

## Mental Health Commission

State law requires that each county have a Mental Health Board or Commission. Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for three-year terms. Those terms may be extended. Commissioners advise the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Mental Health on various aspects of local mental health programs.

The role of the commission is established in the Welfare and Institutions Code, under 5604.2:

- Review and evaluate the community’s mental health needs, services, facilities, and special programs.
- Review any county agreements entered into pursuant to Section 5650 W.I.C.
- Advise the Board of Supervisors and the local mental health director regarding any aspects of the local mental health programs.
- Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the needs and performance of the county’s mental health system.
- Review and make recommendations on applicants for the appointment of the local director of mental health services. The Commission shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the governing body.
- Review and comment on the county’s performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the State Mental Health Planning Council.
- Assess the impact of the realignment of services from the state to the county on services delivered to clients and on the local community.

The Board of Supervisors may transfer additional duties or authority to a mental health board or commission.

## Membership

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission consists of sixteen members. By law, one member of the Commission must be a member of the Board of Supervisors. Section 5604 W.I.C. sets very specific membership requirements. Fifty percent of the Commission membership shall be consumers or the parents, spouse, sibling, or adult children of consumers, who are receiving or have received mental health services. Consumers constitute at least 20% of the total membership. Families of consumers constitute at least 20% of the membership.

The law also establishes special requirements on ethnic diversity and conflict of interest. Commission membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county and the demographics of the county as a whole, to the extent feasible.

The special requirement in relation to conflict of interest is that “No member of the Commission or his or her spouse shall be a full-time or part-time county employee of a county mental health service, an employee of the State Department of Mental Health, or an employee of, or a paid member of the governing body of a Bronzen-McCorquodale contract agency.”

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Mental Health Commission, contact your Board of Supervisors representative.

First District  
Hilda L. Solis (213) 974-4111

Second District  
Mark Ridley-Thomas (213) 974-2222

Third District  
Sheila Kuehl (213) 974-3333

Fourth District  
Janice Hahn (213) 974-4444

Fifth District  
Kathryn Barger (213) 974-5555

## Committees/Advisory Groups

- Intregation Advisory Board Meeting (IAB)
- DMH Assisted Outpatient Treatment Committee (Laura’s Law)
- DMH System Leadership Committee (SLT)
- DMH New Employee Orientation (NEO)
- MH Commission & Service Area Advisory Committee (SAAC)
- California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions (CALBHB/C)

## Public Meeting Information

The Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, January through October, and the third Thursday in November and December. Meetings are held from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Most meetings are held in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. For Commission minutes or other information, please call the Commission at (213) 738-4772. The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month from 10 am to Noon. The chair may change the date and time of the Executive Committee.

## 2017 Meeting Dates

MHC/SAAC Co-Chairs	Executive Committee	Full Commission
January 10	January 12	January 26
February 14	February 9	February 23
March 14	March 9	March 23
April 11	April 13	April 27
May 9	May 11	May 25
June 13	June 8	June 22
July 11	July 13	July 27
August 8	August 10	*August (Dark)
September 12	September 14	September 28
October 10	October 12	October 26
November 14	November 2	November 16
December 12	December 7	December 14

\*The full Commission does not meet in August unless there is an emergency.

## Mission, Vision & Values

### Vision

All Los Angeles County individuals, families, and communities have access to effective mental health care.

### Mission

- To advise the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Department of Mental Health Director on issues impacting the County mental health system.
- To review and approve the procedures used to ensure community and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process.

### Values

#### Accountability for Care

We believe services and programs should be held to high quality standards and result in effective care and positive outcomes.

#### Access to Person Centered Care

We believe treatment should be easily accessed, in a welcoming and respectful environment, and tailored to meet differences in individual need. The individual should be a partner in their treatment process.

#### Comprehensive Care

We believe in the systematic coordination of health care that addresses mental health, substance abuse and primary care services to ensure the best outcomes for those with multiple healthcare needs. Comprehensive care should also address stigma and structural barriers to individuals in obtaining education, employment, secure housing and other needed services.

#### Trauma Informed Care

We believe the organization and treatment framework should involve understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma, not just on the individual seeking treatment but to the family and community.

#### Community Responsive Care

We believe in recognizing individual and systematic bias and responding to issues that lead to disparities in either allocation of resources or poor outcomes for specific communities or sub-populations. Cultural customs, practices or rituals that can positively impact treatment outcomes should be identified and incorporated, where possible.

## Board of Supervisor Designation

### COMMISSIONERS BY SUPERVISORY DISTRICT

Hilda L. Solis  
First District

Lawrence J. Lue  
Cynthia Sanchez, CEO  
Susan F. Friedman

Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Second District

Herman L. DeBose, PhD  
Jo Helen Graham, MA  
Kita S. Curry, PhD

Sheila Kuehl  
Third District

Merilla McCurry-Scott, PhD  
Caroline Kelly, JD  
Vacant

Janice Hahn  
Fourth District

Tiombe Wallace  
Jeannine Pearce  
Patrick Ogawa

Kathryn Barger  
Fifth District

Judy A. Cooperberg, MS, CPRP  
Vacant  
Vacant

Fifth District  
Board Representative

Connie Salgado-Sanchez  
Health Deputy

The Mental Health Commission is committed to supporting the Department of Mental Health vision:

**"Partnering with clients, families and communities to create "hope ~ recovery ~ wellbeing"**

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## County of Los Angeles



## Mental Health

## Commission

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Los Angeles, CA 90020

Telephone: (213) 738-4772  
Fax: (213) 738-2120

Caroline Kelly, JD  
Chair

Lawrence J. Lue  
Vice Chair

Vacant  
Secretary

Terry G. Lewis, MS, PPS  
Executive Assistant

Established October 7, 1957

Webpage ~ [www.dmh.lacounty.info/mhc/](http://www.dmh.lacounty.info/mhc/)