

CSB Attendees: Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Louise Cohen, Jun Matsuyoshi, Thelma Dye, Rosa Gil, Stephanie LeMelle

Call to Order: 12:03 PM

Welcome and Introductions:

- Dr. Myla Harrison, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Mental Hygiene welcomed CSB members, informed the group of Gail Nayowith's resignation and made a call for recommendations of individuals who may want to join the CSB and/or as CSB Chair. Acting Chair Cheryelle Cruickshank led the members in roll call and introductions.

Updates from DOHMH:

- Dr. Myla Harrison shared updates regarding the agency's efforts in the vaccine phase of the COVID-19 response, including updates from Project Hope. Dr. Harrison also shared a new DOHMH initiative: behavioral health parity trainings for NYC providers and insurance beneficiaries in partnership with CHAMP (the ombudsman agency funded by the NYS Offices of Mental Health (OMH) and Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). For more information and to request a training, contact: BHParity@health.nyc.gov

CSB Subcommittee and DOHMH Bureau Updates:

- **Bill Jordan, representing the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Subcommittee and the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADUPCT):** The next Municipal Drug Strategy/SUD Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2021. The agency released overdose mortality data through the first three quarters of 2020, and findings show that 2020 is by far the deadliest year of the overdose pandemic, and large disparities continue to exist: South Bronx and East Harlem continue to have among the highest rates of overdose in 2020. To address the recent increase in overdose deaths, NYC has invested \$7 million annually to increase awareness of fentanyl and associated risk of overdose, reduce harms associated with drug use, and expand access to same-day buprenorphine treatment. See below for the 2020 overdose mortality data:
 - <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/basas/provisional-overdose-report-third-quarter-2020.pdf>
 - Cheryelle Cruickshank requested clarification on the expansion of harm reduction outreach, and Dr. Jordan shared that DOHMH is increasing program hours and staff members available to do community outreach.
- **Jamie Neckles, representing the Mental Health (MH) Subcommittee and the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH):** The volume of New Yorkers utilizing NYC Well has increased dramatically since March 2020 and have stayed high ever since. In response to this need, DOHMH is expanding NYC Well to answer even more calls, texts, and chats from New Yorkers looking for crisis counseling and referrals to ongoing care. The DOHMH is also expanding the agency's capacity to support mental health treatment, both by growing the agency's Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) program and creating a new model called CONNECT that mixes mobile and psych-based treatment.
 - CSB member Dr. Stephanie LeMelle asked whether a provider on an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team can refer a client to the IMT program, and Jamie responded in the affirmative. Jamie Neckles will connect with Dr. LeMelle for more information.
- **Marnie Davidoff, representing the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF):** The Bureau recently released two concept papers on: 1) the expansion of High-Fidelity Wraparound, an intensive team-based coordination model for youth who would otherwise be ineligible for residential-level of care, and 2) suicide prevention for two target populations: Latina adolescents and Latino/a adolescents who identify as LGBTQ. There have been concerns about the number of children who have experienced a loss of a parent/ caregiver during the pandemic, and in response the Bureau convened an advisory group of stakeholders to develop actionable strategies on identifying and connecting youth to services.
- **Janice Chisholm, representing the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Subcommittee and the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities:** DD Subcommittee members contributed to the agency's development of procedures and materials for a study by the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) that aims to better understand NYC DD service utilization, unmet need, and satisfaction, including the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis. DD Subcommittee members also participated in NYAM key informant interviews as individuals receiving services, family members, care givers, and service providers.
- **Janice Chisholm, representing the LGBTQ+ Committee:** On May 26, 2021, the LGBTQ+ Committee will join the department's Transgender Community Advisory Board (TCAB) to discuss COVID-19 experiences and concerns for LGBTQ+, including vaccine planning and acceptance.

- **Aman Nakagawa, representing the Criminal Justice (CJ) Committee and the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP):** The next meeting of the CJ Committee is on June 22, 2021. A number of recommendations have emerged from the members of the CJ Committee, particularly around 1) the critical need for affordable housing for justice-impacted populations, 2) increased access to telehealth, 3) data on health outcomes for people post-hoteling, the experiences of people released from ICE detention, and barriers to maintaining Medicaid coverage for newly released individuals, and 4) expansion of crisis respite programs that provide peer services.

Discussion on 2021 CSB Priority Issue Areas:

- Cheryelle Cruickshank reminded the CSB members that they had identified three priority issue areas for the DOHMH to address in 2021: 1) Telehealth, 2) Workforce, and 3) Data Disaggregation, and invited DOHMH representatives to provide status updates on each of these areas. Cheryelle also invited CSB members to provide input on possible next steps.
- **Telehealth:** Yoshi Pinnaduwa shared a recap of telehealth-related practices at the beginning of the pandemic, as well as an overview of recent legislative developments in telehealth, including provisions passed via the enacted NYS Budget. Yoshi also briefly shared a number of proposals that were excluded from the Budget but were originally proposed by the Governor, for possible areas for advocacy moving forward.
- **Workforce:** Carlton Whitmore shared considerations for addressing workforce issues within the context of peer support programs and provided a number of resources for expanding the peer workforce, including a DOHMH needs-based Community Health Worker toolkit to advance organization readiness for adding peers to their workforce. Anita Sambamurty shared workforce considerations from the perspective of care managers, including feedback from the NYC Regional Planning Consortium (RPC) Adult and Children’s Care Management Agency Steering Groups on challenges and unmet needs of care managers working in behavioral health settings.
 - Dr. Rosa Gil asked how undocumented individuals can participate in the mental health service system as peers. Carlton Whitmore will be sharing resources from OASAS/OMH, the bodies responsible for overseeing the State peer certification process: <https://oasas.ny.gov/recovery/become-certified-recovery-peer-advocate> (for OASAS) and <https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/> (for OMH).
 - In response to a question, Jamie Neckles and Dr. Myla Harrison shared that DOHMH continues to work with the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at CUNY Hunter College to provide 20 annual scholarships to individuals working in the behavioral health setting. Furthermore, Anita Sambamurty shared that the RPC is exploring collaborations with local universities to promote training programs among care managers, similar to the partnership between rest of the state RPC partners with Syracuse University.
 - Dr. Rosa Gil reiterated that now more than ever, programs supporting continuing education and career advancement opportunities are critical for promoting equity in the behavioral health workforce.
- **Data Disaggregation:** Minakshi Tikoo shared race/ethnicity data collection standards from the federal, state, and city level, including limitations, opportunities, and ongoing initiatives to break down the data by race and ethnicity. Myla also shared that DOHMH’s public website includes comprehensive data from the COVID-19 perspective, including race/ethnicity data at the neighborhood level.
 - Cheryelle Cruickshank requested that data be shared with CSB to help support identification of high-risk areas and groups, and find ways to put all these data sources to practical use. Dr. Harrison said that DOHMH will continue to share behavioral health data that is broken down as much as possible by race/ethnicity to the CSB as they are released.

Additional Business and Wrap Up:

- Cheryelle Cruickshank provided a recap of questions and feedback from the CSB members regarding the three priority issue areas. Yoshi Pinnaduwa announced the date for the 2021 Q3 CSB meeting.
- Cheryelle Cruickshank expressed gratitude to all DOHMH staff and CSB members for their work and closed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 1:33 PM

The next meeting will be held from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on Thursday, September 9, 2021.