

**Mental Health Commission/Service Area 7 Town Hall**  
**October 24, 2019, 6 – 8:30 pm**  
**James A Garfield High School Auditorium**  
**Town Hall - Highlights**

**Welcome and Announcements**

- Rick Pulido and Jaime Gomez, SAAC 7 Co-Chairs
- **MC** – Ashley Flores, SAAC 7 Member, Program Coordinator, Project Return and Jaime Gomez, SAAC 7 Co-Chair

**Prepared Speeches/Poems**

- Speaker participated in-group sessions at Rio Hondo Mental Health Clinic. The experience helped her recover changing negative dialogue to positive words; and shared several poems.
- Schools need mental health education in all systems from kindergarten to 12th grade and training for students, educators, and administrators, Education will increase understanding mental illness.
- Client stated Rio Hondo Mental Health Clinic needs more parking for clients. Clinic consider the lot across the street to increase parking.
- Speaker shared positive experiences as a peer specialist communicating with clients in clinic lobby. Communication is important to recovery.

**Public Comments**

1. Speaker described the homeless situation in the alleys in his community. Cleaning the alleys is a useless situation in his community.
2. Member of the Black Coalition stated SA6 has predominately black residents that want to help are always left out because they are not at the table.
3. Spoke about his family raised in the SA7 community. He has a film company (Honey Boy). The company provides education and entertainment in the film industry to the youth in the community; and prepare kids to enter college in the film industry. The program helps kids in the community to stay busy and interested.
4. Latino community is experiencing mental health stigma. Some places are still asking for legal document papers, which Proposition 63 prohibits asking for this information. Post information on the Proposition 63 policy in communities that need to know.
5. Parent of transgender child spoke about the stigma and abuse experienced early as a youth has since completed college and now employed. Mom request increasing services for special people like transgender in SA7. (Response-Penny Lane in SA 7 provides services for special people.)

6. Wants to understand the complexity with many issues in other communities and cultures in the service area. Wants to collaborate with DMH to find the common ground to work with mental health issues and concerns.
7. Speaker resides in a shelter where many residents abuse opioid. Vivitrol is used in Canada for substance abuse treatment. Can vivitrol be used in shelters here? (Response-vivitrol is used in supportive housing programs. It would be very intricate to bring vivitrol or any drug into the shelters; maybe impossible.)
8. Shared an idea to build a large shelter on Olympic Blvd (ELA) so homeless residents can take showers, speak with counselors, and get coffee and breakfast, and safe housing.
9. All systems should collaborate so that children can be included in the care and treatment for all populations.
10. More training needed for better situations for safe housing. Families can live together if all systems collaborate on services and care needed.
11. DMH programs such as MHSA, peer certification, FSPs, and WeRise are wonderful. Nevertheless, what impression do clients get when they visit the directly operated clinics? Clinics do not have a welcoming environment. Arm guards at the entrance are untrained to assist clients, some clinics have metal detectors and provide search and pat downs. The service model DMH use is from state regulations. Contract renewals are based on the number clients seen and minutes, and pushing prescriptions; no time to ask the condition or progress of clients. (Response-schedule meeting to update the speaker and clarify misrepresentations.)
12. Spoke about son's experience at Kaiser that turned into a success story.
13. Spoke on why the elementary schools in SA7 need mental health services. The SA 7 elementary schools rate first place in suicide. There is a waiting list for 9-11 year old kids to see counselors.
14. Speaker has a food bank in Montebello. They collaborate with the fire department paramedics as first responders. Mental health clinicians should be conservators because they better understand the population and provide independent services.
15. Spoke about daughter receiving services at a Roybal and YMCA. Talked about TAY students who struggle with bullying and suicide. Resources needed in the wellness centers in all schools to eliminate bullying that leads to suicide.
16. Spoke on issues and challenges raising a child who is bipolar and has autism. Parents who experience depression and stress should collaborate and advocate for more support for caretakers.
17. Antelope Valley resident wants to learn more about mental health. Applied for 5<sup>th</sup> District seat on the Commission.

18. Speaker shared recovery from a suicide attempt and dealing with depression. Recommends full time psychiatrists at all levels of education to help reduce stigma.
19. SB 10 failed. What can we do about it? Not enough services for children and undocumented adults are available. Thank you for bringing funding for peers, job training for entry-level positions. Service Area 7 needs job health fairs.
20. The City of South Gate has no services. Residents travel to other cities to seek help. Are there any plans to train or teach the community in South Gate about mental health?