

Sacramento County Mental Health Board

Community Wellness Response Team (CWRT) Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES – TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

6:00PM – 8:00PM

Members Present: Corrine McIntosh Sako, Severine Hollingsworth, Kaino Hopper, Adam Wills, Alexandria Paige, (staff: Glenda Basina)

Members Absent: Elijah Orr, Laviola Ward

County Staff: Kelli Weaver, Alondra Thompson, Michael Amenityro, Christina Irizarry, Alexandria "Alexis" Lose and Karen Sprague

Guests: Mykel Gayent, Ricki Townsend

Agenda Item

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Acknowledgement of Conduct Agreement

Co-Chair Hollingsworth commenced the meeting at 6:02pm, Conduct Agreement acknowledged and introductions made.

III. Discussion/Action Item: Review and Approve CWRT Advisory Committee Bylaws

Co-Chair Hollingsworth shared the draft bylaws onscreen. Chair Sako provided background; updating with the committee's name for full MHB approval. 1-year term with ability to renew 2 times before seeking reappointment. Also spoke about attendance. Member absent from 5 meeting in a 12-month period will be deemed as resigned but with ability for absence request. Ability to have a chair and/or two co-chairs. Co-Chair Hollingsworth motioned to move, seconded by Adam Wills. Unanimously passed and to be brought to full MHB for approval.

IV. Update from BHS on CWRT Program Implementation and contract with BACs

<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/SiteAssets/Pages/Community-Wellness-Response-Team/CWRT%20Timeline%20April%202023.pdf#search=CWRT>

a. Review Marketing Plan from Adelman

b. Review on logo

Alondra shared the link onscreen, reading the April update. Has had 13 referrals since March 13. County/BACS recruiting for Peers. Program coordinators, Karen and Alexis, taking calls from EPW. From 988 calls, BHS (Karen/Alexis) then assigns for CWRT team for deployment, consisting of a Counselor and Peer. Chair Sako asked on status/disposition of calls (if taken to facility). Per Alexis, on outcomes of calls avoided hospitalization/incarceration, about 90% deescalated, connected to service providers and checked back on them. Added that it's a voluntary service and individuals are not forced to service. Team also has training on Narcan. Karen shared that she enjoyed getting to see

the full picture of the process and talking with the families. The 3rd party is also in crisis. Co-Chair Hollingworth asked if both teams were dispatched, how long did the team reach the person and how long did it take to assist the person. Per Karen, resolved in a little over an hour. If more, an hour and half. If close by and considering traffic impact, about 17 minutes. Per Kelli, BHS team is working with WellSpace and BACS on recruiting for their teams. Currently developing data to populate dashboard and once drafted will bring to committee. Working with tech department for monthly dashboards - from call to dispatch to resolution. BACS has more flexibility with hiring for 24/7. Would like to invite them in these meetings to provide updates to the committees. Christina also confirmed that BACS has a lot of flexibility with work hours, part-time and off-hours. Alondra on backstory, 988 takes info from client on need then warm hand off to BHS dispatcher.

Alondra doing marketing next month and Edelman invited to meeting to present to committee for input/feedback from the committee. Chair Sako asked how the advisory committee can best support the program with 24/7 implementation. If under 26, can call the Source but other than that, what can be done? Alondra responded that 988 is 24/7, can receive by phone the necessary support. If asking for someone to be sent, BHS team is being built for this service. Co-Chair Hollingsworth asked if any projection from BACS on how close to getting the other 9 teams. Per Christina, BACS made an offer to about 3 candidates and can get definitive numbers to report next month. Alondra on hiring, now have a MH Counselor starting 5/15 and an offer to another MH Counselor in process. Also interviewed another for a second interview. Mykel asked when hiring Peers is it newly certified peers? Per Alondra, we're hiring Peers not certified yet. Currently have 3 peers that are certified and hiring teams is ongoing. BACS hiring 6 teams to work 24/7 along with dispatcher and supervisor. Optimal is 11 teams for the County side. Chair Sako commented that not many people at the NAMI Walk know 988. Thinks it needs more promotion. Co-Chair Hollingsworth asked if any way to get a contract with Lyft/Uber to get them to MH Urgent Care? Member Paige inserted that drivers are not comfortable with the situation. Co-Chair Wills is thankful for the accomplishments of this program. Lyft/Uber will not work. Not willing to put someone in an acute situation for insurance/endorsement. Kelli shared BHS has TLCS crisis program that can arrange for transportation and requires engagement. Operates 7 days a week. Chair Sako mentioned the Crisis Grant Pilot Program. Michael responded that CA DSS has \$9.5M to fund selected entities who partner with CBOs to implement crisis program. Need to be a competitive selection process, need to convene a public meeting. BHS already submitted a letter of interest. Kelli added that BHS is doing competitive Community Based Organizations (CBO) selection process. Only 5 counties in the whole state to be awarded. Michael shared link for procurement page on chat. <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/Pages/Contractor-Bidding-Opportunities.aspx>. Co-Chair Hollingsworth asked what will Edelman bring to the meeting? Per Kelli, a logo that will be incorporated in brochures. Received reports from community sessions and to make sure program is marketed in communities. They will share a powerpoint as well as request for feedback. Kelli to get from them the amount of time needed to present. Alondra stated to reach out to her on draft agenda as she will stand in place of Kelli on this responsibility. Alondra appreciates support from this advisory and hopes to mold/grow in this program. Co-Chair Hollingsworth commented that it's very important to make 988 available to all and everyone. Alondra responded that service is for everyone and will be marketed to all. Mykel commented that he's known of 988 since inception and believe in it. Need to talk and market 988.

V. Questions from Committee Members & Members of the Public

(Committee Member and Public questions were included in the above discussion).

VI. Public Comment (3 minutes per person)

Member Hopper – Appreciates the discussion, reports and all the work. With data collection, Committee Review Commission interested in how to work with Sheriff department, looking for data that can support model; how to provide services prior to the sheriff. Member Hopper may connect person with Alondra to get/work on data. Sequential intercept prior to reduced law enforcement/officer responders. Chair Sako responded that MHB has been contacted by the Commissioner of the Review Commission on recommendations on officer involved responders. Lots of overlap. Lots of commissions looking at this same issue. Member Wills added that it's proven that getting further away from police is better for the client. Hopes to be able to infiltrate/influence folks to get the 911 operators to send callers to 988. Have MH professionals to be on scene and remove this from the police's plate. Chair Sako's recommendations to BOS, pay folks to do this work so the system is working and people are not warehoused in the jail. Asked where we are in talks with law enforcement on their buy-in. Per Kelli, they're talking about reconvening/revisiting with law enforcement in 3 months and will provide update to the committee.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Sako adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6pm – 8pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023