

Sacramento County Mental Health Board Adult System of Care Committee

MINUTES – TELECONFERENCE MEETING Tuesday, April 26, 2022 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Attendees: Corinne McIntosh-Sako, Laura Bemis, William Cho and Ann Arneill (staff, Glenda Basina)

Absentees: Loran Sheley

I. Welcome and Introductions, Corrine McIntosh Sako

- Chair Sako convened the meeting at 4:00pm and introductions were made. Conduct Agreement was read by Member Bemis.

II. Presentation by Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services on the Forensic Innovation Project, Allison Williams for Sacramento County BHS Health Program Manager and Genelle Cazares, LCSW - El Hogar, Chief Executive Officer

- Genelle shared PowerPoint slides. The Community Justice Support Program (CJSP) launched 3/14/22! Going through the contracts process right now. Innovation project awarded a 5-year grant to serve people who are justice involved with mental health conditions. Support people while in jail/hospitals. Multi-system team meeting is the innovative part of this. Have as many people participate who are involved with the client.
- Serve ages 18+, peopled involved with jail system and with mental health.
- Goals are promote collaboration with clients and community.
- 30 individuals referred to the program, referrals from Adult Correctional Health. Adopting wraparound model, multi-system, client centered, to include partners from variety of agencies.
- M-F, 7am-9pm and Saturday, 10-6pm. Wellness Center for recreational activities. Open to all clients in the CJSP. Also after-hours services.
- Has 4 phases, engagement (meeting people. Go where they are and build rapport), adaptation, treatment and transition phase.
- Currently 10 clients actively engaged and almost all are housed, seeing medical partners.
- 170 client capacity. Staffing goal is 32 with 3 peers in the design, which can change.
- Benefits acquisition uses Sore methodology,
- Multi-System Team (MST) is in development phase.
- Member Arneill to do network for Andrew Crouse for question asked to Tiffanie Synnott who wasn't aware of this resource. Andrew to get the word out.
- El Hogar Wellness Center located at 4433 Florin Rd.
- Public comment 1: Asked if referrals are slowly trickling in? Genelle responded with slow to start but are getting more with presentations. Once it ramps, they'll be busy.

III. Presentation by Sacramento Public Defender's Office on Laura's Law/AOT in Sacramento County, Tiffanie Synnott, Supervising Public Defender (Andrew Crouse, Asst. Public Defender)

- Andrew Crouse, Asst. Public Defender presented in place of Tiffanie Synnott
- AOT/Laura's Law program to get individuals who struggled with voluntary outpatient treatment.
- History – Death of Laura Wilcox in Jan 2001, RAND Corp review/report of MH System, Duke University Study found folks receiving MH services in the community, 72% fewer admissions in the hospital with fewer hospital days.
- Laura's Law passed 2002, however with no funding from State.
- Eligibility; 8 requirements 18+, Suffering mental health illness, clinical determination unlikely to survive in community, history of lack of compliance with mental health treatment. If judge find client meets all requirements will go for AOT.

- AOT – Process begin with 1. A request/referral from anyone 18+, doctor, judge, peace officer, public/private agency. 2. Investigation & file petition in court (paperwork) 3. Right to Counsel, represented by Counsel. 4. Notice & setting of AOT hearing. 5. Hearing with Judge with client, public defender and any witnesses. 6. Judge makes determination if all AOT requirements were met. 7. Ordering of AOT including treatment plan, medication, and therapies; tailored to each individual person. 8. Length of AOT, 180 days. Every 60 days an affidavit to be filed whether the individual continues to meet criteria for AOT. Refusal to engage in treatment, can be taken in custody or in hospital for 5150 hold. Alternate to AOT order. Client can waive order. Services provided; community based, mobile, MDT, staff to client ratio of no more than 10 client per team, service plan, treatment plan,
- Laura's Law & Sacramento County (Opt-In) Judge Brown overseeing proceedings. There is not a provider services line up yet, still in RFP process. Unable to launch program with no provider/services.
- BOS opted in May 18, 2021. 31/58 counties opted into Laura Law, pending RFP process for provider.
- Chair Sako questioned process someone in jail and AOT petition set for them. How is that handled if they're in jail? Andrew responded it depends on severity of criminal case and where the case is in the stage of proceedings. Possible for defense to dismiss if AOT is in the works. Chair also asked about Gov. Newsom's proposal of Care Court sounds like AOT. Andrew had the same thought, similar to AOT. Care Court implemented in mid-2023, whereas Lauras Law will be before that. Rachel Engle noticed criteria for eligibility is very different. For Care Court they have to be diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- Member Arneill on assisted statute; person to pay cost of services if able to do so. Finds this outrageous to pay if deprived of civil rights. Andrew at meeting with judges last week and component is not being imposed/enforced.
- Chair Sako asked who will be managing AOT. Allison responded Division Manager role is currently Kelli Weaver.

IV. Discussion/Action Item: Review and Approve Letter of Recommendation regarding Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services' Implementation of AOT, Ann Arneill

- Member Arneill provided background and read through the draft letter for recommendation to Dr. Quist. Identified questions to be asked, duties, along with views of the committee with copies to various individuals.
- Member Bemis read Family Advocates public comment and asked for anymore they have to say.
- Member Cho thought it to be a good document to start with. Should include other members, include front liners, public defender, public safety/fire services, paramedics/EMS for interesting perspective. Specify clinicians to make sure it's well-rounded with different perspectives. Any people touching this process would be good.
- Public Comment 1. Thanks for support for oversite committee. Would like to collaborate around purpose, task, and composition of oversite committee. Specifically stated to make sure membership to be broad as many stakeholders involved in implementation of AOT. Judicial system supported of individuals on how valuable treatment will be. Hold off on the letter until more stakeholders are involved.
- Public comment 2. With respect to purpose of AOT should be consistent with law. Need to recognize that a number of states that implemented AOT and written about subject and should start from there. Use that resource guide. Pages sited in their document. There are different models of oversite and good to talk through for the best model that works for Sacramento County. Strongly recommends that all stakeholders help develop this document. Invite to participate in making the drafts so we have many sources. 3 ideas mentioned in their document and prepared to come to next meeting for comprehensive report for committee to consider.
- Public Comment 3. Appreciates Andrew for in-depth description of all precautions to make sure people are not recommended when they don't need it. In addition gives support about the stakeholders to tag into legal methods. Should serve the county well.

- Public Comment 4. Appreciates Andrews's presentation and detail eligibility of AOT and protect those not eligible. Not for those who want to volunteer. This is her lived-experience for her son who wants control.
- Public Comment 5. Good to listen to whole dynamics/program. Thanks Andrew for honing in on how it's going to work. Likes the oversight committee. Biggest concern is making sure it's equitable and everyone who deserves this gets it and reaches all communities. What will be in place to make sure this happens? We don't want to leave out community that's been left out.
- Chair Sako back to members for discussion. Having a broad composition to this committee, making sure those impacted (family members) are also there. Suggests taking it out to citizens for stakeholder. Purpose today is that approval of this draft doesn't make it into play. Still need to bring to the Mental Health Board (MHB) for this recommendation. Defining creating this set. It will not go to MHB until June meeting. Still time for advocates to put together recommendations/correspondence.
- Member Arneill thinks the difference here is this committee is not the final place for the oversight committee's design. The thoughts of duties can be incorporated. Room to specify those in the letter. Wants to clarify questions to committees. To include public defender and should include clinical staff (LCSW public safety personnel, EMS/law enforcement).
- Member Cho recommends to take a step further those personnel who may direct involvement with these types of matter (ex. Sheriff Specialty Team, first responders).
- Member Arneill added how about CEOs from community based organizations, provider of MH services, someone in management position.
- Chair Sako mentioned someone asked if this oversight committee will be a subcommittee of this board. Members state should be independent entity reporting to BHS. Member Cho added if this is the case, should have a liaison from that committee to facilitate communication. Some bridge. Chair Alcohol & Drug should be good as well.
- Chair motioned to approve to recommend with amendments. Member Arneill seconded. This would be the letter to take to MHB to vote if they want to make this recommendation for changes. Motion passed. Member Arneill to make amendments and send over to committee. More opportunities for input and grafting.

V. Public Comment, Members of the Public

- Public Comment 1. Reflecting for her family and many families in similar place with loved one in this tiny percentage for not volunteering to keep going and expand them. When the topic is focused on appropriate therapeutic medical treatment. Concern when the initial beginning topic civil rights feels like side-stepping the topic.

VI. Adjournment, Corrine McIntosh Sako

- Chair Sako adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm. Next ASOC meeting May 24 at 4pm. May is MH Awareness Month.