
AGENDA ITEM 3A

Information

October 22, 2015 Commission Meeting

Improving Crisis Services for California's Children and Youth— Panel Presentations

Summary: In support of the ongoing effort to improve crisis services for California's children and youth, a number of individuals have been invited to share their personal experiences and expertise with Commissioners. Panels including crisis service providers, state and local government representatives, and subject matter experts, will provide foundational knowledge and discuss existing barriers, challenges and potential opportunities for improving crisis services for children and youth throughout the state. Each panel will be followed by a roundtable discussion between presenters and Commissioners to further explore key issues and ideas.

The panel presentations are intended to build on the larger work of the Commission to gain an increased understanding of the challenges faced by individuals, families and communities in accessing crisis services in a way that emphasizes resiliency and recovery, reduces trauma frequently associated with mental health crises, and supports the use of the least restrictive alternatives possible while at the same time supporting the safety of individuals and the communities in which they live.

These presentations, in combination with scheduled site visits and the contributions of a crisis services advisory workgroup, are intended to inform policy recommendations for consideration by the Commission in early 2016.

Presenters:

Panel 1: Setting the Agenda—Crisis Service Providers

Crisis service providers will discuss the challenges and importance of delivering effective mental health crisis services for children and youth.

- Lyn Morris, MFT, Senior Vice-President, Clinical Operations, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
- David Ketelar, MD, Emergency Medicine, Dignity Health
- Sarah Adams, LCSW, Program Manager, Casa Pacifica, Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY)

Panel 2: Why Solve the Problem?— State and Local Government Representatives

Panel members will address the challenges and opportunities of providing effective crisis services to children and youth throughout California.

- The Honorable Das Williams, California State Assembly Member, 37th District
- The Honorable Janet Wolf, President, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Steve Bennett, Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Suzanne Grimmese, MFT, Chief Strategy Officer, Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

Panel 3: How Can We Solve This?—State and Local Leaders in Crisis Services for Children and Youth

Panel members will discuss exemplary mental health crisis programs and service delivery models for children and youth.

- Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Ph.D., Department of Mental Health, County of Los Angeles
- Jody Kussin, Ph.D., Director of Community Programs, Casa Pacifica Center for Children & Families
- Rusty Selix, Executive Director, California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies