

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE DELIVERY COMMISSION
May 7, 2026**

<u>Commissioners</u>	Present	Absent
David Marshall, D.N.P., Chair		x
William McCloud, M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E., Vice Chair	x	
Christopher Bui, M.D.		x
Mark Marat Hay, Ph.D.	x	
Laura LaCorte, J.D.	x	
Patrick Ogawa	x	
Elisa Nicholas, M.D.	x	
Margaret Farwell Smith		x
Stanley Toy, M.D.		x
Rosemary C. Veniegas, Ph.D.		x
Tia Delaney-Stewart	x	
Jennifer Sudarsky	x	
Brad Selby	x	
<u>DHS Staff</u>		
Allen Gomez	x	
Connie Salgado-Sanchez	x	
Ovsanna Thomas	x	
<u>County Counsel</u>		
Lynette Clyde		
<u>Members of the Public</u>		
Jarrod Erdman	x	
Franckie Palacios	x	
Stacy Dalglish	x	
Lynette Clyde	x	
Brittney Daniel	x	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 by Commission Vice Chair William McCloud.

2. Roll Call

Ovsanna Thomas, Commission staff, called the roll at 10:55. Quorum was met.

3. Welcome

Commission Co-Chair McCloud welcomed all members of the commission, staff, and guests.

4. Action Item:

- Approval of March 5, 2026 Minutes: Minutes were approved, with Commissioner Nicholas abstaining due to her absence at the last meeting.

5. Presentation – General Discussion with Dr. Lisa Wong, Director of DMH

- Dr. Wong provided an overview of DMH

- She specified that DMH is the local Mental Health Plan for LA County.
- DMH is responsible for implementing the Behavioral Health Services Act.
- Just in January, the department had 13,799 calls to its 24/7 line.
- It is the largest County operated mental health provider in the US.
- DMH and DHS have a close collaboration
- 10-15% overlap between DMH and DHS patients/clients. There is a contract in place between the two organizations regarding care coordination

Challenges DMH faces

- Funding challenges.
 - BHSA Act, increases directed allocations but decreases in flexibility
 - Housing challenges
 - HR1- expecting increases in uninsured patients due to Medi-Cal eligibility redetermination and cuts in reimbursements
 - Workforce capacity
 - Infrastructure - need to expand infrastructure to support growth
 - Administrative and regulatory requirements.
- Commissioner's Questions:
- LA County has lots of children being raised by grandparents. LAUSD is not fully aware of resources DMH has to offer. What is DMH doing to address this issue?
 - DMH is in hundreds of schools. But LA County is huge. More outreach can be done to keep campuses informed. Also, there can be efforts in trying to bring communities to help get the word out. Further, making the website more user-friendly, as well as having more applications that people can use.
- 2/3 or 3/4 of FSP providers are contracted. How many contracted providers is that? Also, how does someone get into the program? How are they assigned to contracted provider?
 - 75% contracted, the rest directly operated. There are 148 legal entities, and approximately 12,000 slots. When someone has a need, there will be a referral system called Universal Entry Referral. However, currently, referrals are typically made from an existing provider. All FSP are separated by age group, geography and specialty.
- Can you provide the overall percentage of cuts from HR1 and from state?
 - It is difficult to say at this point. The department is currently trying to do fiscal modeling with HR1. It all depends because so much of it is not finalized yet. It would be anywhere between \$54 to \$450 million per year. Of note is the fact that mild to moderate patients who lose healthcare benefits will likely be coming to specialty mental health services.
- The Commission thanked Dr. Wong for her presentation and for the continued partnership between DHS and DMH. The Commissioners agreed that there needs to be collaborative efforts between departments.

6. Items for discussion and possible action:

	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIONS, FOLLOW-UP

<p>a. Discussion – 2026 Strategic Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioners agreed to align the Commission’s 2026 strategic priorities to the DHS Strategic Goals for 2026. After a lengthy discussion, the Commissions selected the following priorities as their focus for the coming year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Population Health Goal 1B: “Care for patients in the last costly and restrictive setting appropriate for their condition.” ○ Clinical and Service Excellence Goal 4B: “Improve patient experience of care.” ○ Workforce Enrichment and Staffing Goals 5A: “Equip managers and supervisors with skills needed to strengthen staff engagement and performance.” The Commission also will monitor Goal 5B regarding enhancing staff safety, wellness and resilience. ○ Fiscal Sustainability Goal 8C “Develop third-party payer contracts and agreements for prioritized areas.” <p>The Commissioners discussed how they can collaborate with other department commissions regarding shared strategic priorities.</p> <p>The Commission also discussed identifying presenters who can speak to the above goals and DHS’s progress in addressing these priorities.</p>	
<p>b. Discussion – Annual Report Preparation</p>	<p>The last annual report was submitted recently – will discuss how to divide the work at subsequent meeting.</p>	
<p>c. Discussion – Site Visits</p>	<p>Next Site Visit is at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center on June 18, 2026</p>	
<p>d. Discussion Guest Speakers</p>	<p>January – Canceled February – Caroline Balfour March – Dr. Phillip Gruber, Kevin Lynch, Christopher Rodriguez (Project Monarch) April – Canceled May – Dr. Lisa Wong (DMH) June – Dr. Timothy Belavich (Correctional Health) July – meeting dark August – Dr. Jackie Contreras (DPSS) September – Dr. Barbara Ferrer, DPH October – Sara Mahin (HSH) November – Shari Doi (ACN) December – TOP program lead</p>	<p>Commission staff will inquire regarding December’s speaker.</p>
<p>e. Discussion – Department of</p>	<p>Tabled discussion.</p>	

7. Items not on the posted agenda for matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency, or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Commission.

8. Public Comment:

- Frankie Palacios from Health Access CA requested letters of support for SB-1422, which would sunset medical enrollment restrictions imposed on undocumented adults. She requested that her comments be elevated to the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution at upcoming Board meeting.
- Stacy Delgleish from the Behavioral Health Commission commented that she would like to put focus on inpatient psychiatric beds and what is being lost in the County and what might be done about it.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026.