

**Sacramento County**  
**Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Services**  
**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

September 2, 2021, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Meeting Location**

Webinar and phone conference

**Meeting Attendees:**

- MHSA Steering Committee members: Ronald Briggs, Genelle Cazares, Ebony Chambers, Laurie Clothier, Shaunda Cruz, Crystal Harding, Sharon Jennings, Erin Johansen, Brad Lueth, Ruth MacKenzie, Ryan McClinton, Susan McCrea, Lori Miller, Arushi Mishra, Noel Mora, Leslie Napper, Ryan Quist, Koby Rodriguez, Christopher Williams
- General Public

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>I. Welcome and Member Introductions</b>	The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. MHSA Steering Committee members introduced themselves.
<b>II. Agenda Review</b>	The agenda was reviewed; no changes were made.
<b>III. County Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget in Brief and Planned Survey</b>	<p>Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director, provided the following overview of the Sacramento County budget process and explanation of the County Budget Priorities Survey (see <a href="#">Attachment A – Sacramento County Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget in Brief</a> and <a href="#">Attachment B – Sacramento County Budget Priorities Survey Preview</a>).</p> <p>The opportunity before us this evening is county-wide, not specific to Behavioral Health. All boards, commissions, and committees involved with advising the County have been granted the opportunity to provide feedback on budget priorities for Sacramento County. The County Executive Office has asked us to speak to the three bodies within behavioral health, including MHSA Steering Committee, to request their input regarding county budget priorities. To ensure we have appropriate context, this requested feedback is in regards to the overall county budget, not necessarily focusing solely on the behavioral health budget.</p> <p>The Sacramento County Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget in Brief report has been shared with everyone tonight. The beginning of the report shows where money comes from and where the money goes to in our different agencies. The subsequent pages detail different areas of funding within the County. I would like to highlight the Budget Process and Timeline. The budget you are being asked to give feedback on is Fiscal Year 2022-23, which begins July 1, 2022. In order for us to get to that new budget, we begin from September through December to discuss the internal service budgets. You will see the subsequent budget planning</p>

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	<p>steps involved in the report timeline. The remainder of the report talks about where funding goes in General Support Services, Public Utilities, Economic Development, Civic Services, Parks and Recreation, and Culture and Education. On the last page there are important links providing information on how you can further get involved.</p> <p>This was a high level overview of the report so when you have time you can review it in greater detail. We are looking for feedback on the budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and have developed a survey for you to be able to provide that feedback. Beginning tomorrow, this survey will be available to all Steering Committee members. We ask you to think about what your priorities are and, when you have done so, take the survey to input your top five (5) county budget priorities. The survey will remain open until Monday, September 13, 2021. We will come back to our next MHSA SC meeting on September 16th to discuss the results of the survey and MHSA SC will provide a cohesive summary of which five priorities we would like to recommend to the Board of Supervisors in the context of the broad County budget. Note that if everyone puts in their favorite program and they are different, it will be difficult to summarize them in a single message. On the other hand, you may be able to create broad themes or service categories that will be easier for the group to combine into a cohesive message to the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>In the next step, all the various feedback from the boards and commissions will be used to create a poll for the general community that will allow members of the public to provide feedback on which areas are their own highest priorities.</p> <p><b>Member Questions and Discussion</b></p> <p>Will we be able to see tangible impact of this feedback in the decision-making process? In previous budget processes, I have seen community feedback left but not implemented with the reason given that there is not enough time to make the requested changes.</p> <p><i>I acknowledge this frustration. I believe it was with this fact in mind that County Executive, Ann Edwards, committed in the current budget year to address the issue you raised in future budget years. Her direction that public feedback be collected at the beginning of this budget cycle is an attempt to make that happen. The county's budget conversation starts in September and will continue through December, but the county's budget documents will be created in the December through January period.</i></p>

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	<p>How will this feedback be used? Will it come down as budget directives to Behavioral Health from the County Executive's Office?</p> <p><i>I am not entirely sure, as this is the first time we are using this process. I anticipate there will be some form of dialogue between Behavioral Health Services and the County Executive's Office relating to our budget. Also, in addition to the input I already get as the Behavioral Health Director from our service providers, I will be looking at this public feedback as it relates to Behavioral Health, so it will be informing some of the division's decisions in that way.</i></p> <p>The Sacramento County budget brief has the "Where the money goes" divided into 5 major areas. So if I am understanding correctly, this survey is not to rank just those operating budgets. We can get down to more direct areas of more focused budget priorities. Is this correct?</p> <p><i>Yes, this is correct. I do not recommend getting too far down "into the weeds" of individual services, as then it will be hard to combine feedback into summary form, but it is not necessary to merely rank those five major areas. I suggest being more specific than that.</i></p> <p>Will the Steering Committee get to see the compiled survey data in full, not just the top five ranked themes?</p> <p><i>We want to be completely transparent as to what feedback was provided in the survey so full responses will be shared and common themes will be shared. The SC will choose the collective top five priorities to recommend.</i></p> <p>As MHSA SC members, should we be thinking of MHSA-related topics? If I were to think of homelessness as it connects to behavioral health as a top priority, should I put down encampments, behavioral health, sanitation, public safety, and waterworks?</p> <p><i>Those would all be valid themes. Keep in mind that although the normal task of the MHSA SC is to share opinions and perspectives on the use of MHSA funding, in this particular instance you are being asked your opinion on funding priorities for the county budget in general. I would expect a lot of SC members' priorities would relate to behavioral health, but you are not limited to that for this particular exercise.</i></p> <p>I would like to add the need for child care resources, opportunities, and programs, as well as youth and transition-aged youth (TAY) programs, resources, and opportunities. The county is not on par compared to the city. I would prioritize jobs, internships, and innovative/new careers and economic</p>

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	<p>enterprises. Also linkage to parks and recreation, schools, health, and LGBTQIA services.</p> <p>How many boards and commissions will get to provide feedback?</p> <p><i>I know there are three within the scope of Behavioral Health: the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, the Mental Health Board, and the MHSA Steering Committee. Although I am unsure if the list of those tasked with providing feedback is identical, the complete list of county boards and commissions is at:</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.sacounty.net/CountyDepartments/Pages/BoardsCommissions.aspx">https://www.sacounty.net/CountyDepartments/Pages/BoardsCommissions.aspx</a></p> <p>Aside from this survey, are there other opportunities for community members to weigh in?</p> <p><i>What I have seen thus far at the other boards and commissions that have weighed in on this is that the public comment submitted at these meetings has been used as material for consideration by the board members. However, although I do not know exactly how this process will work because this is the first time we are doing this, there will be more opportunities for public comment. Right now we are at the boards and commissions feedback part of the process, but then we will move to the public polling part, and then to the presentation to the Board of Supervisors, at which the public can also provide input, so there would be opportunities throughout the process.</i></p> <p>Regarding the questionnaire for priorities, is it in regards only to budget categories that already exist or if it is also for anything else that might be proposed to be included in the budget?</p> <p><i>You are not limited to any existing categories. The SC will need to come together with some consensus on their top priorities so there will need to be some sort of summarization of that feedback to the County Executive's Office, but you are not limited to any categories within that report.</i></p>
<p><b>IV. General Public Comment</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Diane Wolfe</b>, advocate (via chat): As the Board is having budget hearings on Sept 8, 9, and 10, is not this input late in the process?</p> <p><i>Those budget hearings are for the current fiscal year, 2021-22. This survey is requesting feedback for the budget of next fiscal year, 2022-23.</i></p> <p><b>Mary Ann Bernard</b>, family member: I hope Dr. Quist can answer these three questions. If not, all SC members should be asking these questions at the next meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) At earlier meetings it was admitted by county staff that there was a surplus of MHSA funds. First it was 42 million in the PEI and CSS accounts, which represent about 80 percent</li> </ol>

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	<p>of MHSA funds, and then it jumped to 72 million and then at the last county Board of Supervisors meeting it was admitted there was a huge surplus but the exact numbers were unknown. Do you now have numbers for CSS and PEI and, if so, what is the surplus? Is there a surplus?</p> <p>2) At the last meeting, there was a motion passed. Have you yet consulted with county counsel regarding the legality of the vote, in which a SC service provider member with an admitted conflict of interest and without whom there would have been no quorum not only participated in the discussion but proposed a motion and voted?</p> <p>3) Have you also consulted with county counsel regarding the legality and advisability of that motion, which disempowered this committee by devoting the entire unknown surplus of MHSA funds to a seven per cent across the board raise to all the existing providers, even though you are not in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5813.5 (f), which requires you do something Leslie Napper referred to, which is to allocate money to people going into and out of our jails who are severely mentally ill and who are a huge public safety problem.</p> <p>If you have consulted with county counsel, will these matters be revisited on next month's agenda? If you have not, I suggest all members familiarize yourselves with the exact wording of the motion which passed at the last meeting so you yourself can raise this issue, because you have just been put out of business by someone with a conflict of interest and you should not stand for it.</p> <p>(via chat) This is the provision the county is not complying with which directly relates to public safety:</p> <p><i>(f) Each county plan and annual update pursuant to Section 5847 shall consider ways to provide services similar to those established pursuant to the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program. Funds shall not be used to pay for persons incarcerated in state prison. Funds may be used to provide services to persons who are participating in a presentencing or postsentencing diversion program or who are on parole, probation, postrelease community supervision, or mandatory supervision. When included in county plans pursuant to Section 5847, funds may be used for the provision of mental health services under Sections 5347 and 5348 in counties that elect to participate in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 5345) of Chapter 2 of Part 1).</i></p> <p><b>Liz Blum</b> (via chat): For the sake of transparency, it would be valuable for the County to determine how this input will be used before it is collected. Having a plan to set priorities for the budget will require a shifting of funds from other places that are of lower</p>

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	<p>priority for increased funding. Determining how that is done upfront seems very necessary to me.</p> <p><b>Stephanie Ramos</b>, family member and Cal Voices Family Youth Coordinator: I want to acknowledge that this process is getting closer to community-driven than it has been in previous discussions and decisions. However, it does concern me that although we have gone a level closer to the community, we did not go straight to the community for their input. The majority of community members do not know about the various boards and committees that take place in the county and are unaware of these conversations. Outreach should be a major priority in this process to ensure the broader community's voice is heard in this process.</p> <p><b>Sonya Young Aadam</b>, CEO of California Black Women's Health Project: Regarding the document that was shared near the beginning on where the money goes and where the money comes from, was this document shared out or made available to the public before today because I have been looking for it.</p> <p><i>Materials for tonight's meeting are posted to the <a href="#">MHSA SC 2021 meetings page</a>.</i></p> <p>I also wanted to comment and express appreciation for Sacramento County's work with PEI and extension of the engagement fund administered through CalMHSA, just prior to COVID-19. I would like to ask the Steering Committee and any other body you know might have some influence on that to consider the possibility of extension of that program because of the severe impact of COVID on the community organizations' ability to really implement on this project. Thank you all for allowing public comment.</p> <p><b>Angelina Woodberry</b>, Consumer Advocate Liaison (via chat): It is interesting how during an election year, the Board of Supervisors is really good about mailing things out to people. Perhaps they should do that for this feedback process.</p>
<p><b>V. Adjournment / Upcoming Meetings</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 16, 2021</li> <li>• October 21, 2021</li> </ul>

Interested members of the public are invited to attend MHSA Steering Committee meetings and a period is set aside for public comment at each meeting. If you wish to attend and need to arrange for an interpreter or a reasonable accommodation, please contact Anne-Marie Rucker one week prior to each meeting at (916) 875-3861 or [ruckera@saccounty.net](mailto:ruckera@saccounty.net).