



Mental Health Commission

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INFORMATION CALENDAR
May 25, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Mental Health Commission
Submitted by: Dr. Margaret Fine, Chair, Mental Health Commission
Subject: Mental Health Commission Work Plan 2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

At its March 25, 2021 meeting, the Mental Health Commission adopted its 2021-2022 Work Plan.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On March 25, 2021, the Mental Health Commission adopted the attached work plan through the action detailed below.

The 2021-2022 Work Plan is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to address public mental health and substance use services for community members living with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use difficulties (SUD) --many of whom are unhoused, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people. people living with disabilities of all ages.

We advance this goal by focusing on: 1) client-centered, well-integrated coordination of services to support whole person care for individuals with SMI and SUD and 2) reducing and eliminating overrepresentation and disproportionate impacts from involvement with law enforcement, criminal legal and incarceration systems. In this light, the Work Plan is designed to specifically address the need for a 24/7 non-police crisis response program for the City of Berkeley as an alternative to policing for non-criminal matters.

In addition, our Work Plan is designed to champion and demonstrate the importance of equitable public mental health and substance use service delivery in the form of tailored culturally safe and responsive public mental health and substance use services to diverse people and communities. The Work Plan thus advances this effort by achieving these goals to: 1) build partnerships with people using these services, families, community members and CBOs in order to evaluate service delivery and 2) participating in mental health and substance use program evaluation at the system level for the Division of Mental Health.

The Work Plan is designed to promote mental health and substance use education in an effort to reduce and eliminate the stigmatization and stereotyping of people living with mental health and substance use conditions, particularly diverse people living with SMI and SUD--many of whom are unhoused--in the community. This goal is designed to improve the way society views mental health and substance use so people are without fear of judgement in seeking services needed to foster and sustain mental wellness in the community.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City Council adopted direction to commissioners to submit a work plan annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental sustainability impact associated with the adoption of this work plan.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

None

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

None

CONTACT PERSON

Jamie Works-Wright, MH Commission Secretary, HHCS/MH, 510-981-7721

Attachments: Attachment 1: FY 2021-2022 Work Plan



Mental Health Commission

Mental Health Commission Work Plan 2021 – 2022

1. People living with Serious Mental Illness/Substance Use Problems, especially Unhoused People
 - Advise and make recommendations to Berkeley Mental Health and the Berkeley City Council about the capacity of the public mental health system to address the needs of unhoused people living with mental illness and substance use problems.
2. Specialized Care Unit (SCU) Non-Police Crisis Response
 - Review and evaluate the RDA Report, including about the Berkeley Mental Health's Mobile Crisis Unit and the SCU, and Advise the Division of Mental Health and Berkeley City Council about the MHC Recommendations.
3. Reduce Mental Health Impacts from Policing
4. Mental Health Equity and Inclusion
 - Identify and apply a rubric for evaluating compliance with best practices for mental health equity, disparities and inclusion for diverse and marginalized peoples.
5. Mental Health Education
 - Increase Public Education on Mental Health and Wellness
6. MHC Partnerships and Presentations
 - Build a Strong Partnership with Consumers, Families, Community, Berkeley Mental Health, Community-Based Organizations, including inviting representatives to Mental Health Commission meetings to present and answer questions about the public mental health and substance use systems for the City of Berkeley

7. Accountability

- Assess the financial accountability of Berkeley Mental Health and related Community Based Organizations (CBOs) (particularly focused on drastic tax revenue reductions from impacts of COVID).
- Review and evaluate program need, services, and facilities— including challenges and any problems and make recommendations, including about Division of Mental Health, to incorporate harm reduction principles and increases substance use services into all programs and make reports.
- Make site visits to Berkeley Mental Health programs, as well as to CBO programs which have contracts with BMH and ACBHCSA, to become more informed and familiar with the continuum of interventions and services. Meet with staff and consumers of these services.

8. Membership and Governance

9. Recruitment

- Prepare membership materials and recruit members to MHC.

10. Annual Report

- Submit Annual Report for 2020 to the Berkeley City Council.