

CSB Attendees: Cheryelle Cruickshank, Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, Rosa Gil, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson, Stephanie LeMelle, Thelma Dye

Action items:

- Dr. Michael McRae and DOHMH to provide more information on credentialing requirements for behavioral health providers from immigrant backgrounds to inform CSB discussions on the workforce shortage

Call to Order: 2:35 PM

CSB Subcommittee and Bureau Updates

- Dr. Michael McRae, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (MHy) at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), welcomed CSB members to the fourth quarter CSB meeting of 2022.
- Dr. McRae invited the Divisional Assistant Commissioners to provide updates on their respective Bureaus and CSB subcommittees, particularly recent and upcoming activities of the CSB Mental Health Subcommittee, the CSB Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee, the CSB Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee, and the discretionary Criminal Justice Committee.
 - CSB member Dr. Stephanie LeMelle requested additional information regarding enforcement of emerging cannabis legislation, and in response Dely Perez, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), and Cezar Lopez, Senior Policy Advisor, shared [resources for cannabis legislation and safer use guidance](#).

Discussion on Anticipated Behavioral Health Needs and Priorities for 2023

- Dr. McRae outlined the city's behavioral health priorities for New Yorkers, particularly youth, individuals living with mental illness (SMI), and addressing the City's overdose deaths.
 - CSB member Cheryelle Cruickshank elevated that individuals who are dually diagnosed with SMI and intellectual/developmental disabilities have high unmet need, and recommended that this population not be excluded from the city's plan for improving the behavioral health system in NYC.
- Dr. McRae also provided additional details regarding the Mayor's press conference on the city's efforts to promote connections to behavioral health services among individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health issues in the NYC subway system.
 - CSB members, Dr. Rosa Gil and Dr. Thelma Dye, lauded the city's efforts to connect individuals with SMI experiencing homelessness to appropriate services, and emphasized the importance of housing as a critical part of addressing mental health needs.
 - Drs. Gil and Dye elevated the need for improving the capacity of community-based mental health clinics so that individuals with SMI can remain in the community as much as possible.
 - Dr. Dye also underscored the disproportionate impact of SMI and homelessness on black and brown New Yorkers, and promoted the importance of appropriate training for police officers interacting with these communities in order to reduce harm and mistreatment of community members.
 - Drs. Gil and LeMelle also emphasized the importance of reducing discrimination and allowing clinicians to use objective measures to make appropriate decisions about placements.
 - In response to questions by CSB members Dr. LeMelle and Dr. Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, Jamie Neckles, the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Mental Health, shared details of the [Street to Housing pilot project](#) to promote immediate high-quality housing for street homeless individuals.
 - Dr. Lewis-Fernandez requested additional information on the ways the city is improving more transient housing services, particularly the shelter system, given the lack of safety and privacy reported by individuals in these programs. In response, Jamie Neckles provided additional information regarding the

Safe Haven model, as well as efforts to bring multidisciplinary mobile treatment teams to provide flexible support to individuals and families in the shelter system.

- CSB Chairperson, Dr. Sidney Hankerson, reiterated the following goals developed from CSB member input on the two priority issue areas identified by CSB members, namely Workforce and Youth Mental Health:
 - Goal #1 (Youth): CSB Members to contribute to DOHMH's goal to address the impact of COVID-19 on youth behavioral health
 - Goal #2 (Workforce): CSB Members to advocate for improved data collection on employee attrition at Article 31, 32, and 16 clinics
 - Goal #3 (Workforce): CSB Members to advocate for improved data collection on payment structures across different provider types, stratified by race/ethnicity
 - Goal #4 (Workforce): CSB Members to advocate for payment and regulatory reform that would allow CBOs to find innovative ways to provide and integrate services
 - Goal #5 (Workforce): CSB members to advocate for more loan forgiveness and scholarship models specifically for behavioral health providers
- With regards to Goal #2 (Workforce), Dr. Hankerson shared that he and Dr. McRae have met with the Director of the NYC Field Office at the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) regarding workforce data elevated by the CSB members, and will have continuing discussions on this topic in early 2023.
- Dr. Hankerson also shared that two CSB members, Dr. LeMelle and Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, have volunteered to take the lead on drafting a workforce advocacy letter to the NYS OMH and the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and invited other members to join their effort.
 - CSB members, namely Drs. Gil and Lewis-Fernandez, recommended that the group consider advocating for immigrant providers to more easily enter the behavioral health workforce, especially those with relevant training and experience from their countries of origin but are unable to practice in the United States. In response, Dr. McRae offered to provide more information on credentialing requirements for behavioral health providers from immigrant backgrounds so that the CSB can further explore the feasibility of this recommendation.
- Finally, Dr. Hankerson invited the CSB members' input on whether to continue focusing on Workforce and Youth Mental Health as priority issue areas for the upcoming year. Several CSB members acknowledged that there was more work to be done around these two issue areas, and agreed to continue prioritizing Workforce and Youth Mental Health in the group's activities in 2023.

Additional Comments & Wrap Up

- Dr. Hankerson provided a recap on the discussion, and invited CSB members to email CSBNYC@health.nyc.gov if they are interested in collectively drafting the advocacy letter to the State on workforce on behalf of the CSB.
- Dr. Hankerson announced that the next convening of the CSB will be in February 2023, date TBA, and thanked the CSB members and DOHMH staff for their continued dedication, and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 3:58 PM