



California Coalition for Mental Health - Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 28th, 2023 | 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Theresa Comstock, President, CCMH

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves:

First Name:	Last Name:	Organization:
Jennifer	Alley	California Psychological Association
Jenny	Bayardo	CBHPC
Jessica	Camacho Duran	CCJBH
Theresa	Comstock	CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions
Chad	Costello	CASRA
Lauren	Finke	The Kennedy Forum - Presenter
Randall	Hagar	Psychiatric Physicians Alliance
Angela	Blanchard	CAMFT
Daniel	Wagoner	Disability Rights California
Samuel	Jain	Disability Rights California
James	Mackey	CMC
Erin	McIntyre	Occupational Therapy Assoc of California
Curtis	Paullins	Mental Health America of California
Deb	Roth	Disability Rights California
Fred	Seavey	National Union of Healthcare Workers
Daphne	Shaw	CBHPC
Adrienne	Shilton	CA Alliance of Child and Family Services
Benny	Tinson	Licensed Adult Residential Care Assoc

Agenda | CCMH Membership Meeting (continued)

2. Increasing Parity through the "Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act" - [S.923](#)

Presentation by Lauren Finke, Policy Director, The Kennedy Forum

- Introduced in Senate Finance Committee (where it remains) on 03.22.23 by Sen Bennet (CO) & Sen Wyden (OR) - no Republican support currently. Possible that some of the subcategories in the bill might find their way into other vehicles and/or get fed agencies to do some of this on their own.
- Act would require parity provisions to apply in Medicare Advantage plans (but only when the plan already covers some behavioral health benefits – many plans currently don't cover any of these benefits).
- Requires Medicare Advantage plans to maintain accurate/updated provider directories and provide beneficiary education around behavioral health benefits. (This element has a good chance of finding its way into another vehicle)
- Encourages integration with physical healthcare by providing better rates for behavioral health services (this one is more partisan)
- Establishes demonstration projects around integrated care.
- Requires CMS to come up with a gameplan for better reimbursement as well as for providing prevention and early intervention services.
- Supported by the [Mental Health Liaison Group](#).

3. Legislative Advocacy - Consideration of CCMH support for the following bills:

- a. [S. 923](#) - Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act (US Senate Bill)
Motion to Support (Hagar)/Second (Costello) – (Y-6, N-0, A-3)
- b. [SB 598](#) - Health care coverage: prior authorization. (CA Senate Bill)
Motion to Support (Hagar)/Second (Costello) – (Y-5, N-0, A-4)

4. [Governor's Proposed Behavioral Health Transformation.](#)

- a. Members are asked to discuss the key components of this proposal (below), and potential next steps by CCMH to inform this proposal. [Recorded Webinar.](#)
 - i. \$3-5 Billion General Obligation Bond on 2024 Ballot to build thousands of new unlocked community behavioral health beds in residential settings for Californians with mental illness and substance use disorders. (Slides 8-11) ([AB 531](#))
 - ii. "Modernizing" the MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) (Slides 9-24) ([SB 326](#))
 - iii. Improve Statewide Accountability and Access to Behavioral Health Services (Slides 26-29)
- b. A discussion followed with the aim of boiling down these complex measures into elements aligned with long standing CCMH positions. It was suggested by Theresa that we focus on:
 - i. Parity – Accountability (specific data measures, quality metrics, BH disparities and outcomes)



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- ii. Maintaining MH funding and increasing overall funding – will counties be able to make up for the shifting of MESA funds by increasing FFP draw down?
 1. Advocate for expanding opportunities for matching (housing – ARFs/RCFEs; Employment/Voc Rehab)

- c. Benny underscored the importance of the 1915(c) waiver and its potential impact on ARFs as well as how it might address some of the disparities in services and benefits between those diagnosed with a mental illness vs. those diagnosed with an intellectual disability.
- d. Theresa suggested as a next step to have a separate meeting to discuss putting together a CCMH position on elements of the Gov's proposal for a possible meeting with CA HHS. She'll follow up with CCMH members in the coming days.

5. Approval of the March 29th Meeting Minutes

- a. Chad Costello, CCMH Secretary – minutes sent prior to meeting
Minutes accepted as presented

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. CCMH Treasurer, Carol Neidenberg could not attend. Curtis Paulins presented the information in her absence. \$1,600 in dues are currently outstanding – Curtis will reach out to those organizations that haven't paid.

7. Member Updates, Discussion

- a. Members were invited to share legislative and other updates and announcements.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am