

REPORT TO THE TWENTY NINTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2017

PURSUANT TO SECTION 334-10(e), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,
REQUIRING THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE PLAN

PREPARED BY:
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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HAWAII STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

The State Council on Mental Health (“Council”) is an active, advocacy group providing a voice for children, youth, adults, and their families on behavioral health issues. Its membership is comprised of twenty-one dedicated volunteers representing consumers, family members, providers, community members, and state employees who give their time, energy, expertise, and experience to improve and advocate for a system of care that provides quality mental health service to the people of Hawaii.

The mission of the Council is to advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access treatment and support necessary to live a full life in the community of their choice. The vision of the Council is for a Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice. Further, as defined by both state and federal law, the purpose of the Council is to:

- Serve as an advocate for adults diagnosed with a severe mental illness, for children and youth diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance;
- Advise the state mental health authority on issues of concern, policies, and programs;
- Provide guidance to the state mental health authority on the development and implementation of the state mental health system’s plans; and
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the allocations and adequacy of mental health services within the state on an ongoing basis.

The mission and vision of the Council guides its evaluation of Hawaii’s mental health care through presentations from key community stakeholders, and reports from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) and the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD).

The Council is legislatively mandated to provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on the implementation of the statewide comprehensive integrated services plan (“Plan”). Section 334-10(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) states that, “The Council shall prepare and submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature on implementation of the statewide comprehensive integrated service plan. The report presented to the legislature shall be submitted at least twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.”

The Council’s Response to Review the FY2016 State Plan (Federal Mandate)

The Council reviewed the FY2016 Behavioral Health Report (statewide comprehensive integrated service plan) for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHD) and the Adult Mental Health Divisions (AMHD). The SCMHD provided its written comments and recommendations for the CAMHD and AMHD. The SCMHD’s comments and recommendations are summarized on the next page:

1. The layout of the report was very easy to comprehend and follow how each benchmark is achieved, not achieved, and the barriers which prevent compliance.

2. The Council is concerned about consumers (anyone who is receiving mental health services from the CAMHD or the AMHD or potentially could be eligible to receive services) who may have relationship challenges that may involve loud arguments and/or fights. It makes sense to have landlords or case managers call the Crisis Line of Hawaii to request a worker from the Crisis Mobile Outreach (CMO) for assistance rather than exercise the eviction option.
3. Many of our consumers struggle with budget management, therefore; it is recommended that their rent could be placed on an automatic payment system or automatic deduction and could be arranged with landlords and with housing management.
4. This is the first time that we have heard of the “Making It Home” AMHD Housing Manual. It appears to be a useful tool that should be shared with all case managers and providers.
5. We were pleased to see that AMHD has re-started the provider meetings every other month. Those meetings are beneficial for getting updated information and collaborating with other providers.
6. The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) needs to align their strategic planning goals with data collection points; for example, non-collection of the number of calls received by CMO.
7. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) should include the documentation of the implementation of the Ohio Scales in the report.
8. The State needs to consider how to improve its transition planning and workforce development strategies (cross training). There is no reason for work and/or data collection to stop just because there’s a lack of staff or staff retirement.

Council Activities for FY2016-FY2017

In FY2016, the Council developed its first Strategic Plan that links the Council’s priorities with activities that produce measurable outcomes. The Council received technical assistance from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. Technical assistance was delivered in two ways: 1) monthly group meetings of all participating state teams; and 2) monthly individual coaching calls with each state team to discuss apply and refine the strategic planning process. The Strategic Plan is based on the following Council’s needs:

- There continues to be a criminalization of homelessness and mental health in our community.
- Parity Laws are confusing for consumers with severe and persistent mental illness.
- The Council and the Service Area Boards have a difficult time recruiting new members and establishing quorum at meetings.

- The Council plans to develop a website.
- The media continues to stigmatize mental health.
- Human sex trafficking has increased in Hawaii.
- The shortage of psychiatrists in the workforce in Hawaii.