completion within 1-2 years), intermediate goals (2-4 years), and long-term goals (within 5 years) before the next CSB Core Meeting in September 2022. Dr. Hankerson shared that the September 2022 meeting will also discuss the 2023 Local Services Plan, and opportunities for the CSB to provide input around youth behavioral health and workforce.

**Meeting adjourned: 3:26 PM**