

CSB Attendees: Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Jun Matsuyoshi, Pankaj Patel, Sarah Church, Sidney Hankerson, Stephanie LeMelle

Action items:

- NYC DOHMH to consider problem gambling as a high unmet need item in the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan, and include information on unmet needs and any ongoing NYC DOHMH activities around this issue.
- NYC DOHMH to share the LSP draft with the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee of the CSB for review and input prior to the submission of the LSP on June 30.

Call to Order: 12:33 PM

Welcome Remarks

- Dr. Sidney Hankerson, the CSB Chairperson, welcomed NYC Community Services Board (CSB) members and attendees to the first in-person CSB meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Hankerson also introduced Deepa Avula, the newly appointed Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH).

DOHMH Updates

- Deepa Avula provided a brief introduction and shared brief behavioral health-related updates from the NYC DOHMH.

CSB Resolution for Virtual Meetings

- Yoshi Pinnaduwa, Senior Director for the Office of Policy and Planning at DMHy outlined the resolution process to allow CSB members to attend meetings virtually in the event of extenuating circumstances. Yoshi shared that the public comment period for the resolution began on Thursday, June 22 and will continue until Friday, June 30. The public hearing will take place virtually on Thursday, June 29 from 11 AM – 1 PM. The CSB members will then finalize the resolution during the Q3 CSB meeting in September. For more information, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mh-community-services-board.page>
 - In response to a question from a CSB member, Yoshi shared that CSB members must be present in person at the September meeting to vote on the resolution. She also shared that the resolution would only allow members with extenuating circumstances to join virtually, and that there would need to be quorum in person for each meeting.

Update on CSB Goals and Action Items

- Kirklyn Escondo, CSB Coordinator at DMHy, shared completed work to date regarding the five CSB Goals identified by the CSB members, particularly around workforce and youth behavioral health.

Presentation on Peer and Community Health Workers

- Patrice Peterson, Peer Workforce Coordinator at DMHy, and Clarendine “Teena” Brooks, Assistant Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs at DMHy, presented on existing initiatives supporting the peer workforce, including workforce development. Patrice Peterson and Teena Brooks also shared an update on the Frontline Workers Trauma-Informed Care Network.
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie lauded the NYC DOHMH for its work promoting the peer workforce, especially the NYC Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium, and expressed hope that city and state agencies will continue to cooperate and collaborate in supporting the peer workforce to succeed in their efforts. In response, Teena Brooks shared that there is much excitement around peer work, and city and state agencies continue to work together to support peers and community health workers.

- DMHy EDC Deepa Avula acknowledged the tremendous impact peer workers can have, especially with the existing workforce shortage and reiterated the NYC DOHMH's commitment to continue engaging peer workers in new and innovative ways.

Review of Local Services Plan

- Yoshi Pinnaduwa outlined the CSB members' role in reviewing and approving the Local Services Plan, and provided an overview of the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan (LSP), including format and the goals, priorities, and unmet need identified by the NYC DOHMH for this year's report. She also noted that all future LSPs will be for a period of four years with potential annual updates due to the New York State mental hygiene agencies.
- CSB member Sarah Church expressed concern that no information was provided regarding problem gambling, despite the rise in problem gambling because of the ease and accessibility of mobile sports betting, for example. Dr. Church emphasized the need to monitor trends and identify emerging needs in this issue area. In response, Yoshi and Deepa shared that the NYC DOHMH will consider problem gambling as a high unmet need item, and include any available information on unmet needs and any ongoing NYC DOHMH activities around this issue.
- CSB member Cheryelle Cruickshank advocated for the NYC DOHMH to identify additional areas where the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) population can be included in the 2024-2027 LSP, particularly within the context of youth behavioral health, housing, and the criminal justice system. A number of CSB members identified the need for joint licensing across the state mental hygiene offices as a key foundation for interagency collaboration and improved care for individuals with I/DD and mental health disorders.
 - Cheryelle recommended that the Local Services Plan be shared with the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee of the CSB for review and input prior to submission.
- CSB member Sarah Church shared that non-competitive salaries continues to be a major barrier to the recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce, and was pleased to see this highlighted in the LSP.
- CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie observed that peers can contribute to significant cost-savings for behavioral health providers, but does not see sufficient investment into the development of the peer workforce. Furthermore, peers have vast capacities and skillsets that can be easily transferrable to their work, and should not be pigeonholed into only doing peer-related work.
 - Teena Brooks outlined additional funding opportunities in the state budget to develop the peer workforce, but agreed that additional advocacy is required to sufficiently meet their needs. Allowing peers to perform in supervisory and management roles, as well as further specialize in priority areas such as youth and family and justice-impacted populations, are exciting progressions for the peer workforce.
- CSB member Cheryelle Cruickshank identified harm reduction as another key item to include in the LSP, and Deepa Avula shared that harm reduction was specifically included in the 2024-2027 LSP because of the NYC DOHMH's commitment to supporting people with behavioral health disorders not only to live, but to survive and ultimately thrive.
- CSB members Jun Matsuyoshi and Sarah Church identified cannabis use among youth as an emerging issue, and Cheryelle Cruickshank requested that the CSB members revisit the CSB's goals? for 2024 to ensure inclusion of emerging trends in the behavioral health system.
- Dr. Sidney Hankerson, the CSB Chairperson, led the CSB members in providing unanimous approval of the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan for submission to the state mental hygiene offices by June 30, 2023, pending the incorporation of changes recommended by the CSB members.

Additional Comments & Wrap Up

- Dr. Hankerson provided a recap on the discussion, invited the CSB members to revisit the CSB's goals? for 2024 at the next CSB meeting on September 11, 2023, and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 1:58 PM