



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
49.		Favor	Mechille P Johnson	
		Oppose	Barbara Rabelo	
			Hector Ramirez	<p>OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND REMEDIATION OF DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION CONCERNING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (LACDMH) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) TWO-YEAR PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE PLAN</p> <p>Date: May 20, 2024 To: Lisa Wong, Psy.D., Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health From: Hector Manuel Ramirez, Co-Chair, Access for All Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee CC: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Subject: Urgent Request for Extension of Public Comment Period and Remediation of Disability Discrimination in the MHSA Two-Year Plan Process</p> <p>The undersigned, co-chair of the Access for All UsCC Subcommittee, a stakeholder group under the MHSA, hereby formally requests an immediate extension of the public comment period for the MHSA Two-Year Program and Expenditure Plan. This request is made on behalf of the UsCC Subcommittee members, community stakeholders with disabilities, and myself. This extension is necessitated by the repeated failure of LACDMH to provide MHSA materials and presentations in accessible formats, as mandated by federal, state, and local disability laws, including but not limited to: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) sections 5847(b)-(e), 5848(a), 5892(g) California Disabled Persons Act (CDPA) The Unruh Civil Rights Act (California Civil Code Section 51) Ralph M. Brown Act</p> <p>Despite numerous requests dating back to 2023, LACDMH has not provided the following materials in accessible formats (plain language, accessible pdf format, materials in alternative language (Spanish), image descriptions and alternative text for all images, charts, graphs and other visual information related to MHSA materials):</p> <p>2024 MHSA FY 2024-2025 Annual Update Feb. 6, 2024 Meeting Materials</p> <p>2023</p>



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MHSA FY 2023-2024 Annual Update
Jan. 20, 2023 Meeting Materials
Jan. 23, 2023 Meeting Materials
Jan. 31, 2023 Meeting Materials
Feb. 17, 2023 Meeting Materials
Feb. 21, 2023 Meeting Materials
Mar. 30, 2023 Meeting Materials

MHSA Two-Year Plan for FY 2023-2024 to 2024-2025
Jul. 11, 2023 Meeting Materials
Jul. 28, 2023 Meeting Materials
Aug. 8, 2023 Meeting Materials
Aug. 25, 2023 Meeting Materials
Sep. 5, 2023 Meeting Materials

As of today, Monday May 20, 2024 10 PM PST the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has not provided any of these materials and presentations in accessible formats as requested. This systemic lack of access has unlawfully excluded individuals with disabilities from equitably participating in the MHSA planning process. Furthermore, LACDMH has failed to provide accessible meeting locations and remote participation options, creating additional barriers for individuals with disabilities.

The discrimination and retaliation experienced by UsCC members and stakeholders, as detailed in prior communications, has created a hostile environment, resulting in resignations and significant harm to the health and well-being of participants.

Therefore, we formally request the following actions:

Immediate Extension of Public Comment Period: Provide a reasonable extension to the public comment period to allow adequate time for LACDMH to provide all MHSA materials in accessible formats and for stakeholders with disabilities to meaningfully review and comment.

Remediation of Disability Discrimination: Take immediate steps to rectify the discriminatory practices, including but not limited to:

Providing all MHSA materials in accessible formats (plain language, accessible PDFs, alternative languages, image descriptions, etc.)

Ensuring future MHSA meetings are held in accessible locations with remote participation options for individuals with disabilities.

Conducting a thorough investigation into the allegations of discrimination and retaliation and taking appropriate disciplinary action.

Transparency and Accountability: Publicly acknowledge the harm caused by



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			<p>the discriminatory practices and commit to transparency and accountability in future MHSA processes.</p> <p>We urge LACDMH to fulfill its statutory obligations under the MHSA and uphold the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. Failure to do so will perpetuate inequities in mental health services for underserved communities in Los Angeles County.</p>
		<p align="center">Jerry Gonzalez</p>	<p>The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health put a two-year that left out the Latino community. Out of 105 voting stakeholders, DMH only allotted 2 seats to Latinos despite making up 48% of the County population and nearly 60% of the total unmet need. Last year's DMH annual budget included a mere 2% to Latino specific programs. Approving this budget without BOS modifications or specific equity expectations will result in Latinos further suffering short- and long-term mental health harm.</p>
		<p align="center">Monisha Parker</p>	<p>Dear Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Department of Mental Health's apparent failure to conduct thorough research and planning for the Mental Health Services Act Two-Year Program and Expenditure Plan.</p> <p>It has come to my attention that the department has not dedicated sufficient time and effort to researching and developing a comprehensive plan that addresses the critical needs of our community. This lack of preparation raises serious questions about the department's commitment to improving mental health services and achieving meaningful outcomes.</p> <p>The Mental Health Services Act is a vital initiative designed to address the growing mental health crisis in our region. It provides substantial funding for critical programs and services, but without proper planning and implementation, these resources will be wasted, and the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of those struggling with mental health challenges will be lost.</p> <p>It is unacceptable that the Department of Mental Health has not prioritized this crucial planning process. The lack of improvement in the department's performance further underscores the need for immediate action.</p> <p>I urge you to demand accountability from the Department of Mental Health and ensure that they allocate the necessary resources and expertise to developing a comprehensive and effective Two-Year Program and Expenditure Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, I implore you to hold the department accountable for demonstrating tangible progress in improving mental health services in our community. The well-being of our residents depends on it.</p>

			Sincerely, Monisha Parker
	Other	Gabriela Gonzalez	<p>REQUEST: like my partners at Access for All Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee</p> <p>Immediate Extension of Public Comment Period: Provide a reasonable extension to the public comment period to allow adequate time for LACDMH to provide all MHSA materials in accessible formats (in-Spanish, which does not include access for our indigenous communities) and for meaningfully review and comment.</p> <p>We want to be intentional, make data informed decisions - please give the vested people time to review and approve this plan.</p> <p>There are hundreds of millions of dollars on the table, and the table needs to be equitably accessible to all. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
		Gabriela Gonzalez	<p>Thank you Board of Supervisors. On behalf of the almost 5 million Latino (and Latin American Indigenous Community members), I request you pause the approval of the MHSA Two-Year Plan until the community and vested stakeholders have an opportunity to equitably review the 375 page plan (in-language) - Spanish. There were 7 "Community Planning Team or CPT" meetings that I informed the plan where 5 of those meetings were in-person and where folks who were listening in online were UNABLE to participate. Therefore, we need more time to review and provide public comment. Thank you, Board of Supervisors for hearing and considering our request.</p>
	Item Total	7	
Grand Total		7	

Item 49

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to do an audit in the Department of Mental Health. We, Mundo Maya Foundation, as a community based organization have attended their meetings, make recommendations to protect over 5 Million Latinos in LA County. We represent as well, the Under Served Under Count Communities (USCC), for our Indigenous & Latino Immigrants. We are alarmed as community stakeholders that many the decisions to have millions of dollars spent in projects not well planned or with lack of results and accountability. For example a Mental Health event at Dodger Stadium in past years with a full private suit of MHD leaders and employees attending and not being accountable for results. Great Social Media, did not serve the community effectively. INN innovation example Private jet to fly people to Italy to learn a project for Hollywood that cannot compare to our needs. I hope is funded again and not creating false hope and more people joining looking for shelter and services. Also, check on funds that they did not let go, as use it or lose it rules. What about raises of certain level of employees, but not paying promoters that are needed in all areas for example.

Or maybe create a mental health unit inside the MHD for the employees that are harrassed or forced to quit because they do their work as community leaders. Regarding the USCC meeting (under MHD) I personally asked on several occasions for the bylaws to Dr. Jennifer Alquijai last year and this year. As the minutes will state. However, I have not seen them yet. I urge you to revise the budget and give the Latino population a fair share of budget for all spas. I appreciate your time and commitment to the people that voted for you.

Thank you