

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**  
 THURSDAY, May 28, 2015  
 MEETING MINUTES  
 DR. LARRY GASCO, CHAIRPERSON, FACILITATING

**Approved – June 25, 2015**  
**MSC: DeBose/Lue – Abstention: Cooperberg**

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendation/Action/Motion/</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll Call  <b>Absent Excused:</b> Barry Perrou, Jo Helen Graham, Sharon Lyle, Judy Cooperberg, Etelvina De La Torre  <b>Absent:</b> Fred Leaf</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of April 23, 2015 minutes</li> </ul>	<b>Motion to Approve the Minutes of April 23, 2015</b> <b>MSC – DeBose/Sanchez Lue</b>
<b>Dr. Larry Gasco Chairman’s Report</b>	<b>2015 Nomination Committee</b> Commissioner DeBose, Committee Chair  Presented the 2015 Nominations Chairman –Larry Gasco Vice Chair – Herman DeBose Secretary – Songhai Miguda-Armstead Members–at-Large – Lawrence Lue, Victoria Sofro, and Hector Ramirez	<b>Motion made to accept nominations of officers for the 2015/16 Executive Committee</b> <b>MSC – Sofro/Gilberg</b>
	<b>MHC/SAAC Chairs Report – Celinda Jungheim</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy attendance</li> <li>Lengthy discussion on the proposal for an alternative health agency model</li> </ul>	
	<b>2015 Retreat Date</b> A date for the retreat was not agreed due to conflicting event schedules.	<b>Defer discussion for retreat date at Executive Committee in July.</b>

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	<p><b>Executive Committee Report</b> Chairman focused on two items raised at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion was made by Executive Committee to support the alternative model presented by Bruce Saltzer. That vote was unanimous in support of the motion. Some questions were raised on violation of the Brown Act after the meeting in terms of the bylaws. Time does allow for the full commission to review action being taken.</li> <li>• Presentation by El Rescate Agency that provides services to particularly young women that came to this country and sent by their families' endured problems and trauma .Asked for a motion to move on pursuing assisting El Rescate as a Commission project.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Affirm action taken by the Executive Committee to join LA County Coalition for an Office of Healthcare Enhancement  Chairman asked for a motion to affirm action taken by the Executive Committee.  <b>Objections to Action Item Taken Today</b> <b>Post Motion Discussion</b>  <b>Commissioner Armstead Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Since the Commission has been challenged that members of public were not allowed an opportunity to speak on Commission voting, the public should be given the opportunity to speak regardless of which way the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion to approve the action taken by the Executive Committee in supporting the alternative model, the Los Angeles County Coalition for an Office of Healthcare Enhancement response to the March 30, 2015 draft report on the possible creation of a health agency.</b></p> <p><b>MSC – DeBose/Ramirez</b> <b>Oppose – Gilberg</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – Commissioner Gilberg request that we move forward on Commissioner Ramirez's request to the County Counsel for clarification on the Brown Act issue.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION - Reconvene the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to review the bylaws extensively. Commissioners interested in joining the committee email Chairman.</b></p>

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	<p>Commission vote goes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not sure of voting in favor because it's another layer of bureaucracy that we report to.</li> <li>○ The model is not particularly different from the old CEO model where reporting to CEO and then to board of supervisors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Chairman Gasco Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decided not to submit proxy votes submitted by both Commissioners Cooperberg and De La Torre because is not in the bylaws.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hector Ramirez Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have two versions of the Coalition document? Bruce Saltzer stated that the two reports are 99.99% the same with the exception of typos and clarifications.</li> </ul>	
<b>MHC Response to LA Health Agency Implementation</b>	<p>Approve draft letter dated May 27 to the board stating the position of the Commission that is independent of the two models, the Agency and Alternative</p>	<p><b>Motion to approve the Commission letter to the board and move forward to send letter to the board.</b>  <b>MSC – DeBose/Sanchez</b></p> <p><b>Motion to amend letter to remove first paragraph on page two.</b>  <b>MSC - Armstead/Sanchez</b>  <b>Oppose – Lue</b></p>
<b>Mitchell Katz, MD Director. Health Services</b>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p>Discussed the following:</p> <p>What the process has meant for all of us, it started out badly and it's still rocky</p>	

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	<p>Good things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH and DPH joined DHS for meetings with organized labor on how to recognize the importance of customer service. It is important that people smile and offer their help when clients come for services.</li> <li>• DPH has joined DHS as “nodes” in the electronic health records. Allows the ability to read patient’s health and public health issues to determine the patient’s care when they are released from the hospital.</li> <li>• “Measure B” dollars – voter approved initiative that provides money for trauma hospitals</li> <li>• Proposal to board that hospitals that provide psychiatric services be rewarded. Many have stopped providing psychiatric services because it loses money.</li> <li>• Thought about benefits like creating housing for homeless and TAY population</li> <li>• Not pushing a medical model, the focus is to connect people to primary care teams.</li> <li>• More interested in providing physical, mental or substance abuse services.</li> <li>• Focus on what it is the people need in one agency, individual departments cannot effectively address the overall health of the person</li> <li>• If it is to create services in separate departments then the alternative model should separate substance abuse services from health and public health.</li> <li>• An ideal proposal in any of the proposals may not be created but it is important if there is an</li> </ul>	

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	<p>agency the public is reassured the proposal is not about decreasing services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To place fear in consumers' minds is very damaging</li> <li>• The Commission is not beholding to the board and we don't know the future, it would help reduce the fear of service cuts that we think about if this then what.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments on Dr. Katz' presentation</b></p> <p><b>Commissioner Lue –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrees on goals service integration and health care but is concerned about governance.</li> <li>• Wishes board would give more time to discuss both models on the table.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commissioner Gilberg –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's important is delivery of services and the best kind of services for the consumer.</li> <li>• Integration is the best way to go so that mind and body can be treated simultaneous.</li> <li>• Did not vote in favor or the motion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commissioner Scott</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other comments were spot on. The point-of-focus is client/consumer care. I work on ground level providing community services to children and youth. I see the challenges attempting to integrate care.</li> <li>• In spite of the barriers for many years we delivered real quality of care.</li> <li>• What are the shared values? Where are we going? Decide on how we are going to get there first whether it's an agency model or alternative</li> </ul>	

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	<p>model. Too huge of a change or transformation for LA County.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Ramirez</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sees the benefits of health integration but the approach is too fast to develop a healthy relationship. Not good bedside manners. Don't like to be told what to do, so prescriptive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commissioner DeBose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanked Dr. Katz for sharing.</li> <li>Agrees with Dr. Scott's comments that we need to see where we are going.</li> <li>Agrees with Dr. Katz the process got off to a rocky start. Board ordering you and Dr. Ghaly to go forward put both of you in an awkward position with some of the community.</li> <li>Like that Dr. Katz addressed substance abuse which has not been addressed enough.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commissioner Armstead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy should more strategically be spent on inputting safeguards and addressing the board proposal.</li> <li>How do we collaborate to make sure that our voices are heard?</li> <li>How do we make sure services are guaranteed?</li> </ul> <p><b>Saltzer Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would have been different if community stakeholders were involved in developing the plan together, how do we do this, or what do we do with this. This was not the issue. It was a top down proposal that came from Katz to the board. If this is incorrect, I'd like to hear that? <b>Dr. Katz responded-- incorrect.</b></li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not disagreeing that integrated services is needed. The real issue is how we get there, what's the best way. We do not agree that an agency or authority is the best solution to make it happen. An agency is not required for the three department heads to make decisions and collaborate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Audience member</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asked about the \$13 billion missing discovered by MHSOAC.</li> <li>Why did DHS and DMH separate? It is not suggested to put the three departments into one.</li> <li>Would the Commission be in favor of asking the board to give more time?</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION – Invite guest to attend Executive Committee to discuss more of the \$13 billion discovered by MHSOA.</b></p>	
<b>Public Comments</b>	Five requests were submitted to address the Commission	
<b>Marvin J. Southard, DSW Director, Mental Health</b>	<p><b>Dr. Southard discussed three DMH priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovation plan was approved</li> <li>Community efforts are important within our efforts</li> <li>County priorities for next year</li> </ul> <p><b>Jail Diversion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding a way to avoid incarceration is an essential way to move forward with plan</li> <li>Addiction treatment field should be included in plan</li> <li>Funding: post-arrest program, treatment</li> </ul>	

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	<p>alternatives, discharge planning, and community support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement inclusion (SB-82 funds are being used for additional law enforcement/mental health teams)</li> </ul> <p><b>Homelessness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very prevalent in all of Los Angeles County</li> <li>• Mental health is a contributor to the solution, along with addiction treatment and affordable housing</li> </ul> <p><b>TAY (Transition Age Youth)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newest program infrastructure</li> <li>• Intervening successfully at that age provides better long term outcomes</li> <li>• Focus on groups of young people with significant challenges</li> </ul> <p><b>MHSA Support for Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair damage systematically to programs and services from the recession.</li> <li>• Programs and services is the first priority but will not survive if administration is not supported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Commissioners' Report</b>	<p><b>Commissioner Gilberg</b> – Thanked Chairman Gasco for chairing commission meetings and your openness. We may go off and on through bad times but that's part of a family. We have to understand and accept each other and move on. Today was very constructive.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Sofro</b> – Constructive meeting open and comfortable expressing our feelings. Good things will come.</p> <p><b>Commissioner DeBose</b> – Glad we have a full Commission board. Working with Barbara Wilson to bring together housing submit to bring all players to</p>	



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	<p>table to see how to concur this issue.</p> <p><b>Chairman Gasco</b> – Attended the Alcohol and Drug Commission meeting and extended support from the Mental Health Commission</p> <p><b>Commissioner Armstead</b> – Glad we are open and comfortable to have dialogue. Announced that homelessness increased 18%. On Tuesday, the board voted to fund homeless court again. Working to get that rolling out. Court dates will be countywide.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Lue</b> – The past five months were very long and intense. Want to recognize the effort Dr. Ghaly has put forth in preparing the integration report. Also important to recognize and express appreciation as well to the LA County Coalition for coming together in a short amount of time to prepare and submit their alternative proposal, so we can have a true dialogue regarding how best to implement the integration of services for our clients which they need and deserve and that we all desire.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Ramirez</b> – The culture of people with disabilities is underlined by the history that we have never been heard or told not to take seriously. Sees increase that people with disabilities are being heard. Commissioners volunteer because we care. We want to improve things and make things better. The LACCC is fortunate to have autonomy and support to be heard and work together with the other coalitions. Announced several conferences Invite Commissioners to the Hope and Recovery Conference.</p>	
<b>SAAC 1 Report</b>	<b>No Report</b>	
<b>SAAC 2 Report Patricia Russell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speakers from Alternative linkage and Division 50 programs attended</li> </ul>	

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<b>and Barbara Wilson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration – got feedback from</li> <li>Discussion on how to speak and a SAAC and not as individuals</li> <li>Working community barriers with communication to access treatment</li> <li>Metro hearing was hopefully positive to provide a bus from Santa Clarita to the San Fernando Valley</li> </ul>	
<b>SAAC 3 Report</b>	No Report	
<b>SAAC 4 Report</b>	No Report	
<b>SAAC 5 Report Celinda Jungheim Co-Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset based and Health Neighborhood training at last meeting</li> <li>Open Meeting with SAAC and Westside Mental Health Network will honor former Commissioner Jerry Lubin at a luncheon in July</li> <li>Update Westside Network Directory continues</li> <li>Changes in both SAAC and Westside Leadership in July.</li> </ul>	
<b>SAAC 6 Report</b>	No Report	
<b>SAAC 8 Report</b>	No Report	
<b>LACCC Betty Dandino</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Announced upcoming conferences</li> <li>Taking nominations in June for new officers</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting adjourned</b>	<b>Next Meeting –</b> <b>June 25, 2015 @ 11 am – 1 pm</b> <b>Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration</b> <b>500 West Temple Street – Room 739</b> <b>Los Angeles, CA 90012</b>	