

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
 Thursday, May 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes  
 Merilla M. Scott, Chair, Facilitating  
**APPROVED – July 25, 2019**  
**MSC: Ledesma/Friedman - 3 abstentions**

## DISCUSSION

### Call to Order by Commissioner Scott

#### Welcome and Introductions

**A. Welcome New Commissioner – D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto**

Dr. Padilla-Frausto, Researcher at the UCLA Health Policy Research Center. Brings 30 years of experience as a sibling of a consumer, a parent of a consumer, grandmother of a consumer, and herself a consumer.

**B. Introduction of OCFA (Office of Consumer and Family Affairs) Staff**

**C. Roll Call: Pinki Mehta**

**Absent Excused:** Commissioners Murata-Shih, Stevens, Turner, and Weissman

**D. Public Access to Supporting Documents** - Staff developed a process for public to sign up to obtain copies of meeting handouts and resources.

### Department of Mental Health Report – Curley Bonds, II, Chief Deputy Director, Clinical Operations

Dr. Bonds reported the following:

**We Rise** – ongoing through the Memorial Day Weekend. Three leading mental health reform advocates Mia St. John, Mädchen Amick and Muriel Hemingway addressed serious mental illness concerns in a challenging and important conversation.

**Service Area Visits –completed all 8 SAs during months of April & May**

1. Staffing Patterns – some clinics are understaffed seriously compared to peers. We anticipate adding more clinical and administrative positions to those most affected because of final changes to the DMH budget, submitted earlier this month.
2. Facilities – several are in need of more space or repairs
  - a. HR will be moving from San Pedro to City of Commerce – this will make room for HOME outreach teams
  - b. Safety for staff– looking at increasing security, increase parking spots

**Outpatient Division Issues**

1. We are posting a position for County-wide Deputy – will be in charge of working with those who are unengaged: HOME, HST (Homeless Services Teams), AOT and Veteran's Programs
2. Mobile TMS (Transcranial Management Stabilization) program now has been established, leadership of Mr. Marc Heiser, MHSA funded program

**DMH Internal Structure Issues**

1. With retirement of Mary Marx we are going through transitions
2. Now under leadership of Dr. David Ruskin, Chief of Psychiatry
3. Mercer Report draft is being reviewed

**Public Guardian's Office**

1. Working toward reclassification of positions and posting positions
2. Closely monitoring SB 1045 housing conservation bill – it required a serious mental illness, SUD (substance use disorder) and experienced homelessness.
3. The impact DMH decided would be small, because it would apply to fewer than 30 people in LA County, but they would be amongst our highest users

**Justice Involved Division**

1. Will be posting a position to oversee Justice Involved, Chief of Psychiatrist, Specialty
2. Working with courts to implement AB 1810 – plan is to have a hub at Clara Foltz Shortridge Court House

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Send recent reorganization chart, draft ok for commission (Stevens)  
**PENDING**
- B. Presentation on Psychological Testing – Invite Jorge Partida Del Toro to present information on psych testing (Curry)  
**PENDING**
- C. Provide contract agency and directly operated clinic information on MHC, SAAC Resources (Dalglish) **PENDING**  
**Recommendation to contact Mimi to assist on communication to directly operated clinics and SAAC meetings**

## DISCUSSION

### Physician Recruitment

1. APA (American Psychiatric Association) 2019 Annual Meeting celebrating 175 years of services attended by Dr. Bonds and Dr. David Ruskin.
2. Dr. Christopher Benetiz will be joining us in about a week. To oversee academic programs for residents in training.

**ACTION:** Request copies of final reports with recommendations to maximize hospitalization with beds (Ogawa)

### SAAC Co-Chair Reports

#### SAAC 1 – Jean Harris, Co-Chair

- Gil Blanks, elected as new co-chair
- UsCC presented on ad hoc committees and charters; was very informative
- Board letter for UCC in Antelope Valley will go to Board of Supervisors on June 18. Construction will start with a completion date of October 2020 at the Antelope Valley Regional Center. The plan is to have eight adult and eight adolescent beds.
- There were 284+ hospitalizations in 4 months at a facility with 18 beds in the Antelope Valley. MET recorded the number the highest 5150 in the county.
- Barger intro PEI resources in AV schools particularly the Antelope Valley High is pilot project

#### SAAC 2 – Patricia Russell, Co-Chair

- Dr. David Ruskin, DMH Discipline Chief, Psychiatry, presented at last meeting on all the changes in DMH.
- YourDMH Charter – draft is ready for vote
- Next agenda meeting will focus on no hospital beds in the SCV-AV; meeting will be held in the evening.

#### SAAC 4 – Ricardo Kim

- Thanked SA1 & 2 for sharing what's going on and ideas on town hall planning
- Voting on rules – will have two different charters for voting
- Two co-chairs resigned – moving forward passing out applications for replacements
- Planning town hall in July to start the fiscal year

#### SAAC 7 – Rick Pulido, Co-Chair

- Attended the Town hall in Carson attended by LA County Sheriff Villanova. Promised to attend the SAAC meeting. He handed out resources and staff contacts on homelessness programs
- A urgent care center is needed and shelters in the service area

#### SAAC 8 – Rick Pulido reporting on behalf of Paul Stansbury

- Continue to meet peers prior to monthly SAAC meetings to eventually implement peers from each service area

### Public Comment – Non Agenda Items

1. **Esiquio Reyes** – Came before the board in hopes of forming a collaboration with the Department of Mental Health about a preventive angled approach that can benefit all parties, especially homelessness.
2. **Gilbert LeBlanc** – Policing has increased with the homeless population. Increase drug and treatment centers throughout greater Los Angeles instead of policing.
3. **Eba Laye** – ACES and PEI cultural competency. Evidence based equity absence of PEI programs for African-American population. Innovation programs reach more diversity programs but African-American are the only group that has not funding.
4. **Monesha Parker** – Not getting medication for anxiety and panic attacks. Downtown Mental Health refuse to give my clonazepam 0.5 mg Dr. Kimberly Novak said that Downtown Mental Health does not prescribe my clonazepam 0.5mg. Dr. Paul Sihuk did prescribe my clonazepam 0.5mg of last year at San Fernando Mental Health. LAFH have bed bugs because DMH participant is afraid to come back to LAFH of the bed beds.
5. **Marvin Thompson** – Still unhappy with treatment received in service area 2. Commented on Evy Longa (#3) on African-American disparities.
6. **Mercedes Moreno** – Witness police abuse toward old man who was sleeping in a bus. Too much homelessness near 170 freeway living in a bus.

## DISCUSSION

7. **JoAnn Freedman** – Helping a client living in a shelter dealing with unclear issues. Recommends the CalWORKS and other programs refuse to
8. **Jacob Cohen** – Family affairs post adolescents and love.
9. **Sonya Aadam** – Continue to request LAC review and consider CA-DPH, CRDP, CDEPs for PEI scale and support throughout LAC.
10. **William Legere** – The homeless issue is disgusting. Mayor Garcetti receives \$1m from state funds to develop government and should do something for the tent city.

### Business Discussion/Action Items

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| <p><b>A. MOTION #1 – Approve April Minutes</b><br/> <b>ACTION:</b> April minutes postponed to June. Chair Scott has substantive changes to the draft.</p> | <p><b>ACTION:</b> – April minutes postponed to June<br/> <b>PENDING</b></p> |
|---|---|
- B. Review Action Items**
    1. **ACTION:** Send recent reorganization chart (draft ok) to Commission (Stevens) – **Pending** until the department releases a draft copy of the reorganization chart
    2. **ACTION** – Request AOT contract information (Weissman)-AOT recommendations were reviewed by MHC subsequently forwarded to the board of supervisors and DMH- **Completed**
    3. **ACTION** – Presentation on Psychological Testing (invite Jorge Partida Del Toro for the presentation) (Curry) – **Pending** will contact Dr. Partida Del Toro for presentation or provide information document on testing rules.
    4. **ACTION** – Stakeholder engagement: Ask contract agency and directly operated clinics to post positive information in the waiting rooms and information on SAAC meetings (Dalgleish) - **Still pending**. Contact Mimi McKay and OCFA to arrange providing the SAACs with information
    5. **ACTION** – Keep YourDMH active on the agendas and reports to continue to educate the DMH and the public (Stevens) -**Pending**
  - C. Update: Nomination Committee: No slate presented - 1 nomination submitted for Member-at-Large**  
Commissioners discussed solutions to encourage interest in serving on the Executive Committee:
    - Tremendous support provided by the commission staff
    - Work and personal commitments hinder time to do as much as pressured to do.
    - Continue to work on options and encourage members to serve on the committee in the executive positions
    - Slate will be presented again at June commission meeting**Public Comment – Betty Dandino** complimented Executive Committee for the professionalism and commitment displayed by the current Executive Committee.
  - D. Update: Town Hall Schedule: SA4 - July and SA7 - October.** Developed a town hall guidebook to help coordinate town hall meetings distributed later.
  - E. Update: Ad Hoc Committees**
    - a. Internal Operations**
      - Roles and expectations for commissioners-**completed**
      - Culture redefined-**completed**
      - New structure for meetings-**completed**
      - Annual report-**completed**
      - Internal and external systems and functions for oversight and accountability-**completed**
      - Continue reviewing systems and functions-**ongoing**
    - b. Compliance, Oversight, and Accountability**
      - MHSA standards, evaluations, and trainings-**ongoing**
      - Continue to improve accountability and oversight-**ongoing**
      - Data notebook: waiting for MERCER and RAND report to provide a more robust report-**pending**

## DISCUSSION

- AOT – Implementation recommendations developed. AOT report pending DMH & Board approval-**ongoing**
- Public comment tracking system - **completed**

### c. Relationships & Partnerships

- Annual report – **on track**
- Town hall schedule – July-hosted by SA4, October-hosted by SA7, January-hosted by SA5 (not confirmed)
- Site visit tools ready for MHC approval – **completed**
- Stakeholder engagement-**pending**

More detail on ad hoc completion will be finalized at MHC annual retreat

### F. June 8 Retreat Planning: Agenda items

- Focus on wrapping up ad hoc committee work and completed goals/Review strategic goals
- Plan and set goals for upcoming fiscal year
- Build MHC office protocol

## Commissioner Reports

### Commissioner Ogawa

- Attended SAAC 8 meeting. Paul Sansberry is excellent convening the meeting, a strong community turnout. Panel presentation on substance use and co-occurring disorders from six community-based agency representatives. Kudos to DMH staff pulling the community together getting representation from all facets.
- Concern about cultural sensitivity issues Dr. Bonds spoke about made by SA6 staff during the site visit.  
**ACTION** – Request information on the comments made by staff during site visits by DMH leadership particularly in service area 6 on culturally sensitivity issues.

### Commission Ledesma

- Announced the Sparks are playing on behalf of mental health on June 15.

### Commissioner Friedman

- Attended teen court sessions. Teens also serve as jurors to listen to the kids cases.
- Attended Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention's new beautiful facility

### Commissioner Scott

- Attended WeRISE opening event. It was a real treat to see activities and commitment.

### Commissioner Dagleish

- Invited Dr. Sherin to attend homeless steering committee meeting in Santa Monica. Hopes to see a TRIESTE Village in Santa Monica.
- St. John's Hospital is transforming an 800,000 square feet buildout without beds identified.
- Attended WeRISE event

### Commissioner Curry

- Attended WeRISE event. Powerful artwork and dancing.
- Announcement – Has suicide prevention speakers, presenters, and resources available to come to SAAC meetings, conferences, community events to talk about suicide prevention. Contact Commissioner Curry for information.
- Serves on a National Steering Committee that is proposing a 3-digit number like 911 for suicide prevention help. Will keep Commission posted on updates.

## Meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting** – June 27, 2019 at 11 am - Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739, 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting highlights submitted by Canetana Hurd