

**CSB Attendees:** Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson, Joanne Siegel, Adrienne Abbate, Asuna Osako, Miriam Prat-Jerez

**Action items/ Resources from DOHMH:**

- [Link](#) to the Special Report on Social Media and Mental Health
  - [Website](#) and [guidance document](#) for parents on social media and youth mental health
- [Link](#) to a request for proposals to support community coalitions to prevent substance use among LGBTQ+ youth

**Call to Order: 1:33 PM**

**Welcome Remarks**

- Dr. Hankerson, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order 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 Tina Saha, Senior Director of Substance Use Care in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), Marnie Davidoff, Assistant Commissioner (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 Elizabeth Hyde, Director of Treatment and Care Coordination Services in the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH).
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate, Yoshi Pinnaduwa, Senior Director of the Office of Policy and Planning, shared that NYS Department of Health is planning community education sessions on changes from the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Amendment.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez, Kristila Brace shared that the Health Justice Network's Medicaid evaluation data will be used in numerous ways to support impacted populations.

**Discussion on 2025 CSB Priority Areas**

- Dr. Hankerson and Yoshi Pinnaduwa led the group in a discussion on setting CSB priority areas for 2025. Yoshi shared the 2023-2024 priorities, which included youth mental health and workforce. Dr. Hankerson advised Members to brainstorm topic areas to discuss in 2025 based on their experiences. Dr. Wright shared DMHy's focus on youth mental health, disparities in substance use, and reviewing past successes to translate learnings to new programs.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Cheryelle Cruickshank, Yoshi Pinnaduwa clarified that the Local Services Plan is a four-year plan with annual updates that the CSB's priority areas can help inform.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate about DMHy's advocacy role, Yoshi Pinnaduwa described DMHy's legislative agenda setting process and opportunities with OMH, OASAS, and CHAMP for reimbursement reform.
  - CSB Member Adrienne Abbate suggested a focus on refugee and asylum seeker substance use care. CSB Members Cheryelle Cruickshank, Miriam Prat-Jerez, and Joane Siegel added the need to focus on youth entering the education and foster systems with trauma as refugees and/or disabilities.
  - CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez mentioned the need to improve the physical spaces disadvantaged populations and Medicaid consumers receive care in.
  - CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez emphasized the need to support parents of children with mental health and substance use disorders.
  - CSB Member Joanne Siegel shared concerns that reimbursement rates are too low to support workforce and provider needs, and shared the complaints from durable medical equipment providers that Managed Care entities are paying less than the Medicaid rate. She suggested improving enforcement and compliance.
    - CSB Member Sarah Church added concerns that commercial insurance companies are not contracting with providers who, as of Jan 2025, will be reimbursed at the Medicaid rate. She

suggested providing education on differences between federally regulated self-insured and state regulated fully insured plans so providers can make informed decisions on contracts and budgets.

- CSB Members Cheryle Hinds-Leslie and Miriam Prat-Jerez added that providers are unable to provide all services without adequate reimbursement and the burden falls to underpaid Peer Specialists and high utilization of the Emergency Department, leading to burnout staff.
- CSB Member Sarah Church suggested a focus on school refusal since the COVID-19 pandemic for children. CSB Members Miriam Prat-Jerez and Cheryelle Cruickshank agreed and mentioned the resulting negative impacts on social skills and difficulties for children with disabilities, leading to behavior issues.
- CSB Member Joanne Siegel mentioned the need to invite members from Article 32 and 16 clinics in addition to 31 to participate in discussions, as those clinics are vital to youth.
- CSB Member Asuna Osako shared concerns of fear and anxiety among the queer and trans community since the federal election. CSB Member Cheryelle Cruickshank added that parents are concerned about the possible dismantling of the Department of Education.
  - Dr. Wright assured members that DOHMH has been preparing for changes come January.
  - CSB Member Adrienne Abbate added the need to continue lifting racism in our work and shared a [grant opportunity](#) by DOHMH on coalition building to prevent substance use among LGBTQ youth.
- Dr. Hankerson summarized the discussion with youth mental health as a priority area. He suggested continuing the conversation via a shared document to finalize an additional priority area for 2025.

#### **Presentation on the Special Report on Social Media and Mental Health**

- Nicole Stratton, Population Data Manager for Youth Suicide in CYF-DD, presented findings from the [Special Report on Social Media and Mental Health](#).
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Asuna Osako, Nicole explained that the survey included multiple response options. Asuna added that mental health conditions are often described as feeling 'bored' and understanding the directionality of boredom and mental health could be insightful.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Joanne Siegel, Marnie Davidoff responded that this data established correlations of social media use to anxiety and depression, but not directionality.
  - In response to a question from CSB Member Adrienne Abbate on how parents can model and encourage healthy social media use for kids, Marnie Davidoff shared a [guidance document](#) for parents. She also requested Members to share community needs for education on this topic in future meetings.

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

- Dr. Hankerson concluded the meeting and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

**Meeting adjourned: 3:00 PM**