

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL REVIEW COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

December 15, 2021

9:00 A.M., SHR 1

This meeting will be held via teleconference software.

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2021121017>

Members Present:

Senator Nancy Barto, Co-Chair

Senator Rebecca Rios

Dr. Aaron Bowen

Deborah Geesling

Josh Mozell

Representative Kelli Butler

Dr. Carol Olson*

Jami Snyder

*Participated remotely via a teleconference platform.

Members Excused:

Representative Beverly Pingerelli, Co-Chair

Judge Lisa Vandenberg

Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst

Ahjahna Graham, House Research Analyst

Co-Chair Barto called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and attendance was noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes would take place at the next meeting.

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Barto offered opening remarks.

Josh Mozell distributed and explained a document entitled "Treatment & Housing Continuum" (Attachment A).

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst, electronically distributed and explained a document entitled "2021 Psychiatric Hospital Review Council Draft Recommendations-12-15-21" (Attachment B).

The Council discussed the draft recommendations.

Jami Snyder offered a recommendation that would request a waiver from the institution for mental disease (IMD) exclusion from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid as soon as possible.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Snyder.

Dr. Aaron Bowen offered comments in response to the draft recommendations relating to the Arizona State Hospital (ASH).

Dr. Bowen offered a recommendation that would define and formalize new admissions criteria to the civil hospital.

The Council discussed the recommendation proposed by member Dr. Bowen and determined its inclusion was not necessary.

Dr. Bowen answered questions posed by the Council.

Dr. Bowen offered a recommendation that would require a Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) or another agency to establish an annual report of the number of patients denied admission to ASH over the past five years because of a secondary diagnosis.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Dr. Bowen.

Dr. Bowen offered a recommendation that would clarify funding streams for ASH and the funding needed to staff all available beds and evaluate the need for additional clinical staff to address diagnoses.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Dr. Bowen.

Senator Rios offered a recommendation that would require the RBHA, rather than the ASH, to determine how many inpatient psychiatric beds are needed in Arizona.

The Council discussed the recommendation proposed by Senator Rios and determined its inclusion was not necessary.

Jami Snyder offered a recommendation that would require the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to provide a summary of the existing provider network, detailing the number of settings, beds and the services available in each of those settings.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Snyder.
Dr. Cara Olson offered a recommendation that would require RBHAs to provide data on reasons for early discharges from hospitals and RBHAs.

The Council discussed the recommendation proposed by Dr. Olson and determined its inclusion was not necessary as it is previously covered in another draft recommendation.

Josh Mozell offered a recommendation that would require RBHAs to review needs demographics, service provisions, and outcomes of those patients who have been denied admission to the ASH in the previous year.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Mozell.

Representative Butler offered a recommendation that would require a deeper analysis of the mental health services provided in the jail and prison systems.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by Representative Butler.

Representative Butler offered a recommendation that would include experiences of success in the current mental health system, including supporting housing and peer support.

The Council discussed, added intent, and accepted the recommendation proposed by Representative Butler.

Dr. Olson offered a recommendation on housing issues and individuals leaving or discharged from care.

Josh Mozell and Jamie Snyder added additional language to the recommendation proposed by member Dr. Olson.

The Council discussed and accepted the proposed recommendation.

Senator Barto requested a motion on the committee recommendations.

Representative Butler moved that the committee adopt the draft committee recommendations as amended (Attachment C). The motion CARRIED by a voice vote.

After the announcement of the vote, Dr. Aaron Bowen stated as an agency, DHS won't take a position or vote on these recommendations so he would vote present. Jami Snyder stated she would vote present as well.

Senator Barto gave clarification on the type of vote and requested a roll call vote.

Representative Butler seconded the motion.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-0-2-2. (Attachment 1)

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR 2022

The Council discussed potential topics for future meetings in 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Vazquez
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)