

**CSB Attendees:** Ahmed Jamil, Cheryelle Cruickshank, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Joanne Seigel (new member), Jun Matsuyoshi, Sarah Church, Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, Sidney Hankerson, Stephanie LeMelle, Thelma Dye, Traci Donnelly (MH Subcommittee)

**Action items:**

- NYC CSB to continue discussing payment and reimbursement reform at 2023 Q4 CSB Meeting
- NYC DOHMH to review FQHC telehealth regulations to confirm whether reimbursement rates are lower than in person rates.

**Call to Order: 11:04 AM**

**Welcome Remarks**

- Deepa Avula, the Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH), welcomed Community Services Board (CSB) members, and introduced special guests Bob Moon, Molly Finnerty, and Anni Cummings from the Office of Mental Health.

**CSB Vote on Resolution for Virtual Participation**

- Yoshi Pinnaduwa, Senior Director for the Office of Policy and Planning at DMHy, led the CSB members in a unanimous affirmative vote on the [Resolution of the NYC Community Services Board Relating to Virtual Participation in Meetings due to Extraordinary Circumstances](#)

**DOHMH and Bureau Updates**

- Deepa Avula invited Bureau leadership in the Division of Mental Hygiene to provide updates, namely Jamie Neckles, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH); Marnie Davidoff, AC of the Bureau for Children, Youth and Families (CYF); Dr. Jon Giftos, AC of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT); Jade McLee, Deputy Director for Program and Field Operations for the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP); and Janice Chisholm, AC of the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE).
  - In response to a question from CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Marnie Davidoff confirmed that Black maternal mortality is a priority issue area in CYF's maternal and child programs, and is being addressed in a number of different ways across the agency.

**NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) Presentation on Workforce Data**

- Bob Moon, Molly Finnerty, and Anni Cummings from OMH shared recent data from an annual workforce survey of Article 31 clinics across NYS, and outlined a number of ongoing and upcoming initiatives to better hire and retain a robust behavioral health workforce.
- Molly Finnerty confirmed that the 2023 workforce survey will be released in October 2023, and requested input from the CSB members on priority questions and/or issue areas that should be added or addressed in the survey.
- The CSB members identified the need to improve workplace wellness, job satisfaction, and adequate benefits (e.g., childcare, flexible schedules, remote work options and better technology for completing administrative tasks) to promote retention, and recommended that the workplace survey assess the benefits that effectively incentivize providers to stay at their current jobs.
  - Several members also shared best practices implemented by their respective organizations.
- The CSB members also recommended that the survey assess the reasons for why behavioral health providers vacate their jobs, how long they stay before they leave, where they are going and whether or not they continue to work in the behavioral health sector. They also identified case severity and an imbalance between clinical and administrative tasks as possible reasons for why the behavioral health workforce is vacating the sector at high rates.

- The CSB members also recommended that the survey assess the needs of the peer workforce in particular, and to help ensure that peers are adequately compensated and supported to work within their scope to the greatest extent possible.
- Finally, the CSB recommended the development of a centralized mechanism to expedite the process for allowing foreign-born graduates and practitioners to enter the behavioral health workforce more easily, including regulatory reform and legal supports for navigating immigration law.

#### **CSB Discussion on Payment and Reimbursement Reform**

- CSB member Jun Matsuyoshi raised an issue experienced by FQHCs, in which Medicaid reimburses significantly less for virtual services than in-person services.
  - CSB members Sarah Church and Stephanie La Melle shared they have not heard about the difference in reimbursement rates in FQHCs and shared that clinics governed by OMH and OASAS have established payment parity for telehealth. Deepa Avula, DOHMH EDC shared that DOHMH will look into the issue and share back with CSB members.

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

- Dr. Hankerson provided a recap of the payment and reimbursement reform discussion, advised the NYC DOHMH to support the CSB members in further discussing payment and reimbursement reform at the 2023 Q4 CSB Meeting, and adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 1:58 PM**