

**Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee
December 10, 2015 Meeting Summary
California Department of Aging
1300 National Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, California**

Members Present:

Howard Rosen, Chair
Lou Bordisso
Debra Cherry
Bill Fisher
Josie Porrás-Corporon
Debbie Toth
Janet Yang

Members Absent:

Monica Bush
Wanda Chin
Sharon Trocki-Miller

Staff Present:

Rohish Lal, California Health and Human Services Agency
Marko Mijic, California Health and Human Services Agency
Frances Parker, California Health and Human Services Agency

Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Committee Member Updates

Chair Howard Rosen called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Each attendee introduced themselves. Committee members provided updates on various topics.

Item 2. Approval of June 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Committee adopted, without edits, the meeting minutes from the December 10, 2016 meeting.

Item 3. Discussion: Legislative Update from Alzheimer's Association

Susan DeMarois of the Alzheimer's Association provided a brief update of the status of the Alzheimer's Association priority legislation, and Committee members discussed the legislation. Ms. DeMarois highlighted two bills sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and discussed other high-priority bills. The first, Senate Bill 613 (Allen, D-Santa Monica), would require CDPH to convene a workgroup to update the Guidelines for Alzheimer's Disease Management and report the recommendations of the workgroup to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2017. The second, Assembly Bill 1526 (Brown, D-San Bernardino), would require CDPH to include the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Caregiver Module in the annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey.

Item 4. Discussion: Medi-Cal Mental Health Programs and Services

Brenda Grealish, Assistant Deputy Director of the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Division at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), presented on the Division's role in the delivery of public mental health services. Ms. Grealish provided background and noted that prior to the Affordable Care Act, mental health services in California were primarily carved-out and provided through county Mental Health Plans under the California 1915 (b) Specialty Mental Health Services Waiver. In 2013, California adopted an optional benefit expansion, which expanded services available to beneficiaries in their local Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan. In 2014, eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries began to receive mental health benefits through Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans. These services continue to be offered as fee-for-service benefits for eligible beneficiaries that are not enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans.

Item 5. Lunch Discussion: Implementation of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act in California

Mary Watanabe, Deputy Director for Health Policy and Stakeholder Relations, and Liz Spring, Attorney in the Office of Plan Licensing at the California Department of Managed Health Care, provided the Committee with an overview of the roles and functions of the Department as it relates to the commercial market. Ms. Spring provided the Committee with an overview of Departmental efforts to ensure parity in health coverage for mental health and substance use disorders. Ms. Spring also discussed the federal Mental Health Parity and Abdication Equity Act (MHPAEA) and the Department's role in the implementation of the law. The Department's oversight of mental health parity is specific to the commercial market and focused on products sold by Health Maintenance Organizations and Preferred Provider Organizations to individuals, small groups, and large groups. The Department's oversight does not include Medi-Cal or Medicare. The Department is in the process of conducting a MHPAEA compliance review of the participating commercial health plans and will complete an onsite survey in 2016, which will look to ensure that plans are charging correct cost-sharing and are not distributing to enrollees inaccurate information about mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

Item 6. Discussion: Role and Purpose of the California Mental Health Planning Council

Jane Adock, Executive Officer of the California Mental Health Planning Council gave a presentation on the role and purpose of the Council. Ms. Adock provided an overview of the federal and state mandates that govern the functions of the Council and outlined areas of focus, which includes programs that prevent individuals from having to be institutionalized; programs that divert individuals from locked facilities; and programs that re-integrate individuals into the community. The Council is working toward developing a mental health system that makes it possible for individuals to lead full and productive lives, while incorporating public and private resources to offer community-based services that embrace recovery and wellness.

Item 9. Action: Items to include in Chair's Memo to the Secretary

Chair Howard Rosen identified items to include in his memo to the Secretary by recapping the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.