

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
 June 25, 2020  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding  
**APPROVED on September 24, 2020 by unanimous vote**

**DISCUSSION**

**Call to Order**

**Call to order** – Chair, Brittney Weissman

Roll Call – Commission Staff

Present: Commissioners Susan Friedman, Reba Stevens, Stacy Dalglish, Kevin Acebo, Judy Cooperberg, Harold Turner, Mike Molina, Patrick Ogawa, Imelda Padilla-Frausto, Kathy Cooper Ledesma, Luis Orozco, Merilla M. Scott, and Brittney Weissman – **QUORUM PRESENT**

Excused: Commissioner Kita Curry

**Chair Announcements**

**ACTION:** Approval of Minutes for February, April, and May - Slate of minutes approved unanimously by roll call.

Imelda Padilla-Frausto – Yes	Harold Turner – Yes	Merilla McCurry Scott - Absent	Patrick Ogawa - Yes	Brittney Weissman - Yes
Susan Friedman - Unavailable	Kita Curry - Absent	Stacy Dalglish – Yes	Kevin Acebo - Aye	Judy Cooperberg - Yes
Luis Orozco - Yes	Reba Stevens - Yes	Rev. Kathy Cooper Ledesma - Yes	Michael Molina - Aye	

**2020 – 2021 MHC Election** – Chair tabled election for July 23, 2020 meeting.

**Legislative Update**

**Kei Nagao, DMH Legislative Analyst and Keris Myrick, DMH Discipline Chief, Peer Services**

Presenters reported senate and federal government both are making most of their decisions basically through the COVID-19 crisis. Peers have an essential part of the workforce to support people, especially those who are in crisis or distress because of COVID-19. Also, reflected on the bills sponsored by Los Angeles County, SB 803, AB 2025, SB 855, and AB 2112 suicide prevention, AB 1935 Program to study mental health among women vets from California, AB 2118 transgender wellness law and equity fund, AB 2830 Healthcare payment data program. Other bills introduced this year are listed below.

Mental Health Legislative Bills Updated: 6/18/20 - Click link for detailed information on legislative bills -- [available here](#)

**SB 803** Peer Specialist Certification Act of 2020 (Beall)- LA County Sponsored

Status-As of 6/18/2020, SB 803 passed out of Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor

**AB 2025** Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder: Restorative Care Program: Pilot Projects (Gipson)- LA County Sponsored

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2025 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the State awaiting committee referral

**SB 855** Health Coverage Mental Health or Substance Abuse Disorders (Wiener) – LA County Sponsored

Status: As of 6/18/2020. SB 803 passed out of State Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor

## DISCUSSION

**AB 1935:** Veterans: Mental Health (Voepel)

Status: As of 6/15/2020, AB 1935 passed out of the Assembly and has moved to the Senate

**AB 2015:** Certification for Intensive Treatment: Review Hearing (Eggman)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2015 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2037:** Health Facilities: Notices (Wicks)

Status: As of 6/9/2020. AB 2037 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2100** Medi-Cal: Pharmacy Benefits (Wood)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2100 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral

**AB 2112:** Suicide prevention (Ramos)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2112 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the State awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2218:** Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund (Santiago)

Status: As of 6/10/2020, AB 2218 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2265:** Mental Health Services Act: use of funds for substance use disorder treatment (Quirk-Silva)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2265 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2377:** Adult Residential Facilities: Closures and Resident Transfers (Chiu)

Status: As of 6/11/2020. AB 2377 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2576** Mental Health (Gloria)

Status: As of 6/15/2020, AB 2576 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2830** Health Care Payments Data Program (Wood)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2830 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2854** Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California (Committee on Business and Professions)

Status: As of 6/9/2020, AB 2854 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

## DISCUSSION

**AB 2876** Narcotic Treatment: Medication Assisted Treatments (Waldron)

Status: As of 6/11/2020, AB 2876 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

**AB 2983** Pharmacies: Automatic Refills (Holden)

Status: As of 6/15/2020, AB 2983 is in the Assembly Appropriations committee with a scheduled hearing on 6/18/2020

**AB 3242** Mental health: Involuntary Commitment (Irwin)

Status: As of 6/9/2020. AB 3242 passed out of the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate awaiting committee referral.

Questions/Comments: Legislative presenters answered questions and responded to comments.

## Community Chair Reports

### Service Area Leadership Team (SALT) Reports

**SALT 1 – Jean Harris, Co-Chair**

- People are having difficulty connecting to SALT and Commission meetings due to technical issues.
- AOT presented at the last meeting, it was enlightening.
- Request to train SALT Co-Chairs on leadership or MHSA continues, it is very important Co-Chairs are trained.
- Meeting participation is minimal and meeting time has been reduced to one hour.

**SALT 2 – Leticia Munoz, Co-Chair**

- Nancy Rubio host groups via Skype.
- Attended Van Nuys Council meetings to increase knowledge.
- Planning to set up voter registration
- Attended peace protest on choke holds

**SALT 4 – Ezekiel Reyes and Carmen Perez, Co-Chair**

- Our Co-Chairs have been focusing on helping the community and other organizations around us. They host webinar/seminars for those who have lost loved ones, work in hospitals, and talk with people regarding Project Roomkey issues.
- MHSA Planning Process – SALT does not understand the planning process. It is essential that the community understands the important procedure. It has been difficult to explain to members how our meeting impacts the community.

**SALT 5 – Yolanda Becerra, Co-Chair**

- Agree with the comments about the need for training, translation, and, training from SALT 4 update. Training needs to start at beginning of MHSA review process. It is helpful to be prepared as leaders in the community to provide the best information.

### Unservd Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Reports

## DISCUSSION

### Latino UsCC – Bianca Gallegos and Amparo Alstogic, Co-Chairs

- Please translate MHSA plan in Spanish, write report in laymen’s terms or shorter version, and provide training on MHSA. Members would like to participate in the plan review.
- ADA services-meeting is not ADA compliant for Co-Chair to facilitate meetings.

### API UsCC – Mariko Khan, Member

- API UsCC has been creating projects that are intersectional across various API groups such as domestic violence and LGBTQ issues.
- API is concerned how COVID-19 has a cultural impact on the community particularly the attacks on API that are being tracked. Attackers are not distinguishing who we are. They are saying you are API.
- The API Council’s Mental Health Committee is very concerned about the lack of MHSA 3-year plan addressing disparities and cultural competencies. This needs to be addressed.
- API submitted a report to DMH and would like to see more movement on this issue.

### Department of Mental Health Report

#### Impact of COVID-19 on DMH Overall Budget – Greg Polk, Chief Deputy Director reported:

- Revenues are shrinking at all levels of government that impacts Los Angeles County. State level prediction is estimated about \$54 billion shortfall. Federal level shortfall impacts the Department’s realignment at the local level. DMH is taking a \$150 million hit in realignment. DMH has overmatch that is over and above the maintenance effort required in the budget. The overmatch helps DMH ride the storm without any major impacts.
- CEO implemented a hiring freeze on new-hires and hold on promotions. Possibly 650 layoffs which is less than ½%. DMH is reimbursed for COVID-19 activities and will be applying for grants and reimbursement from the federal government.
- To focus on community engagement, the CEO will play a major role in what we do in the future

Questions/Comments – Questions and comments from Commissioners were addressed

**Action** – Would like updates on FEMA reimbursement and SAMHSA grant coming to LA County for the overall budget when it comes to COVID-19 and shortfalls (Molina).

### MHSA 3-Year Plan Presentation

MHSA 3-Year Expenditure Plan and Programs, Greg Polk, Chief Deputy Director, Operations

View presentation – click [available here](#)

**MHSA Public Comments** – Due to technical issues a special meeting will be scheduled specifically for public comments.

**Questions and discussion from Commissioners** – View presentation click [available here](#)

**ACTION:** Schedule a new meeting specific for public comments and the final vote from the Commission on the MHSA plan - TBA.

**ACTION** – Draft letter to Board of Supervisors regarding concerns with MHSA 3-year plan approval.

**DISCUSSION**

**Adjournment @ 2:24 pm**

**Next Meeting – Thursday, July 23, 2020 – Microsoft Teams (Online Virtual) @ 11 am**

**Meeting highlights submitted by Canetana Hurd**