

Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council Minutes

January 14, 2021

Attendees from Council in Chicago:

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic offices are closed, and the meeting was held via conference call.

Attendees from the Council in Springfield:

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic offices are closed, and the meeting was held via conference call.

Attendees from Council by Webex/Telephone: Erin Brumfield Grima, Michelle Churchey-Mims, Ray Connor, Andrea Cooke, Mike Davis, Shirley Davis, Yasmin Diodonet, Stephanie Frank, Sondra Fraiser, Daniel Frey, Fred Friedman, Laura Gerber, Andrew Harper, Joseph Harper, Kristine Herman, James Kellermann, Nanette Larson, Joan Lodge, Pearl Matlock, Jen McGowan-Tomke, Ronald Melka, Isaac Palmer, Lee Ann Reinert, Margo Roethlisberger, Rashad Saafir, Dr. Sarah Scruggs, Sue Schroeder, Amy Starin, Christopher Stohr, Christine Walker, Dr. Sid Weissman, Sarah Wiemeyer,

Resource Personnel:

David Albert (DMH), Lisa Betz (DMH), Brock Dunlap (DMH), Irwin Kerzner (DMH)

Members of the Public: AJ French

Call to Order:

Margo Roethlisberger, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 12:32pm.

Approval of Minutes

Sue Schroeder motioned for approval of minutes; Dr. Sid Weissman seconded. Sondra Frazier asked for clarification of two sentences:

Four of the five trainings provided by IDHP provides are completed. This should state "Four of the five trainings provided by ICMHP are completed."

The program has made 20,000 fait contacts through mailings, door to door, etc. This should state "The program has made 20,000 faith community contacts through mailings, door to door, etc."

Minutes approved with those two corrections. Ron Melka, Sarah Scruggs and Chris Stohr abstained from the vote.

Committee Reports:

- **Development Committee Report:**

Ron Melka referred to the Development Committee minutes sent to members on 1/7/21 for reference. The Committee reviewed and brought forward Sue Schroeder for Provider Co-Chair and Sarah Wiemeyer for Treasurer, noting that John Fallon, who had also been nominated for Treasurer during the previous meeting had withdrawn his name from consideration for that office. The Development Committee presented these two for the open positions, a vote was taken, and both were elected with 25 aye votes, 0 nay, and 2 abstentions.

Ron announced that Shirley Davis has announced her need to resign from position as Co-Chair, but will remain a member of the Council. That office, as well as the office of Secretary, needs to be filled, but the Development Committee does not have nominees at this point. Ron requested that all members of the Council consider nomination of themselves or others for these offices. Nominations need to be emailed to Ron at rmelka@lyonsts.com by January 31, 2021. Nominations will be reviewed by the Development Committee at the February Meeting and a slate brought forward at the next Council meeting.

Ron and Irwin Kerzner from DMH announced that a draft survey would be distributed to the membership for any comments/input. The purpose of the survey is to gather demographic information on the make-up of the Council, which DMH is asked from time to time to provide. The intention in this request for input is to ensure that the level of information requested is within a comfort level of members. Sondra Frazier asked how the data would be used. Irwin explained that the data would be in aggregate and shared in comparative terms, such as percent male, female, etc.

Fred Friedman noted that there were errors in the sign-in sheet that was distributed to members. Lee Ann Reinert from DMH agreed to make corrections, and invited all members to send her any needed corrections. Those can be sent to lee.reinert@illinois.gov. Sarah Scruggs asked about the existence of a roster of members, and it was explained that this is the "Sign-in Sheet."

- **Adult Inpatient Committee Report:** Andrea Cooke reported that Dr. Sid Weissman has drafted a letter to DMH Director Dr. David Albert re: data on inpatient hospital beds that the committee believes necessary to inform their assessment of bed utilization in Illinois. The draft letter was shared with the Council for review, but Andrea stated that a next step was going to be for Christine Walker to revise the letter and send on. Andrea noted the committee was not yet making a formal request to send the letter because the final draft was not available.

Director Albert noted that he had reviewed the draft and asked if it would be appropriate for him to respond with some initial thoughts. He offered to have a member of the DMH team who has a long history of working with bed capacity issues, Mike Pelletier, to join a discussion of the Adult Inpatient Committee, as well as adding Dr. James Corcoran as an adhoc member of the committee to assist as a DMH resource, as it seems that a lengthier conversation with the committee and DMH is in order.

Dr. Weissman objected to this offer, and asserted that DMH needs the data, and if DMH cannot access the data, then steps need to be taken to get that data. Christine Walker added that her letter was actually intended to the legislature, with the purpose of removing obstacles to DMH getting the data needed.

Dr. Weissman made a motion to send the letter he drafted for the committee to Dr. Albert formally, and for Christine's letter to be shared with the Council for review. Christina's letter had not been shared with the Council prior to the meeting, so the following questions/answers related to that letter were addressed:

Sarah Scruggs: To whom is the letter addressed?

Christine Walker: Representative Deb Conroy and Senator Julie Morris.

Fred Friedman: Can it be cc'd to all committee members? Is it being sent out on behalf of the Council?

Christine Walker: Glad to send in whatever format.

Jennifer McGowan-Tomke: Hesitant to vote in support of such a letter to the GA before the Director has been able to respond.

Ron Melka: Director gave a verbal response. He doesn't have the authority; let's give him the authority – unless the Director prefers to give a formal response.

Director Albert noted that he believed he was responding to a draft, and does need some time to follow up with IDPH and internally before providing a formal response.

Fred Friedman voiced concern about the infrequency of council meetings and a sense of urgency in addressing this while legislation could still be introduced.

Dr. Weissman: Stated he believes it is fair to give DMH the opportunity to respond to the letter prior to contacting legislators. He further noted that members of the Council had not seen the letter to legislators, and it was noted that the letter to legislators could not be reviewed/discussed via email without violating the Open Meetings Act.

An Amendment to the Motion was made that Christine be authorized to write/submit the letter on behalf of the Council. Further discussion ensued both in support of moving forward as well as waiting for a DMH response before sending a letter to the General Assembly.

A further amendment was made by Ron Melka to separate Dr. Weissman's motion into two motions. John Fallon seconded and the motion carried by unanimous consent.

Following that, a motion to send the letter as written by Dr. Weisman for the Committee to Dr. Albert carried by unanimous consent.

The motion by Christine Walker that she be authorized to draft and send a letter to the General Assembly following further consultation with Dr. Weisman and Dr. Albert, at a mutually agreed time, no earlier than January 22nd and no later than February 1st, was made and was seconded by John Fallon. That motion carried in a vote of 18 aye, 2 nay, 2 abstain.

- **Justice Committee Report:**

No report, but it was noted that a new chair is needed as AJ French is no longer a member of the Council, and had served in this capacity.

- **Child & Adolescent Committee Report:**

No report

DMH Report:

Dr. Albert provided updates related to COVID-19:

Vaccines have rolled out in the state hospitals this week. First will be vaccinating staff, and later will be offering to patients. DMH is also working on ways to support providers in both access to vaccines/classification as tier 1a and 1b for any excluded from 1a, and is interested in any ways we can support providers in encouraging staff to take vaccine. The federal funding stream for some of the COVID relief was extended and DMH is in the process of extending the CRSS/CMHC and NAMI Bridges of Hope programs thru the end of the fiscal year. DHS was able to secure additional PPE and a distribution plan for providers was announced.

Lee Ann provided updates on Suicide Prevention Efforts: Lifeline NOFO and 988 preparation. We are in the process of analyzing the NOFO responses to ensure statewide coverage. We have also applied for a planning grant to assist us with preparation for the roll out of the three digit (988) number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis intervention calls, set to occur in July, 2022. There is a significant amount of work to be done to build the infrastructure to support this roll out.

DMH has been asked by the Governor's Office to take a larger role in suicide prevention. In addition to expanding coverage of the Lifeline, work is occurring on a variety of suicide prevention campaign efforts. This includes leadership of the Governor's Challenge, which was focused on suicide prevention for veterans, military and their families. That campaign has been expanded through a public health model, and includes a variety of social media, advertising strategies, and other plans which are in various stages of development. DMH anticipates the launch of these beginning in the next few months.

New Member Orientation: Lee Ann reminded new members that there are a variety of trainings that are statutorily required and Irwin has been working with state staff to get each new member an ID to complete their CBLs. Trainings are supposed to be completed within 30 days of appointment to the Council. Members should watch their email for messages from Irwin, and contact him directly if they need support.

Call for involvement with the Planning Committee. This is a block grant plan year. DMH is hopeful that members will be interested in working on this plan, and welcomes discussion/input into the best ways to accomplish this. There is a planning committee within the by-laws, and so DMH requests that the co-chairs solicit members and appoint committee co-chairs who would be willing to do this work.

SAMHSA System of Care Update - DMH is not moving forward with an application, instead have made a commitment to communities who are applying to support their grant implementation. To date, Lisa has met with three provider applicants.

Nanette Larson announced that NAMI has created a landing page with a video describing the living room program. LRP's in Illinois can be listed there, not just the ones funded by the State.

HFS Report:

Kristine Herman, Bureau Chief for Behavioral Health joined the Council for the first time. She introduced herself and provided the following update:

Expansion of services for youth with complex needs through an 1915i State Plan Amendment – this has been published, so details are publicly available for Council members/the public to review. The intention is to gain federal match for a variety of activities that are not currently Medicaid billable. HFS intends to launch this part of the 1915i in the first year. Also rolled into this work is previously planned 1115 waiver services of supported employment and supported housing, which are targeted to launch in the second year of the 1915i implementation.

Transformation work – HFS has created a pool of \$150M to fund areas hardest hit by COVID, to enhance and integrate health and social determinants of health services. Communities will be eligible based on CDC social vulnerability index scores or other criteria. Participation by all community partners, and completion of a community needs assessment will be required.

Questions from members: John Fallon asked about the possibility of including individuals up to the age of 26 as part of the “youth” in the 1915i. Kristine explained that Medicaid has a strict definition with a cut-off of 21, but noted that additional work is underway to plan for the needs of Transition Age Youth.

John also asked about the possibility of considering the diagnosis of Autism for additional service eligibility and Kristine noted that just recently the service of Applied Behavioral Analysis was added to the list of covered interventions.

New Business:

None.

Public Comment:

No comments

Adjournment

Ron Melka motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue Schroeder seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 4, 2021 @ 12:30pm

Respectfully Submitted by Lee Ann Reinert, DMH due to vacant Secretary position.