

Sacramento County Mental Health Board
Community Wellness Response Team (CWRT) Advisory Committee
ANNOUNCEMENT – IN PERSON MEETING
HYBRID PARTICIPATION OPTION
Tuesday November 14, 2023
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Members Present: Corrine Sako, Kaino Hopper, Severine Hollingsworth, Elijah Orr, Sarina Rodriguez, Adam Wills (staff: Glenda Basina)
Absent: Mykel Gayent, Evan Minton

Agenda Item

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions:
 - Committee Members
 - System Partners
 - Other Attendees
- [Acknowledgement of Conduct Agreement](#)
- Announcements by CWRT Advisory Committee Members

Chair Sako commenced the meeting at 6:02pm. Just Cause Participation announced and introductions made. Housekeeping rules read and Conduct Agreement acknowledged.

Announced retreat in January.

II. Public Comments related to the Community Wellness Response Team (CWRT)

- 3 Minutes Per Person

Public Comment 1: Spoke regarding 2nd grade teacher who had a breakdown. Called 911/988 multiple times. Was criminalized instead of hospitalized. Asked to reevaluate process, allow social workers to be part of process when police are called to evaluate/assess situation.

Public Comment 2: Law enforcement not trained. Should have training available. This crisis can happen to anyone.

Public Comment 3: Another black woman's life put at risk; a teacher. Mental health crisis does not just happen during business hours. Jailed for 10 days, left battered and bruised with additional physical and emotional trauma. Asking CWRT to call DA to drop charges. Aware of job openings to expand CWRT but salaries not competitive. Asked to call for Board of Supervisors to fully staff.

Public Comment 4: The county is in a mental health crisis. Salary difference in health care workers and law enforcement; \$100k vs. \$40k. Call for CWRT and MHB to put pressure for behavioral health salary.

Public Comment 5: Calling regarding the teacher's case. County has many resources available. Mental health is not at the forefront in our county. Speak to them so they can tell what is needed in the community.

Chair Sako called for a brief recess due to a Mental Health Board member being present despite not being a member of the committee. County Counsel had previously advised that this could create a potential Brown Act violation. The meeting was resumed at 6:38pm.

III. Discussion: The Role of Law Enforcement in Collaboration with CWRT Staff

Vice-Chair Hollingsworth invited Jason with Sacramento Police and commented that all law enforcement needs to be aware of this program and 988. Jason introduced himself; works at the Crime Center and his general job is parades/demonstrations. Vice-Chair Hollingsworth asked how he feels about 988. Per Jason he can only provide a general response. Thinks it's really good. The challenge he thinks is it's new and a lot of officers haven't pushed education to know about 988. Karen shared shifts 8am-6:30pm with Jason. Vice-Chair Hollingsworth asked Jason about revising bylaws. Jason commented should probably have law enforcement perspective but has no comment on bylaws.

Member Hopper asked about public safety response, CWRT first to do assessment and then call for law enforcement when needed. Collaboration critical. CWRT needs to be trusted by 911 to make an assessment of safety on the scene and trust to call for backup. How do we do this safely? To build trust/nexus to meet in the middle without criticism.

Member Wills – Experienced with situations of person having mental health episode/non-criminal cal and doesn't think police should work with mental health. Sampled the teacher that was supposed to be taken to the facility but taken to jail instead. Believes in separating police from mental health completely.

Chair Sako expressed gratitude for Jason's presence. Appreciated the dialogue.

Christie spoke on 988 and law enforcement, 911 dispatch. A statewide plan. Telecommunication dollars on phone bill to support 988 statewide, floating through CalOES handling Peace Apps. Anyone calling 988 at different levels of interactions. A lot of work is happening statewide.

IV. Discussion/Action Item: Review CWRT Advisory Committee Bylaws with Reconsideration of Membership Exclusion Criteria

Chair Sako shared anyone in law enforcement excluded came directly from community feedback. The draft bylaw in this agenda packet is different from previous draft. Went over strikethroughs on current draft. Considering family member with lived experience. Added not served in 7-10 year in law enforcement to be considered with application and screened by advisory committee. Need to prioritize lived experience.

Vice-Chair Hollingsworth commented it doesn't matter where you're from as long as you have lived experience. Law enforcement can be an asset.

Member Orr agrees with Member Hollingsworth. At end of day, could have law enforcement here and not exclude them.

Member Hopper appreciates the revision and focus on lived experience. Her experience with speaking with officers completing the crisis training and their shared crisis experience. 7-10 years gives time to step back and ready to serve on the committee. Feels it a good balance.

Chair Sako motioned to approve draft bylaw, seconded by Vice-Chair Hollingsworth. Chair Sako asked for public comments.

Public Comment 1: Appreciates bylaws. Thinks it's a missed opportunity. Increase communication with law enforcement to be more collaborative. Promotes understanding and collaboration and serves the community in a better way.

Public Comment 2: Appreciates revisiting of the conversation. Law enforcement already possess over representation on mental health crisis, funding. Mentioned examples of police mistreatment during mental health crisis. Allow healthcare professionals to assess individual/situation.

Chair Sako asked for a vote. 1 abstain, 5 ayes. Motion passes.

V. Discussion/Action Item: Consider Approval of Katie Houston's Nomination to CWRT Advisory Committee

Chair Sako spoke on the application and the process for the nomination.

Katie Houston spoke. Understands those that spoke about the teacher. Thankful for the board's consideration. Katie is a family therapist and analyst. Works with K-12 mostly middle/high school with mental health disorder. Has an uncle that was with CHP, retired a few days ago. Sees him once a year. Had interesting conversations with how her clients were impacted with police interactions.

Chair motioned to approve Katie's nomination, seconded by Member Wills. Votes passed unanimously. Chair Sako shared that it's next to go to full MHB for approval.

VI. Update from BHS on CWRT Program Implementation, Including Data & Response Outcomes

- 10/26/23 CWRT Program Update here:
https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/SiteAssets/Pages/Community-Wellness-Response-Team/CWRT%20Timeline%20October%202023_Final_GM%2010.25.23.pdf
- Update from 988/WellSpace Health
- Update from BACS
 - a. Questions from Committee Members & Members of the Public

Karen provided updates. Since the soft launch of 3/13 thru October 31, 108 referrals 86

responded to in person and 22 resolved through dispatch. For November already had 7. Number of calls growing. Hiring update: 3 peers in various process, 3 mental health counselors. Sr. mental health counselors still hard to recruit with no opportunity for hybrid option. Expanded hours. BACS did a soft launch.

Christie/Wellsapce - Concerned about hours on responses. 988 is available 24/7 with the ability to dispatch CWRT. Data collected of hotspots graphs shared with behavioral health staff and can share with board. Terry Galven/Wellspace shared last month 1384 and dispatched 11. Missed 158, believed to be an appropriate fit if CWRT was 24/7. Showed graph of October where calls congregating 5pm-10:30pm. Spoke of success story. Warm transfer and successfully dispatched. Amazing teamwork. Vice-Chair Hollingsworth asked if more substance use or mental health. The graph doesn't show that currently but anecdotally, moreso substance use. Families might think substance use is not a mental health situation. Member Wills asked if days of the week are being looked at. Per Terry, not yet but will look at it. Member Orr asked what the numbers were based on. Christie spoke about those for resource, calling about being lonely and suicidal (serious). Happy to bring a breakdown. Member Orr asked for list of partners/resources. Christie mentioned also works with 211. Happy to give. Chair Sako asked about destressing situation if 988 was contacted and if able to speak on it. How can folks get mental health response on the weekend. Per Christie, 988 is an anonymous phone line, confidential and unable to share. Anyone calling at any time/day, capturing all data and the types of missed opportunity. If CWRT is not available, there's lot of resources in the community; mental health urgent care, crisis receiving center, the source as well as strategies to connect to existing resources.

Emily/BACS shared the last 2 weeks did soft launch and responded to 2 calls. Starting yesterday 8am-2pm, 7 days a week. Working on staffing, onboarding. Goal is 4-5 days a week till 10pm. Working hard to make it happen. Soon to be 365/24/7. Need folks to have experience to support a team. Prioritizes people with lived experience and alternative shifts. Will not be open on Thanksgiving. Still have limited staff for covering holidays. Will be open this weekend as the first weekend.

Vice-Chair Hollingsworth questioned if BACS could work at night and CWRT during the day. Per Emily, contracted by County to work 24/7. Hiring to fill the various hours. Member Hopper asked which team is on duty. Per Emily calls to 988 then to BACs on shared phone line. Member Hopper asked how many CWRT responded to versus BACs. Emily clarified that both are CWRT, working together to ensure coverage to the community. Emily suggests having the updates earlier in the meetings. Member Orr on 11 responded to and missed opportunities, wants to know correlation between the missed and the 11 with collaboration with BACs/988. Per Christie, missed opportunity language could have been offered the resource if CWRT/BACs was available. Member Wills emphasized the need for after hours. Split shifts between CWRT/BACs to push schedule as much as staff can. Per Emily, need 3 people to operate/dispatch. Was able to open the weekend. Looking at November December schedules to get creative and to be supportive of the positions. Karen added people want days, not evening shifts.

VII. **Discussion/Action Item:** Consider Scheduling of Next CWRT Advisory Committee Meeting for December 2023 or January 2024

Chair Sako asked if CWRT to meet in December or if the next meeting to be in January. Member Wills asked if it can be a Zoom meeting. Likes touching base and receiving updates. Otherwise, no meeting. Chair Sako shared that CWRT is a Brown Act committee and required to meet in person. Member Rodriguez would like to hear updates if not meeting. Asked if there's a way to get updates via email. Per Chair Sako, Behavioral Health still provides program updates and BACS to add the data to the program updates. Member Orr commented to just wait and motioned to have the next meeting in January. Member Rodriguez seconded.

Public Comment 1: Take a month off to enjoy the holiday.

Chair Sako called for a roll call vote to hold the next meeting on Tuesday January 9. 1 abstain, 5 ayes. Motion passes. Next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 9.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Sako thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.