

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
2019

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  
DECEMBER 2018

## **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, (the Department of Health (DOH)), 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). These presentations provide information to the Council on critical issues relevant to mental health for adults, adolescents, and children in our community.

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 FY 2018 State Plan**

The State Council on Mental Health members reviewed the FY 2018 State Plan (Statewide Comprehensive Integrated Service Plan report) for the CAMHD and AMHD. The Council appreciated the opportunity to review the Plan as it provided a platform to set priority areas in the Council’s Strategic Plan, support legislative initiatives that the DOH and other provider agencies have brought to the attention of the Council during

Council deliberations, and advocate for service participants in the community to be provided the best quality of care.

In addition, we have the following more specific comments about the report as follows:

- The planned expenditures for FY 2018-2019 for CAMHD are delineated in the report, and we are pleased to note that approximately \$391,000 dollars were allocated for the University of Hawaii, Psychology Department and John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, for the OnTrack Hawaii program. This is a vital program for the community where clinicians are able to provide teens and young adults aged 15 to 24, who are within two years of their first symptoms of psychosis (hallucinations, delusions, or other symptoms of psychosis), with free treatment tailored to their age group regardless of ability to pay.
- For the AMHD, we noted that approximately \$500,000 dollars is allocated for community partners to develop short-term projects to promote the prevention of substance use disorders and mental illness statewide. These projects will center on supported employment, supported housing, rehabilitation services, crisis stabilization, peer specialist and consumer-directed services, jail diversion programs, and services for special populations (people who are homeless, live in rural areas and military families).
- In developing the Council's 2019 Strategic Plan, the Council will also ensure that its plan is in line with several areas noted in the Statewide Comprehensive Integrated Service Plan.

### **Council Activities for FY 2018 - FY 2019**

During fiscal year 2018-2019, the Council accomplished several activities:

- Strengthened collaborations/partnerships with the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) and with community advocacy groups, such as, Mental Health America of Hawaii.
- Heard presentations from stakeholder agencies/community members during the community input portion of meetings (DOH, AMHD, CAMHD, HACDACS, and the Pacific Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network).
- Facilitated the creation of a Hawaii State Council on Mental Health website for greater outreach and connection to the community; where members of the Council were trained to manage the content of the website; a place for training opportunities to be shared with the larger mental health community, and links to news articles relevant to mental health.

- Conducted an internal training on legislative processes for the Council members.
- Created various Permitted Interaction Groups to address strategic plan elements – including website development and implementation, social media outreach and advocacy, and legislative initiatives.

### **Goals for the coming year**

- Interface with hospitals, legal agencies, school systems, and other relevant organizations to capture information regarding the most pressing mental health needs in our community (e.g. suicide prevention).
- Promote filling of seats on the Hawaii Service Area Board and other service and area boards to access leadership, assure that community issues are brought forward, and promote a voice for consumers, young people, and areas that are not fully represented at the board at this time due to vacancies.
- Conduct a brief suicide intervention training internally to the board and consider promotion of such trainings at appropriate service providing agencies.
- Generate a 5-year vision plan for our Council with attention to issues that interface with Mental Health (homelessness, human trafficking, addictions, and barriers to care access).
- Develop a social marketing campaign that promotes mental health and wellness for the prevention and treatment of mental disorders.
- Continue to promote the SCMH's website through continued initiatives related to advocacy and social media presence.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the FY2018 State Plan (Statewide Comprehensive Integrated Service report). The goals are in alignment with the areas of need that community members and stakeholders have presented at the Council meeting. We are also very excited about the direction that the Council has moved in the past two years, and the future initiatives that we are working toward. With the launching of the website, we will have a presence on the Internet and increase the accessibility to resources and trainings more widely. We look forward to our continued collaboration with CAMHD, AMHD, community stakeholders, and consumers in the next year.