

Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group Meeting Approved Minutes

December 14, 2020 | 2:30 – 4:52 PM

This meeting was held by WebEx pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders and Mayoral Emergency Proclamations suspending and modifying requirements for in-person meetings. During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the Mental Health San Francisco Implementation Working Group will convene remotely until the it is legally authorized to meet in person.

Note: The agenda, meeting materials, and video recording will be posted at the Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group website:

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/knowlcol/menthlth/Implementation.asp>

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 PM.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Scott Arai, Psy. D., Shon Buford, Kara Chien, J.D., Dr. Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D, Steve Fields, M.P.A., Dr. Ana Gonzalez, D.O., Dr. Hali Hammer, M.D., Philip Jones, Dr. Monique LeSarre, Psy. D., Jameel Patterson, Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T., Sara Shortt, M.S.W., Amy Wong.

Committee Members Absent: None.

2. Welcome and Review of Agenda

Dr. Colfax offered the opening remarks and shared his support for the committee's efforts. Dr. Colfax indicated that behavioral health is a priority for the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the San Francisco community. He also stated that those experiencing homelessness are disproportionately represented by the Black and African American communities, and historical inequities have played a key role in reaching where we are today. Exciting work is already in motion—particularly the Street Crisis Response Team, which launched this month, and plans to develop safe injection and a drug sobering center. Similar to the HIV/AIDs model, community input is at the forefront of tackling this issue.

Marlo Simmons, Acting Director for Behavioral Health Systems (BHS) at the San Francisco Department of Public Health introduced the SF Mental Health City Planning Team, which includes Diane Prentiss (BHS) and Sneha Patil (Office of Planning and Policy). The Department of Public Health is administering MHSF. Heather Littleton and Julia Salinas are members of the Office of the Controller and will support the development of key products coming from the IWG – issue briefs and key reports as needed. The facilitation team, represented by Harder and Company Community Research, includes Jennifer James, Kristina Gelardi, and Juan Chung. Together, DPH, the Controllers office and the team at Harder+Company comprise the City Planning Team. The City Planning Team will work closely with the MHSF IWG Chair and Vice-Chair to guide the IWG's work the Mental Health San Francisco. They will work closely with the City Planning Team and member of the IWG to plan and facilitate monthly IWG meetings.

Jennifer James shared the meeting goals and meeting agenda.

3. Discussion Item #1:

Supervisor Ronen is excited to meet the group of mental health and substance use experts that make up the IWG. She shared the beginnings of, passion, and vision for Mental Health San Francisco. Supervisor Ronen provided an overview of the legislation and noted the unexpected challenges and delays due to COVID-19. The legislation was developed in collaboration with Supervisor Haney, community advocates, behavioral health providers, and the Mayor.

Shalini Rana, Health Policy Advisor to the Mayor, appreciates the partnership with the Board of Supervisors to develop Mental Health San Francisco, as a shared priority, and looks forward to work closely with the IWG to make this plan a reality.

Dedria Black, Deputy Director for Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), commented on the lack of integration across medical systems in San Francisco and potential for MHSF to integrate health systems (behavioral, mental, and medical). Supervisor Ronen and Shalini Rana agree that a coordinated and integrated health system is key to better serve San Franciscans experiencing mental health and substance use.

Member LeSarre stressed the importance of cultural competency in service delivery, particularly to tackle anti-blackness.

Member Patterson recommends the integration of medical approaches beyond one that are western-focused.

4. Public Comment for Discussion Item #1

Commenter approves the work of the Street Crisis Response Team and would like to hear directly from this team to learn about their experience. Commenter additionally inquired about the chat function in WebEx.

Public commenter congratulates all members of the IWG for their participation and the Board of Supervisors for crafting the legislation. They address the needs of health workers –including training and certification—to serve the community to a consistent level of care.

5. Implementation Working Group Member Introductions

Each seat member was asked to share their organizational affiliation, key issue that matters most, and their definition of success for the group. Seat members stressed the importance of access to low barrier treatment and demands and taking the service delivery philosophy of “meeting people where they are.” Services should be culturally responsive, linguistically competent, and community-oriented. The needs of health workers need to be met, and meaningful partnerships with departments to develop design and implement components of MHSF need to be prioritized.

6. Discussion Item #2: Implementation Working Group Duties, Public Meeting, and Working Group Ethics

Deputy City Attorney Jon Givner offered advice on the roles and duties, as well as an overview of committee ethics as members of the Working Group. He also previewed his upcoming meeting presentation on by-laws and selection of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Member LeSarre and Member Eisen requested offline review of resources mentioned and sharing of Deputy City Attorney Jon Givner’s contact information.

Member Salinas inquired about member terms for appointed seat members.

Member Gonzales raised a concern about conflict of interest rules, and requested guidance from the City Attorney to gain a clearer understanding of the boundaries.

7. Public Comment for Discussion Item #2

Public commenter shared that the City needs to organize the behavioral system to better serve the community.

Public commenter would like the group to address early intervention programs and create more peer counseling opportunities.

8. Discussion Item #3: Review Planning Framework & Meeting Processes

Harder + Company Community Research provided an overview of the planning framework, anticipated meeting topics and sequences, group principles, and voting processes. Jennifer James echoed Deputy City Attorney Jon Givner's note to update the IWG deliverable dates that were delayed due to COVID-19. Kristina Gelardi previewed agenda items for upcoming meetings. All materials related to the IWG can be found on the IWG website:

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/knowlcol/menthlth/implementation.asp>

9. Public Comment for Discussion Item #3

Public commenter looks forward to learning about the Mental Health Service Center. He additionally acknowledges the existence of the main access point for behavioral health services, and stresses the need for its visibility (i.e., ad campaigns).

10. Public Comment on any matters within the Working Group's jurisdiction not on the agenda

No Public Comment

11. Adjourn

The facilitation team encourages seat members to continue thinking about volunteering to be the Chair or Vice-chair. Calendar invitations for the next meeting will be sent shortly. The second meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 9:30AM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM.