

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 THURSDAY, December 17, 2015
 MEETING MINUTES
 DR. LARRY GASCO, CHAIRPERSON, FACILITATING

APPROVED – January 28, 2016
MSC: De La Torre/DeBose/Unanimous

Presenter	Discussion	Recommendation/Action/Motion/
Call to Order by Chairman Gasco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call – Canetana Hurd Absent Excused: Victoria Sofro, Sharon Lyle, Jo Helen Graham, Judy Cooperberg, Merilla Scott Absent: Fred Leaf <p>Chairman Gasco thanked everyone for attending the meeting in Service Area III.</p> <p>Recognition -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lawrence Shih, Supervisor Hilda Solis Office Jean Champommier, Public Health Commissioner 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of November 19, 2015 minutes 	Approval of minutes was tabled because packets containing the minutes were unavailable for review.
Dr. Larry Gasco Chairman's Report	<p>SAAC III Co-Chairs Welcome - Dr. David Zableckis and Gerard Torres, SAAC III Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to Service Area III.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerard Torres – SAAC has given input on changes coming into a new era with new leadership and working with new system challenges. San Gabriel Valley is unique in demographic changes and cultural and linguistic challenges. Dr. Zableckis - Pleased with the new structure to add a second co-chair with a two year term. Brings leadership directly from the SAAC members build on new ideas. Increases the ability to transfer information from the SAAC to pass on the Mental Health Commission. 	

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	<p>Chairman's Report contd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Jaime Renteria, Terry Lewis, and Alfredo Larios for coordinating the meeting. • Commented on the gun violence that occurred in San Bernardino County. MHC members that work closely with San Bernardino County Behavioral Health representatives on the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Board and Commissions share in the loss of the 14 victims. 	
	<p>Executive Committee Report Vice Chair Herman DeBose covered key items discussed at the December 3, 2015 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT requested Commission representatives on IAB give status report to SLT. 	<p>Action – Vice Chair DeBose will attend SLT meeting and will give status report on IAB and full Commission.</p>
	<p>Continuance of November 19 meeting motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion to appeal the decision to disqualify Jean Harris as the consumer representative on the IAB was tabled due to no quorum. <p>Call for public comment on motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four comments were made; 3-yes, 1-no 	<p>Chairman Gasco entertained the motion to appeal the decision to disqualify Jean Harris as the consumer representative on the IAB.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Lawrence Lue Second by Commissioner Etelvina De La Torre</p>
	<p>IAB November 23 Meeting Update - Vice Chair DeBose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two subcommittees were formed, 1) Homeless committee – Headed by General Jeff will meet on how to address homelessness, 2) Mission and guiding principles committee to ensure those receiving services is the center focus of the intent of IAB. A power point presentation will be developed on the suggested principles. • Vice Chair DeBose requested the IAB reconsider the disqualification of Jean Harris and placed the issue on the next IAB meeting agenda for 	

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	discussion. The request was denied. It was recommended that the Commission name a replacement and forward the information to Commission Services for follow up.	
	Bylaws committee update – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was postponed to a later date. The committee will update current bylaws to coincide with the Welfare and Institutions codes. 	
	Discussion on Commission membership – Commission staff announced the staggering process that appoints new members so there are always enough members to have a quorum has not been used. Technically, the MHC members who will term out January 1, 2016 will leave the Commission without a quorum. Resignation – Commissioner Ramirez announced he is stepping down as Commissioner effective January 1, 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanked the Commission for a great experience to see inside a bureaucratic system Appreciation for the work DMH provides in the communities and from staff. Encouraged others especially consumers to apply for Commissioner. Gained insight on the level of advocacy work families and communities need. 	ACTION – Commissioners will meet with health deputies to discuss correcting term limits so the Commission will always have a quorum.
Robin Kay, PhD Acting Director, Mental Health	DMH Report: Dr. Kay thanked Commissioner Ramirez on behalf of DMH for his services as a Commissioner. It's a pleasure to have people who are energetic and ask all the right questions for DMH to support. Status Report on 3 Priorities	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Westside Urgent Care Center reopened. The facility will provide a timely process where law enforcement can transport those in mental health crisis that need services instead of incarceration. 2. Jail Diversion – Received board approval for the DMH alternative to custody program located at Gateways Mental Health Center. The facility has 42-beds for those in custody in the community. 3. Mayor Garcetti requested a press conference to be held at a County facility to announce the expansion of law enforcement teams and partnerships with 25 cities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Brian Mershon reported on the health neighborhood, clergy advisory committee, and integration of health and mental services in Service Area 3. • Announcement - A second directly operated facility will open in Service Area 3 in Covina. The location will provide health, mental health and substance abuse services. 	
<p>East SG Valley Japanese Community Center Pearl Omiya Melissa Kozono</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center established in 1936 in West Covina • Founder donated 1 acre of land to establish Japanese language and culture school so that the community will continue to learn the culture and language of the homeland • In 1951 established as a nonprofit organization • Bridge culture, family and community is the mission • Serves over 700 families from Los Angeles and other counties • Family Health Fair and West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival are the two largest events to showcase the services available for Japanese 	

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	<p>population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 programs are offered at the center for all ages and culturally sensitive programs that tell the history of Japanese contribution to the SGV. 	
<p>Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council Connie Chung Joe</p>	<p>Cultural Competency –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> API Demographics update: 45 ethnic groups, 28 languages, and API is the fastest growing group in LA County only. Barriers to mental health care: income, education, immigration, language, and insurance coverage. <p>Culturally Responsive – Discussed reasons and examples to change cultural competency to culturally responsive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change is essential because of the struggle to reflect the needs of the highly diverse API population through languages, services, education, and communication. Service providers in API communities should not be generalists but specialists. 	
<p>API Workgroup - Community Presentation (SAAC 3)</p>	<p>Libby Hartigan – Vision, mission and goals of API Workgroup. The purpose of the group is to address the disparity in services available in the SGV API community. The group welcomes support from the Commission on the following advocacies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMH ACCESS staff who have Asian language capacity Develop a centralized resource guide that is continually updated More and better data specific to needs of API health and mental health. Programs that encourage multilingual students to enter the behavioral health field. 	

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	<p>Emily Wu Truong – Barriers for Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma in seeking mental health and engagement in mental health. • Navigating the system is difficult because of language and culturally barriers. • Suicide among the API community is prevalent because of the silence that mental health is needed. <p>Elyse Rasmussen and Aurora Acain-Lee, DPH Project Disaggregate API Health Data</p> <p>Health disparities in Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders (NHPI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health and mental health survey was administered in SPA 3 and 4, ages 3 to 97. • It revealed that the status of NP lack accurate and representative data on the NP population in the service area. • Little is known about the needs of the SPA 3 and 4 populations because of partial data. • Predominately Asian-Americans respondents participated in the survey • Data needs to be disaggregated to eliminate disparities. <p>Winne Hsieh, Vicki Xu, Sharon Tan – Services/Resources for API Consumers</p> <p>Reported on the resources available for the Service Area 3 community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract and directly operated providers, referrals from psychologists and case managers, and crisis intervention serve the area. • The 211 Information is the largest information resource line used in the area. • Mobile health clinics are available in the area. • Asian conferences, trainings, and health and 	

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	mental health festivals offer resources for the various languages.	
Public Comments	Six public comments were submitted requesting to speak; four addressed the Commission.	Issues were addressed and referred for follow up.
CALBHB/C Status	CALBHB/C (California Association of Local Behavioral Health Board and Commissions vacancy status – Vice Chair DeBose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hector Ramirez resigned effective 1/1/16. • Merilla Scott was elected as LA Regional Director on the board. • Commissioner Sharon Lyle, also board member has not responded to calls from Vice Chair DeBose. • Commissioners Gasco, DeBose, De La Torre, and Scott will be attending the next quarterly meeting on January 21-23, 2016 in San Diego. 	
Commissioners' Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Reports 	
SAAC 1 -8 Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Reports 	
LACCC Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report 	
Meeting adjourned	Next Meeting – January 28, 2016 @ 11 am – 1:30 pm Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 739 500 W. Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012	

Highlights by Canetana Hurd