

**CSB Attendees:** Ahmed Jamil, Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Karmita Morgan-Randall, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson, Stephanie LeMelle, Thelma Dye, Joanne Siegel, Adrienne Abbate, Dwight Kemp, Asuna Osako, Karen Mok, Miriam Prat-Jerez

**Action items/ Resources from DOHMH:**

- Share the [Special Report on Social Media and Mental Health](#)

**Call to Order: 11:02 AM**

**Welcome Remarks**

- Dr. Hankerson, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order, welcomed CSB Members, and led introductions.
- Dr. Wright, Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) welcomed members.

**DOHMH and Bureau Updates**

- Dr. Wright invited Bureau leadership in DMHy to provide updates, namely Rebecca Linn-Walton, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), Marnie Davidoff, AC of the Bureau for Children, Youth and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD), Janice Chisholm, AC of the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE), Kristila Brace, Acting AC of the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), and Jamie Neckles, AC of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH).
  - CSB Member Cheryelle Cruickshank shared that she submitted a resolution to the National Council of Negro Women on expanding the federal mental health parity act.
  - In response to an update on Clubhouses, CSB Member Karmita Morgan-Randall asked about the referral process to Clubhouses after hospital discharge.
    - Jamie Neckles responded that Clubhouses are being incorporated into the citywide Single Point of Access system ([SPOA](#)) as a referral option.
    - In response to questions from CSB Member Stephanie LeMelle and Dwight Kemp, Jamie Neckles clarified that Clubhouses can be accessed with and without provider referrals via walk-ins.

**Presentation on the State of Mental Health of New Yorkers Report**

- Ellenie Tuazon, Director of Surveillance in BADUPCT, presented key data from the substance use portion of [the State of Mental Health of New Yorkers](#) report published in June 2024.
  - Many CSB Members emphasized the need for parent education and data collection on cannabis use.
    - CSB Member Joanne Siegel emphasized the impact of cannabis use on developing brains for children/youth. She suggested DMHy collect data, propose recommendations, and provide education for children and parents.
    - CSB Members Sarah Church and Joanne Siegel added that cannabis-related hospitalizations for psychosis and bipolar disorder have increased, and Ellenie Tuazon said DMHy has New York State (NYS) data on this.
    - In response to a discussion on use of cannabis post-legalization, Ellenie Tuazon explained that cannabis use has not changed among adults according to 2021 and 2023 survey data.
      - Dr. Erica Smith, Director of the Office of School Health (OSH), added that cannabis gummies is a concern in schools. Rebecca Linn-Walton shared a new youth campaign and opportunities to talk to parents.
    - In response to a question from CSB Member Karmita Morgan-Randall on data on youth cannabis use and driving, Ellenie Tuazon described DOHMH's accesses to Emergency Department (ED) data.
      - CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez added that mental illnesses often get incorrectly coded without mention of substance use in EDs.

- CSB Members Miriam Prat-Jerez, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, and Adrienne Abbate shared concerns that some youth self-medicate with cannabis for anxiety or pain management with parental consent.
- CSB Member Stephanie LeMelle asked for data on co-occurrence of SMI and SUD. Ellenie Tuazon responded that an analysis on lifetime diagnosis of MH and SUD is upcoming.
- CSB Member Sarah Church asked why there is a reduction in SUD-related hospital admissions for adults. Rebecca Linn-Walton explained pandemic-related changes on how communities prefer to access care, while noting that current data may not capture all access points. She added that BADUPCT is working with community providers to increase virtual care access.
- In response to a question by CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez, Ellenie Tuazon shared that a higher proportion of youth misuse their own prescription drugs and not their family member's according to the NYC Teen Survey and acknowledged the importance of educating parents and providers.
  - CSB Member Karen Mok requested data on teens with comorbidities using SSRIs for anxiety/depression and Marnie Davidoff said she will follow-up.
- CSB Member Adrienne Abbate asked if data is disaggregated by grade for children/youth as the transition from elementary to middle school is crucial. Ellenie Tuazon responded that disaggregating by grade is difficult due to small sample sizes. Rachel Suss, Research Analyst at BMH, shared that the 18-24 age group has concerning trends in comparison to the 25-34 age group.
- CSB Member Joanne Siegel shared that children/youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities are at higher risk for substance abuse.
- CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson thanked the group for such an important discussion and suggested skipping the Presentation on Goals due to time constraints.

#### **Presentation by the Office of School Health**

- Dr. Erica Smith, Director of the Office of School Health (OSH), presented on OSH's school mental health programming and support in NYC's public schools.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate, Dr. Smith shared OSH data sources including school surveys of students, teachers, and parents and the Youth Behavior Survey.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate about school-based health clinics, Dr. Smith shared that OSH only works with Article 31 clinics as Article 28 clinics have different processes.
  - CSB Member Stephanie LeMelle asked about Department of Education (DOE) funding for Community Based Organization staff at school-based mental health clinics. Dr. Erica Smith shared various OSH contracts with DOE, including the Community School Initiative and the Prevention and Intervention Program funding support this work. OSH also supports these efforts through its school mental health expansion demonstration grant. Also highlighted was NYS Office of Mental Health's (OMH) incentive funding for licensed clinic providers to establish school based mental health satellite clinics.
  - CSB Member Karmita Morgan-Randall asked if there is coordination between schools and NYC Crisis Intervention teams and the Anti-Gang Initiative. Marnie Davidoff shared that schools are a very high referral source to 988's children mobile crisis teams. Dr. Smith added that OSH is not doing this coordination currently but is very open to discussing it.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Ahmed Jamil about OSH programs in private and/or religious schools, Dr. Erica Smith said current programs are in public schools only due to bandwidth and funding. Marnie Davidoff added that Article 31 clinics do also serve non-public schools.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate about expanding clinics to Districts 75 and 79, Dr. Erica Smith responded that expansion to District 79 schools is in early discussions.

#### **Additional Comments & Wrap Up**

- Dr. Hankerson provided a recap and requested CSB Members think about 2025 priority areas for December.
- Anika Kalra, Sr. Planning Analyst at DOHMH, requested that CSB members respond to an administrative survey.

**Meeting adjourned: 12:30 PM**