

Community Services Board - Mental Health Subcommittee

Quarter 4 meeting
December 16th, 2025

Welcome and Introductions

Geoff Debery (CYF), Anastasia Roussos (CYF), Marnie Davidoff (CYF), Katie Savage (CYF) Jamie Neckles (BMH), Ben McCarthy (BMH), Naomi Legros (MHy EDC's Office) Cheryl Hinds Leslie (Peer Advocate), Traci Donnelly (The Child Center of NY), Stephanie LeMelle (Columbia University), Miriam Pratt (Richmond University Medical Center), Scott Shapiro (Psychiatrist), Rachel Solomon (Community Mental Health Advocate)

2. Presentation: HIPAA, Data Privacy, and Patient Consent

Presenter: Health Department Chief Privacy Officer / General Counsel

The presenter provided an overview of HIPAA, including:

- The HIPAA Privacy Rule and Security Rule
- Requirements related to the protection of protected health information (PHI)
- Breach notification obligations
- The role and responsibilities of business associates
- The Health Department's status as a hybrid entity

Cloud-based data storage systems were discussed, including the use of HIPAA-compliant platforms when appropriately configured.

Community members raised concerns regarding:

- The complexity and length of electronic consent forms
- Perceived lack of meaningful choice in consenting to data use
- Barriers to accessing medical records when electronic consent is declined
- Risks related to sensitive information, including mental health, substance use, and HIV-related data
- Use of third-party vendors and cloud storage
- Potential misuse of health data and impacts on trust and care-seeking
- Everyday privacy issues in healthcare settings, including audible disclosures and ID scanning practices

Health Department staff clarified that HIPAA permits information sharing between providers for treatment purposes and acknowledged ongoing concerns related to patient understanding and trust.

Participants discussed the status of New York State privacy legislation, including:

- The New York Privacy Act (pending)
- A Health Privacy Act passed by the Legislature but not signed by the Governor

Opportunities for consumer education, enforcement, and advocacy were identified.

3. Presentation: Youth Committee on Mental Health

Presenter: Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families

Staff provided an overview of the Youth Committee on Mental Health, including:

- Purpose of integrating youth voice into mental health policy and programming
- Origins in the City Mental Health Plan, SAMHSA funding, and youth advocacy efforts
- Partnership with the CUNY Intergenerational Change Initiative

Committee Structure:

- 20–25 members annually, ages 15–24
- Eight-month term (September–May)
- Weekly meetings and monthly joint sessions with Health Department staff
- Stipends provided to participants

Youth-Identified Priority Areas:

- Crisis prevention
- Suicide prevention
- Social media and mental health
- Mental Health Connect website development

Activities include youth-led priority setting, data engagement sessions, peer-to-peer toolkit development, and collaboration with City Council initiatives.

4. Key Themes

- Importance of transparency and trust in data privacy and consent
- Ethical considerations related to access to care and information

- Value of youth engagement and lived experience in mental health planning

5. Next Steps

- Continued discussion of privacy and consent concerns
- Exploration of consumer education opportunities
- Ongoing integration of youth perspectives into mental health initiatives

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am