

Adult Inpatient Committee
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Committee
April 26, 2021

Co-Chairs: Dennis Hopkins, Psy.D.
Andrea Cooke, Ph.D.

Those present: Shirley Davis, Dennis Hopkins, Sid Weisman, and Andrea Cooke.

Called to order: 11:04 AM

Sid Weisman reported he has nothing to report back to the committee because he has not heard back from the Director. He also stated that we need real-time data from hospitals about mental health beds and expressed concern that without real-time reporting of open mental health beds people will continue to sit in the ER waiting to be admitted. He also asked for more input about the 988-emergency number that is being developed in Illinois for the committee.

Shirley Davis reported that she is attending a meeting as a consumer advisor on April 27, 2021 to discuss the 988 number, so it is in the works.

Sid noted that the inpatient committee needs to understand from the state how mental health units are staffed, how they are assessed, and how they decide which patients to admit. Also, does the staff on these units have the training they need to handle the needs of people in crisis. He pointed out that not all units are equipped

to handle all psychiatric patients. We want a more granular account of how these things go on. We want to know these things about state hospitals as well and know how they are determined.

Sid asked, is there a standard inpatient unit and if so, what is it? We also need more information on all the above and will ask the Director where we get it. We need to know how often units are assessed by the Joint Commission. We need to know what the standards are. Andrea asked where we could get that information and Sid said that Director Albert should be able to get it for us, noting that DMH is not responsible for this review. This is not Director Albert's job, but he can find out how it is done.

Shirley talked about differences in how psychiatric units treated her when she was hospitalized. She said her treatment by staff made a big difference in her recovery.

Sid said that we are responsible for monitoring this. We do not want the Council to be a rubber stamp for DMH. It was suggested that DMH was overfunded but did not know how to properly spend the money. Sid said that it was not a question of the funding, but how DMH prioritizes what it spends money on. Denis stated that the Department of Corrections has been sued for not providing adequate care for prisoners, but there has been no accountability for DMH except for the consent

decrees that forced DMH to help provide housing for persons living in nursing homes.

The committee then turned to the subject of concern that the state is not answering our questions adequately and that the IMHPAC has become less potent. We need to be much more involved in the Block Grant process than just receiving a copy of the executive summary for comment just before it is sent into the Center for Mental Health Services. Being involved in the writing of the Block Grant was one of the reasons the Council was created. Concern was also expressed that the council (IMHPAC) has lost its focus.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM