



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Kathleen Austria, Chair, Second District, Presiding

Regular [HYBRID] Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: 510 S Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Virtual: [Meeting Recording](#)

MEETING TYPE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular	<input type="radio"/> Special
MINUTES TYPE:	<input type="radio"/> Proposed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Approved

Approved June 22, 2023 -Motioned made by Commissioner Molina, seconded by Commissioner Weissman.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call/Welcome

MHC Member Attendance:

Commissioner Root (PV), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (P), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (PV), Commissioner Barbour (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalglish (P), Commissioner Banko (A), Commissioner Molina (P), Commissioner Sanabria (A), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), and Kyla Coates (P)- **QUORUM PRESENT**

Absent (A); Absence Excused (AE); Present (P); Present Virtually (PV)

III. Public Comment

a. **Stakeholder Group Reports (3 minutes per report)**

i. Discussion/Announcements

1. SALT 8 – Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair - Back to in-person meetings and celebrating Mental Health Month. Upcoming events: Celebrating Mental Health month on May 31st at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center from 10am to 12pm.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
2. SALT 4 – Pastor Nah – We are hosting our community fair at Los Angeles Community College (LACC), today, May 25th. We have great participation, about 500 people in attendance.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE

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3. SALT 1 – Jean Harris – We have hosted many events in Service Area 1 in celebration of Mental Health Month. SALT membership is expanding. We have new members attending every meeting. Working on creating subcommittees to work on budget, education, providing access to transportation, and set clear goal.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Our community members do not have access to internet to be able to join our hybrid meetings or transportation to attend our meetings in person. One of our budget proposals aims at providing transportation for community members to be able to attend our SALT meetings. Innovation in training first responders is important to assist them when responding to emergencies that may involve someone having a mental health emergency.
 - b. **Requests** – We would like to invite the MHC to come to Antelope Valley (AV) and either join our events or host a town hall one in our area. In addition, we would like the Department to host conferences closer to AV and make these events more accessible to that community.
4. SALT 2 – Barbara Wilson – In addition to hosting several events in our area, we also paused and took the time to acknowledge and address grief and loss.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Lack of public transportation for community members to join our events.
5. SALT 5 – Andria McFersen, Co-Chair – Upcoming events: June 16th, we are hosting our annual Summer Celebration Virginia Avenue Park and on June 17th we have two Juneteenth celebration events. One will be at Calvary Baptist and the other at Virginia Avenue Park.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Lack of funding for community organization to host our event.
6. Cultural Competency Committee (CCC) - Wendy Cabil, Co-Chair – We have had several events in April and May and the opportunity to explore the new MHSA Dashboard. Some events were not as well attended as expected.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
7. Access for all UsCC – Hector Ramirez, Co-Chair – We are excited about the amount of work we are accomplishing. We now have three co-chairs. Most recently, we hosted a meeting which included the Department’s newly appointed Director, Dr. Wong.

Action:The MHC Chair request research on whether the Department continues to provide transportation. In the past, DMH had multiple vans in inventory which provided transportation to events and meetings. Does DMH continue to provide this service?



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b. Members of the public (2 minutes caller)

1. Tony Crews– Representing MBI Health Services in Service Area (SA) 4, an organization providing multiple services (e.g., substance, mental health services). Seeking the opportunity to do a cost-sharing type of approach to provide services in this community.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns – NONE**
2. Hector Ramirez – Consumer in SALT 2 –
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Consider more effort when planning and coordinating community events. The community should not feel like the events the Department hosts in their community are just a photo opportunity.
3. Barbara Wilson – SA 2
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Licensed facilities are continuing to close. There are 27 closures in the first quarter of this year. If we are going to have CARE Court, we will not have enough licensed facilities to care for those clients.

IV. **Old Business (For Action/Discussion)- Carried from 4/27/2023**

a. Approval of minutes:

- i. February 23, 2023
- ii. March 23, 2023

Discussion/Requests: For the February 23, 2023, minutes, Commissioner Dalglish requests a follow-up from the Department to Richard Hilton’s request to have an independent audit of SA 5 Budget.

Action Requested: Motion to approve minutes as submitted.

Motion: Commissioner Dalglish moved to approve

Support: Commissioner Root seconds

Ayes: 10 Nays: Abstained: 2 (Commissioner Weissman and Kyla Coates)

V. **New Business (For Action/Discussion)**

a. **Approval of minutes: April 27, 2023**

Discussion/Requests: Commissioner Dalglish and Commissioner Weissman requests to have the minutes produced more efficiently and with consistency rather than the current “transcript” looking format.

Action requested: Motion to approve minutes as submitted.

Motion: Commissioner Dalglish moved to approve

Support: Commissioner Barbour seconded

Ayes: 10 Nays: Abstained: 2 (Commissioner Weissman and Kyla Coates)



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b. Presentation of nominees for the new Executive Committee FY 2023-2024

Discussion: The Nomination Committee presented the following slate:

Chair	1st Vice Chair	2nd Vice Chair	At Large (2 positions)
Kathleen Austria Michael Molina	Bennett W. Root, Jr.	Susan Friedman	Open

Issues/Concerns: Commissioners Cooperberg and Stevens expressed concern about the nomination forms. These forms were not sent to the Nomination committee. Please email your nomination form Nomination Committee. In addition, Commissioner Cooperberg requests that Commissioners communicate their intensions or concerns about running directly with the Nomination Committee.

Chair Austria: I would like to have all district representation in the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Dalglish: I am concerned that the presented slate is “too white” and asks that this be noted and taken into consideration.

c. Bylaws Amendment – Tabled to June 22, 2023, MHC Regular Meeting

VI. Other Business/Presentations

a. California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) –

Presenter: Theresa Comstock. Click [here](#) to access presentation slides. Additional training materials can be accessed at <https://www.calbhbc.org/training.html>

Key Points:

- [Commissions/Boards Best Practices](#)
- [Membership Guide](#)
- [Duties of the Commission](#)
- [MHC Meetings – In person attendance](#)
- MHSAs: 3 Year Plans, Annual Updates, Innovations Plans - [Role of MHC](#)
- CALBHB/C will be providing trainings to stakeholder groups (e.g., CCC, UsCCs).

Discussion: Related to the performance outcome compilation by County information.

Chair Austria wonders if the data identifies existing performance gaps in LA County. Can a Commissioner Chair a SALT?

Commissioner Padilla-Frausto wonders what is meant by performance outcome and asks if needs assessment information is or can be incorporated to the performance outcome data. It is important to have both, needs assessments and performance outcomes data compilations to better assess gaps. It is important to broaden what we mean by performance outcome.

Commissioner Barbour: Where is these data accessible? With the WIC Code, if there is an infringement, is there a penalty?

Replies from Presenter Theresa (Presenter)

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- Performance outcome is defined by CALBHB/C as the impact of services on individuals.
- Performance data can be access at <https://www.calbhbc.org/bycounty.html>
- There is no law around a commissioner chairing a SALT group.
- If there is a decision that is made that is done trying to avoid the rules that can negate your decisions as a commission. For the department they get audited by the state and are required to follow rules.

VII. Standing Items

- a. **DMH Update – Dr. Curly Bonds, Chief Medical Officer** – Click [here](#) to access presentation slides.

DISCUSSION: Please review the [DMH Report Back on CARE Court DMH](#)

Chair Austria: I asked for the granular level staffing issues

Commissioner Schallert: Cal/AIM electronic record is supposed to be improved, can you speak to that? **CARE Court** – Are we tracking the bill amendment that relates to gravely disable expansion?

Commissioner Friedman: Is the Department hiring more psychiatrist?

Commissioner Molina: We are missing vacancy data inclusion in the DMH Director’s Updates presentation.

Commissioner Padilla-Frausto: For slide 3, I would like ethnicity and whether we are reducing the gap in the shortage in mental health professionals in our areas.

Please include all the data in one slide rather than separate presentations. We would like a simpler graph presenting these data. In addition, we need more information about CARE Court. We need to know more about the roll out of CARE Court. Is the Department ready and do we have the staffing available to roll it out? We need additional information and briefings about CARE Court.

Dr. Bonds: About improving Cal/AIM electronic record -Taking out redundant fields and bill at a level of care that includes several services. **Regarding CARE Court**, we are only providing information and as a department we must remain neutral. I will take **About hiring more psychiatrists**, we are trying to promote all the incentives available to new hires (e.g., loan forgiveness relocation and sign-on bonus have been restored) and hope that this will attract more people to work for us. For the comment about reducing the gap of mental health professionals in specific areas, there is something called the health profession shortage loan program and we could offer it. This program designates which areas the health professional must work in to qualify for loan repayment.

Kimberly Nall: We will include all new staffing data and vacancies on one document.

- b. **DMH Legislative Update – Elan Shultz, Director of Policy and Strategy** – To access and download report and presentation:

- Legislative Report, click [HERE](#)
- Legislative Update Presentation, click [HERE](#).

Discussion:

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Key issues for the Commission to keep an eye on: SB 43 Gravely Disabled (Eggman) as amended on April 27, 2023, and the Governor’s MHSA reform proposal. The Department’s position is pending.

Chair Austria: Cuts will be devastating

Commissioner Schallert: Will SB 43 give specific direction as to whether the client will have to be hospitalized? If it doesn’t, there will be a lot of confusion. On SB 11, the requirement asking the CSU systems to have one full time mental health counselor for every 1500 students is great. However, we should ask for the same requirement for California Community Colleges.

Commissioner Dagleish: For the MHC to vote on a position and provide recommendations to DMH and the Board, we information about the Department’s position.

Commissioner Weissman: What is the timetable for the Department to change position on these bills form watch to something else?

Elan Schultz: There is no specific timeline. We are trying to figure out what we want to do and how we can be involved.

c. **DMH Finance Report – Kimberly Nall –** To access and download reports:

- MHC Budget, click [HERE](#).
- DMH Leave Report, click [HERE](#).
- DMH Budgeted Vacancy, click [HERE](#).
- DMH Unspent Funds, click [HERE](#).

Acronyms:

OTT: Outreach and Triage Teams

COTT: Children Outreach and Triage Teams

DISCUSSION:

Kimberly Nall: We understand that the Commission would like to have the information presented here compiled on one document and included in the DMH Updates. How often does the Commission want to have these reports?

Chair Austria: We will have a discussion with the Executive Committee and let DMH Finance know how often we would prefer to have the reports. What about the MHSA Reserves tap into these reserves?

Commissioner Barbour: How are the MHSA Reserves?

Kimberly Nall: We have the required amount in reserves which is 116.5 million. We can share about our reserves spending plan in June.

Commissioner Cooperberg: We have been and continue to want to see the data on unmet needs so that we can see side by side where there are by service area, continuum of care and where those services exists so that we can see side by side where those gaps are. Data on unmet needs

Commissioner Padilla-Frausto: Working with Kalene on these unmet needs data

VIII. **Adjournment** - Time: 1:59 p.m.

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