

Community Services Board- Mental Health Subcommittee

Quarter 2 meeting

June 17, 2025

Welcome and Introductions

Geoff Debery (CYF), Anastasia Roussos (CYF), Marnie Davidoff (CYF), Jamie Neckles (BMH), Ben McCarthy (BMH), Angeli Magdaraog (BCAARE), Cheryl Hinds Leslie (Peer Advocate), Traci Donnelly (The Child Center of NY), Stephanie LeMelle (Columbia University), Susan Wiviot (The Bridge), Miriam Pratt (RUMC), Scott Shapiro (Psychiatrist), Rachel Solomon (Community Advocate), Adrienne Abbate (Core CSB member)

1. Bureau of Mental Health Updates

CONNECT Program

- DOHMH released a Concept Report for the CONNECT RFP on April 16, 2025, posted through June 2, 2025.
- CONNECT launched in 2022, engaging 9 Article 31 clinics to address mental health gaps in high-need NYC neighborhoods.
- Emphasis is placed on social determinants of mental health and culturally relevant community outreach.
- Key 2023 Achievements:
 - 3,400+ events; 22,000 participants
 - 4,605 received support services; 469 enrolled in clinical services
 - 19,955 total support services provided
 - 5,428 community referrals; 1,692 walk-ins, including asylum seekers and justice-involved individuals
- Future RFP will support 7 clinics in TRIE neighborhoods; focus remains on justice-involved, ACT step-downs, and underserved populations.

Discussion

- Members raised concerns about limited coordination between CONNECT and Social Care Networks.
- DOHMH clarified that while not contractually required, some providers may independently collaborate with social care networks. The CONNECT model is designed to fund clinics for immediate need without requiring traditional assessment structures. This reflects a broader shift toward acknowledging mental health's socioeconomic drivers.

- MH CSB member recommended informal learning collaboratives to share practices across clinics.
- MH CSB member presented her nonprofit network model including an incubator, collaborative pilots, accelerator, and media outreach platform.

2. Children, Youth and Families Bureau Updates

Youth Committee on Mental Health

- Comprises 16 paid youth consultants (ages 16–24) advising on bureau priorities.
- Three active subcommittees: Suicide Prevention, Crisis Services, and Social Media.
- Youth engage in research design, policy input, and messaging strategy with support from CUNY.
- Recruitment for the 2025–2026 cohort will begin in summer 2025.

Centering Children and Families in NYC’s System of Care

- A SAMHSA-funded CBPAR initiative involving participatory research and community feedback.
- “Data parties” held with community stakeholders to prioritize needs.
- Two Community Action Groups (CAGs) forming: one with youth and one with cross-system family peer advocates.
- Implementation phase will extend through 2025.

3. Data Privacy and Technology Concerns in EMRs

Discussion

- Members expressed concern about EMR systems requiring broad consent to share protected health information (PHI) with entities like AWS.
- Issues raised included potential marketing use, loss of privacy, and disparities in access to secure systems.
- Personal examples highlighted the challenges faced by patients and providers.
- MH CSB member identified a lack of HIPAA understanding among clinicians and the public.
- Advocated for HIPAA education to address misinterpretations that delay care.

Next Steps

- Consider public education campaigns on HIPAA rights and digital privacy.
- Monitor NYS legislation regarding online health data.
- Explore policy advocacy through the CSB's annual legislative agenda.

4. Closing Notes

- Members suggested allocating more time in future meetings to emergent community issues.
- Future topics may include innovative program models and youth-led initiatives.
- Meeting was adjourned with thanks to all participants.