

CSB Attendees: Ahmed Jamil, Adrienne Abbate, Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Dwight Kemp, Joanne Siegel, Karmita Morgan-Randall, Miriam Prat-Jerez, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson

Call to Order: 10:36 AM

Welcome Remarks

- Sidney Hankerson, MD, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order and led introductions.
- H. Jean Wright, PsyD, Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) welcomed members, acknowledged the community work spearheaded by AC Chisholm and AC Linn-Walton of BCAARE and BADU, and acknowledged the concerns regarding H.R.1 and the significant changes to Medicaid, ACA marketplaces and coverage for immigrants. Wright will revisit conversations at a future meeting when federal and state guidance becomes available.

CSB Bylaws Amendments

- Senior Planning Analyst, Naomi Legros introduces proposed amendments to the bylaws
 - Motion to change “mental retardation” to “intellectual disabilities” in sections 2.1, 4.1 and 8.1 has been passed with all 10 members voting yes
 - Motion to change “substance abuse” to “substance use disorder” in sections 4.1 and 8.1 has been passed with all 10 members voting yes
 - Motion to add a new section 4.4 to include term limits for CSB board and subcommittee members as directly stated in 41.11(b) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law has been passed with all 10 members voting yes
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate wanted clarity on tiers and if it impacts current members
 - Senior Planning Analyst Naomi Legros reiterates that initially constituted boards are tiered between two-year, three-year and four-year terms, vacancies are filled for unexpired terms, and reappointments run from the first day of the year of the appointment
 - Motion to expand Department of Health convening sites to include neighborhood health action centers in The Bronx, East Harlem, Bedford, Brownsville and Bushwick sites in Brooklyn and DOHMH Worth Street locations was not passed.
 - Proposal to expand meeting sites was to increase community engagement if meetings rotated across the boroughs, and meet the community where they are
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate was concerned that Staten Island was not included in the original proposed sites, and CSB member Dwight Kemp additionally asked if by the current proposed language, would Staten Island be included in future sites to host CSB meetings to which Senior Planning Analyst Naomi Legros reiterated looking into the SI DOH office to include in future amendment proposal.
 - Members brought concerns about meeting time potentially becoming longer if a standing community input agenda is included.
 - CSB member Joanne Siegel proposes separate meetings, in the format of community town halls that may be more beneficial to them. CSB member Ahmed Jamil supports Siegel’s proposal, saying that the current CSB format may not be the best way to engage the community. CSB member Cruickshank follows up with filtering out identified needs, concerns, and barriers, of different neighborhoods to bring back to the core CSB.
 - CSB Chair Hankerson frames it as a listening tour that CSB members should be at, and CSB member Cruickshank says it should be CSB members of the borough, so it is accessible, and they can facilitate

better. Additionally states that this could empower community members to feel heard and not just spoken to.

- CSB chair Hankerson differentiates the structural changes of the bylaws and the listening tours that do not need to be embedded in the bylaws. Furthermore, brings up that in 2024, breakout groups were proposed and agreed upon, and the attendance was not there. Real community input is needed but the group needs to be mindful of bandwidth.
- Collaboration with CBOs was also proposed to help facilitate the organization of these community gatherings
- Senior Planning Analyst Naomi Legros agrees to go back and re-strategize a more robust community engagement plan to present to the members during the Q4 meeting

DOHMH and Bureau Updates

- EDC H. Jean Wright invites DOHMH Mental Hygiene bureau leadership, including Rebecca Linn-Walton, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU), 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), and Jamie Neckles, AC of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH).
 - BADU
 - In response to CSB member Adrienne Abbate asking if there are cuts to naloxone, AC Linn-Walton assures that it has not been implicated yet. CSB member Sarah Church then states that it's great to see that overdose is going down and is worried that federal cuts will reverse that progress. EDC H. Jean Wright supports the overcommunication of the impact of funding and what will happen if it is taken away.
 - In response to CSB member Sarah Church asking for more clarification of the community syringe redemption program, AC Linn-Walton clarifies that it is a one year, pilot program working with individuals who led the work in Boston to operate in East Harlem, Washington Heights, the South Bronx and an unidentified Brooklyn and Queens neighborhoods offering payment for the collection of used syringes, for up to \$10 per day.
 - In response to the "Expanding buprenorphine prescribing in primary care" paper recently published, CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie requests to have paper disseminated to the CSB.
 - BCAARE
 - In response to CSB member Dwight Kemp requesting to have a peer colleague trained in the Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP), AC Chisholm agreed to follow up and connect him with BCAARE's Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) who facilitates the WRAP program.
 - In response to CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asking about workbooks, AC Chisholm and Teena Brooks agreed to follow up.
 - BMH
 - In response to CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asking about the Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) program and whether they have worked on not being siloed, AC Neckles stated she will follow up with the team and provide information sessions to the 19 providers to close that gap. CSB member Miriam Prat-Jerez followed up and stated that underutilization may be because of fear of duplication of services.
 - In response to CSB member Sarah Church asking if the supportive housing eviction prevention work is a guide, AC Neckles states that it is an inter-agency guidance to release to contractors to provide financial management and practical steps to help people manage finances and mental health; to articulate that you need to do this to avoid evictions.

- CSB members bring up questions about housing, particularly about whether it is level two housing, number of people being served and apartments versus community residence, to which AC Neckles replied by stating it is not level two housing, they are lease holders, 12,800 units exist, but exact numbers are hard to quantify based on single occupancy versus family occupancy, and that community care is the model used.

Youth Committee on Mental Health Presentation

- In response to CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asking if meetings are open, CYF-DD Project Director Katie Savage said they are closed, to which Hinds-Leslie requests after the committee becomes more situated, identifying how to get this work forward facing to the community, and bridge the gap by collaborating with older community members
 - Deputy Director of Systems Planning Anastasia Roussos reiterates the importance of sharing out information because the youth are curious about the work the Dept of Health is doing and what it means for MHY division and CSB to bridge the gap
- In response to CSB member Joanne Siegel asking if CSB members can see applications for youth recruitment, Katie Savage and AC Davidoff ensures that CSB will be a vehicle for future recruitment and CSB member Adrienne Abbate proposes having that as an agenda item for Q2 2026's meeting.

Wrap-up

- CSB Chair Hankerson summarized key themes including:
 - Creating a process where we are more community facing and community engaged
 - Seeking areas for further communication and collaboration i.e. a listserv
- CSB Chair Hankerson advertises an upcoming multidisciplinary conference hosted by him and CSB member Stephanie LeMelle in October focused on community-based mental health care that will also offer CME credits.
- CSB member Adrienne Abbate brings up the recent MTA vote to put alcohol advertising back in the subway system. Partners across the city are coalescing to push back and opens to members to get involved with her, CUNY and the Interfaith Public Health Network around this organizing effort.
- CSB Chair Hankerson brought the meeting to a close.

Meeting adjourned: 12:02 PM