

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL REVIEW COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting

December 10, 2021

1:00 P.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=2021121012>

Members Present:

Senator Nancy Barto, Co-Chair

Senator Rebecca Rios

Dr. Aaron Bowen

Deborah Geesling

Josh Mozell

Representative Beverly Pingerelli, Co-Chair*

Representative Kelli Butler

Dr. Carol Olson*

Jami Snyder

Judge Lisa VandenBerg

*Participated remotely via a teleconference platform.

Staff:

Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst

Rachel Caldwell, Senate Research Analyst

Ahjahna Graham, House Research Analyst

Co-Chair Barto called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and attendance was noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Barto stated that without objection, the Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Council minutes of November 10, 2021 were approved as distributed.

WELCOME

Senator Barto offered opening comments and welcomed the Council.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION FROM PREVIOUS HEARING

Dr. Aaron Bowen, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona State Hospital (ASH), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona State Hospital- Denials & Discharges" (Attachment A).

Dr. Bowen answered questions posed by the Council.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System - SMI Demographics, Costs, 2015 SMI Report Update - Jami Snyder, Director

Jami Snyder, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Committee" (Attachment B).

The Council discussed the information received.

Director Snyder answered questions posed by the Council.

Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry - High Needs Populations - Karen Hellman, Division Director of Inmate Programs and Reentry

Karen Hellman, Division Director of Inmate Programs and Reentry, Arizona Department of Corrections, introduced Bobbie Pennington Stallcup and provided an overview of the presentation.

Bobbie Pennington Stallcup, Mental Health Program Director, Arizona Department of Corrections, explained data related to inmate population with serious mental illness (SMI).

The Council discussed the information received.

Ms. Pennington Stallcup answered questions posed by the Council.

Mercy Care Data Overview: High Risk Members and Arizona State Hospital – Blythe Fitzharris, Ph.D., LCSW and Gagan Singh, MD

Dr. Blythe Fitzharris, Chief Clinical Officer, Mercy Care and **Dr. Gagan Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Care**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Mercy Care Data Overview: High Risk Members and Arizona State Hospital" (Attachment C).

The Council discussed the information received.

Dr. Fitzharris and Dr. Singh answered questions posed by the Council.

Behavioral Care in Long Term Care – Dave Voepel, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Health Care Association

Dave Voepel, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Health Care Association, discussed behavioral programs and care for long-term patients in skilled nursing facilities.

The Council discussed the information received.

Mr. Voepel answered questions posed by the Council.

Kathleen Collins Pagels, representing self, answered questions posed by the Council in response to Mr. Voepel's presentation.

Presentation by Karen Van Epps, Chair, Division of Developmental Disabilities District Central Independent Oversight Committee

No presentation took place due to the limited remaining time.

FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Deborah Geesling shared her son's experience with SMI and explained the challenges she faced in seeking treatment for her son.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony took place.

NEXT STEPS

Senator Barto announced that the committee recommendations would be adopted at the next meeting.

Attached is a form noting the individual who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment D).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.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>)