

## CCJBH June Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 26, 2020

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Purpose:** Looking at racial inequalities through a health lens, what are the effects of racism on mental health and behaviors. Can declaring racism as a public health crisis serve as a catalyst to change systemic racism?

### Final Agenda

- I. **2:00 PM Welcome & Introductions, Roll Call**  
**Council Members Present:** Secretary Ralph Diaz, Stephanie Clendenin, Jessica Cruz, Tony Hobson, Mack Jenkins, Brenda Grealish, Hon. Stephen Manley, Danitza Pantoja, Tracey Whitney.  
  
**Staff Members Present:** Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Monica Campos, Catherine Hickinbotham, Sheron Wright, Marie Villalba, and Preston Moore.
  - II. **2:15 PM Approval of April Meeting Minutes**  
**Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health**
    - a. **[Minutes for approval 4.30.2020](#)**  
Motion to adopt minutes made by Hon. Stephen Manley, second Tony Hobson.  
Ayes: 8  
Nays: 0  
Abstentions: 0
  - III. **2:15 PM Approval of May Meeting Minutes**  
**Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health**
    - a. **[Minutes for approval 5.14.2020](#)**  
Motion to adopt minutes made by Hon. Stephen Manley, second Tony Hobson.  
Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Abstentions: 1
- \*\*\*\*\*PUBLIC COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*  
No Public Comment
- IV. **2:20 PM Introduction Council Members and Panelists**  
  
**Racism and Systemic Injustice: Looking at Racial Inequalities through a Health Lens: How does this apply to the Behavioral Health Justice-Involved Population?**  
Stephanie Welch introduction of topics, and key questions.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Ralph M. Diaz, Chair**  
Secretary, California  
Department of  
Corrections and  
Rehabilitation

**Will Lightbourne**  
Director, California  
Department of Health  
Care Services

**Stephanie Clendenin**  
Director, California  
Department of State  
Hospitals

**Jessica Cruz, MPA**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
National Alliance on  
Mental Illness (NAMI)  
California

**Matthew Garcia**  
Field Training Officer,  
Sacramento  
Police Department

**Tony Hobson, PhD**  
Behavioral Health  
Director, Plumas County

**Mack Jenkins**  
Chief Probation  
Officer, Ret.  
San Diego County

**Stephen V. Manley**  
Santa Clara County  
Superior Court Judge

**Danitza Pantoja, PsyD**  
Coordinator of  
Psychological Services,  
Antelope Valley Union  
High School District

**Tracey Whitney**  
Deputy District Attorney,  
Mental Health Liaison,  
Los Angeles County  
District Attorney

**Panelists:**

***Kiran Savage-Sangwan***, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

[CPEN Sign-On Letter-Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis Statement-Black Lives Matter](#)

Ms. Savage-Sangwan PowerPoint Presentation California Pan-Ethnic Health Network is dedicated to connecting communities with policymakers to create more health equity through the involvement of marginalized communities, lived-experience voices, and data to connect cultures across California. Disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy are a result of structural inequality and racism. The average life expectancy in the state of California is about 11 years shorter than Asian Americans. There are also disparities in health conditions such as mental illness, hypertension, diabetes, and substance use disorders. Self-reported health ratings reflect these documented inequalities. Native American, Latino, and African American communities are most likely to report their health as poor. COVID-19 has worsened these disparities, infection, and mortality rates are different based on race, and the African American community is most likely to die in proportion to their share of the California population. Health disparities are being driven by structural racism. Overview of the Medi-Cal mental health system reflects the same racial disparities because of variability in the level of access available in different communities due to incorrect diagnosis, biases of providers, and access to other systems. How to get people the services they need? Language disparities are another indicator and are not closing. Exposure to trauma and stress, lack of access, under-diagnosis, poorer quality of care is all linked to biases and prejudices in the system. African Americans are more likely to encounter the criminal justice system and less likely to receive adequate treatment and diversion treatments. Criminal justice and healthcare reform must adopt a racial justice lens, or it will not address the underlying causes of disparities. Alternatives to local police for people experiencing a mental health crisis are essential to preventing a different system based on race. Financial resources and policy need to address equitable outcomes.

***Troy Vaughn***, Co-Founder, and Executive Director, Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP)

[Steps Forward for Racial Justice-Statement from Mayor E. Garcetti](#)

Mr. Vaughn's [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Key factors that have allowed racial inequities to become built into the system, aimed at disenfranchising people of color in the United States and creating a second system of slavery through mass incarceration. Going over the history of racism in the United States beginning with Reconstruction. War on drugs arises in the wake of the Civil Rights Movements, police militarization and mass incarcerations follow in the 80s and 90s. At the same time, mental illness rises while there is a 35% decline in mental health treatment in the nation's prisons. Key factors are historically oppressive systems and the disadvantages and mistrust this has created across generations. Continual impact on mindsets, acknowledging structural inequality, and rethinking societal issues moving forward. Incorporation of lived experience, alternatives to incarceration, and compassionate treatment of underlying health issues. Community solutions to promote health equality and addressing the social determinants of health for returning citizens. Incorporating lived experience because the closeness to the problems provides unique insights in creating solutions. Methods for utilizing the momentum behind creating meaningful change.

**V. 3:20 PM Q&A Discussion with Council Members**

Tracey Whitney: commenting on the power and importance of lived experience incorporation, Stephanie Welch discusses the legislative efforts and changes and actions moving forward.

Hon. Stephen Manley: discussing the court's role as we move forward with dramatically lower incarceration rates. By design in-reach programs connect clients with needed services and supports as a means of preventing recidivism. Finding ways to avoid going back to a system where we keep everyone in jail.

Tony Hobson: In the past, the involvement of individuals with experience in his county's programs was incredibly constructive.

Mack Jenkins: Asserts that the efforts to understand and correct systemic inequalities began before the COVID-19 pandemic and would be proceeding whether there was a pandemic or not. Feels that

much of the change in focus gets lost in the pandemic dialogue states that he continually supports the efforts and agrees that COVID is an opportunity. However, it is not the catalyst for change.

Danitza Pantoja: commenting on the efficacy of the presentations in understanding how systemic biases can create health outcomes.

Troy Vaughn: How civil rights perpetuate the rights of other groups. How the system protects bad elements within the law enforcement community and the opportunity COVID provides in seeing the system a different way.

**\*\*\*\*\*PUBLIC COMMENT\*\*\*\*\***

Poshi Walker: Cal-Voices and Out for Mental Health Project. Efforts to reform and dismantle parts of the prison system are a marathon

Daniel Silva, Self-Awareness and Recovery Project: The need is for meaningful change to fix the system. Youth diversion programs to try and keep people from entering the system in the first place.

Liz Krobath: Sees COVID spread as an embodiment of structural racism.

**VI. 4:00 PM CCJBH Business Meeting**

*Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*

1. [Workgroup Discussion-](#) Workgroup purpose is to create factsheets, policy recommendations, and the incorporation of partner input as subject matter experts. Recommends incorporating a formal workgroup in order to produce more products and move more nimbly. Reentry and Reintegration, Prevention and Diversion, and Juvenile Justice workgroups are planned to start in July and produce a product for the Annual legislative Report. Asks member to consider which groups they would like to work on. Judge Manley and Mack Jenkins would like to be on the panel for Reentry and Reintegration and Prevention and Diversion.
2. **Summary of the FY 2020-21 Budget Outcomes:** Maintenance, reductions, and elimination of spending on programs. The budget was not finalized at this point.

**VII. 4:20 PM Announcements**

1. [LAO- Impact of Recent Changes Impacting Sentencing](#)

Tyler Rinde, SB 665 Update: Would allow MHSA funds to provide services to incarcerated persons, those under supervision, and for discharge planning.

**VIII. 4:25 PM Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda (all Participants)**

- Q: for Troy Vaughn about how to use the momentum available in the wake of recent protests and calls for justice.
- ✓ A: Post-release services. Project RoomKey resources that can be better utilized, and the mobilization of community advocacy. Getting resources out to the community fast and not allow them to be curtailed prematurely. Remembering that efforts need to be made to utilize all of the resources that the system already offers.
- Vocalizing Appreciation for the relevant panelists, timely presentations, and ongoing work of staff. Also wanted to spotlight the California Reducing Disparities Project for its use of community-defined practices.

Stephanie Welch introducing Elizabeth Vice to the council and explaining her role in the organization.

**IX. 4:30 PM Adjourn**





*Building bridges to prevent incarceration*

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Questions and/or requests for additional information prior to the CCJBH meeting may be referred to Marie Villalba at (916) 990-6788 or [marie.villalba@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:marie.villalba@cdcr.ca.gov). To view this agenda online, visit our web site at: <https://sites.cdcr.ca.gov/ccjbh/>