

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 THURSDAY, April 23, 2015
 MEETING MINUTES
 DR. LARRY GASCO, CHAIRPERSON, FACILITATING

APPROVED – May 28, 2015

Presenter	Discussion	Recommendation/Action/Motion
Dr. Larry Gasco Chairman’s Report	Call to Order and Roll Call Motion to Approve the March 26, 2015 minutes	Absent Excused: Barry Perrou Absent: Fred Leaf Motion to Approve the Minutes of March 26, 2015 Minutes approved unanimously with one abstention
	<p>Introductions and Welcome</p> <p>Chairman Gasco recognized Second District Deputy, Sylvia Drew-Ivie, and Evelina Villa, Executive Director, Public Health Commission.</p> <p>Welcome New Commissioner</p> <p>Chairman welcomed Commissioner Merilla McCurry-Scott, PhD, appointed by Supervisor Shelia Kuehl. Dr. Scott shared that she is interested in non-profit community mental health, mental health and substance abuse, mental health and primary care, and look forward to contributing and working with the Mental Health Commission.</p>	
Bruce Saltzer Executive Director, Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA)	<p>Mr. Saltzer spoke briefly about ACHSA. ACHSA oversees 85 non-profit agencies from 3 departments in Los Angeles County. Services provided range from child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice.</p> <p>Mr. Saltzer is seeking support from the Commission to join the Los Angeles County Coalition on Healthcare Enhancement (Coalition) to recommend Health Agency Integration consider using an alternate model.</p>	

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	<p>The Coalition recommends the Office of Healthcare Enhancement model as the alternative which is similar to the Office of Child Protection model. The Coalition believes the alternative model will best serve the needs of the clients. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors and DHS Director, Dr. Mitchell Katz adopted the basic principles of the alternative model for the child protection office.</p> <p>From his report, Mr. Saltzer read the 5 reasons why the Coalition recommended an alternative model for the Health Care Integration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rather than focusing on promoting integrated governance, we should be promoting better working relationships among the three departments and their providers at the service level, where the true success or failure of better integrated care actually occurs. 2. When mental health and public health were subsumed under the County Mental Health Department, the result was a complete lack of identity and autonomy –in effect, a second class citizenship. A new health agency model which would allow the agency head to have line or reporting authority over the three department heads would subsume the identities and the autonomy of the three departments under the agency head. 3. Consistent with a loss of identity and autonomy, the voices of mental health and public health would be muted, making it extremely difficult, if not impossible to bring the current level of 	

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	<p>attention to mental health, substance use, public health issues, and consistent concerns.</p> <p>4. Attempts to try to integrate the vastly different DHS, DMH, and DPH cultures and departmental operations we believe ultimately would be futile, on top of the huge investment of time, energy, and resources over many years that would be spent to try to make it happen. That time, we believe, would be better spent focused on improving client services and better integrating care.</p> <p>5. Independent County Departments of Mental Health and Public Health, under the leadership of separate department heads, have done an overall outstanding job of serving their constituents and their communities over the years. This must be allowed to continue.</p>	
	<p>In conclusion, Mr. Saltzer asked the Commission to be included on the Coalition.</p>	<p>ACTION – The Executive Committee will examine the full Coalition document which is 150 pages long. Bruce Saltzer will present full document at Executive Committee for further consideration.</p>
	<p>Chairman Gasco asked Dr. Ghaly to respond to Mr. Saltzer’s presentation:</p> <p>Dr. Ghaly’s comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language in Coalition report is also in the agency report; maybe stated differently. • Encouraging and notable to see a shift in discussion toward what is the best model to address the health-related needs of LA County residents. Each model has pros and cons. • Those who support the agency model see direct supervisory structure as the best way to hold 3 	

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	<p>departments accountable in focusing on health (holistic definition of health).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always happy to modify the report the best way to serve the population with health issues. • Goal of report is to reflect the views of the stakeholder and reflect on health-related needs within LA County. 	
<p>Dr. Rod Shaner DMH Medical Director DMH Report</p>	<p>DMH Update Jail Services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going through a great transition with, AB 109, completion of an investigative report to issue guidelines that address the use of force, and jail mental health staff misuse of time situation. <p>Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approved contract for additional beds, hire additional staff and service; will start May 15, 2015 • Screen 500 Full Service Partnerships (FSP) per year <p>AB 1300 – Introduced by Assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas to present changes in the 5150 detention process. Changes will impact overcrowding and reduce time spent in emergency rooms.</p> <p>Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal Ms. Rajlal gave further detail on both AB 1300 and SB 614</p> <p>AB 1300 (Ridley-Thomas) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes changes to better define 5150 detention <p>SB 614 (Leno) – Peer Support Specialist Certification</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a standard of practice • Legitimizes the role of establishing recognized standards or a proactive code of ethics • Provides peer support employees with a professional voice • Qualifies services for federal financial participation of at least 50%; and, • Allows for portability of certificates from one county to another 	
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Legere – Speaking about the Consolidation • Phyllis Coto – The Federal Transportation Administration wants to double the access fare on vehicles, busses and trains on very low incomes. I have the address of the Complaint Department in Washington DC for those who wish to oppose the new fare increases. This new fare could be devastating • Barbara Wilson – There is a push for the “Chronic Homeless Population.” While this is wonderful, there is a still larger issue of housing in LA County and the many different lifestyles – Mothers with children have not had vouchers since 2008. Effects of sequestration to housing offices, licensed AR7s vs unlicensed unsafe housing and the choice of providers to steer clients to warehousing people vs being homeless • Catherine Clay – I would like to ask or speak on The Women of Reintegration should be able to have input on the new changes taking place inside of our clinic and also the jail 	
Commissioners’ Reports	Tabled	

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SAAC 1 Report	No Report	
SAAC 2 Report Patricia Russell	Last SAAC meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement spoke about evaluation unit • SAAC wants law enforcement to join the membership. • Representatives from North Hollywood Homeless Outreach spoke 	
SAAC 3 Report	No Report	
SAAC 4 Report Roni Maybin	Carol Meyer, Health Agency Integration, attended SAAC meeting and summarized health agency report including a Q & A. SAAC will respond to report in writing and provide a copy to the Commission	
SAAC 5 Report Celinda Jungheim Co-Chair	Dr. Steve Goodwin, Consultant, facilitated a training session on faith based practices at the last meeting; Carol Meyer, Health Agency Integration, also attended. May is Mental Health Month Activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community building using mass mapping 2. Open Meeting with SAAC and Westside Mental Health Network will honor former Commissioner Jerry Lubin at a luncheon in July 3. Update Westside Network Directory 4. Elect new members and possibly add 2 new co-chairs 	
SAAC 6 Report Dorothy Banks Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ghaly will attend the next SAAC meeting. SAAC prepared 17 questions for discussion; will prepare a written response and copy 	

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	Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Michael Katz, DHS Director, will attend next SAAC meeting on May 21 at West Central Mental Health Clinic	
SAAC 8 Report	No Report	
Meeting adjourned	Next Meeting – May 28, 2015 @ 9am – 11:30 pm St. Anne’s Center 155 No. Occidental Street Los Angeles, CA 90026	

Recorded by Canetana Hurd