



**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
71-B.		Favor	Albert Senella	We concur that it is essential for the Behavioral Health Commission to expand its scope to include representation for co-occurring and substance use disorders. The field of substance use disorder has long advocated for parity, and it is imperative that we strive for equitable representation on this commission. Los Angeles County communities merit this consideration.
			Jason D Strickler	Good morning, Board Members, As a concerned resident of Los Angeles County, I fully support the Behavioral Health Commission. However, I would like to emphasize the critical importance of having a dedicated focus on substance use disorder prevention within the Commission's structure. Substance use prevention is a frontline strategy in addressing the growing crisis in our county. It plays a vital role in tackling the root causes of substance use, homelessness, and mental health challenges. Prevention efforts, especially those targeting the built environment—such as the density of alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco retailers—are essential for creating healthier communities. Equally important is the ongoing monitoring of policies at the federal, state, and local levels that shape the landscape of substance use. Prevention professionals have a deep understanding of these issues and are directly engaged with communities, from schools to families, to youth. They provide vital resources that empower individuals, build resilience, and foster development at the earliest stages. Their work strengthens the fabric of our society by helping to prevent the problems that often lead to more severe health and social outcomes. I strongly urge the Board to appoint commissioners who recognize the invaluable role that prevention plays in the continuum of care. By prioritizing prevention, we can better address the long-term health and well-being of our community. Thank you for considering my comments. - Jason Strickler
			Paul Vallejo	
			Paul Vallejo	
		Oppose	Barbara B Wilson	I am opposed to having the commission composition changed to 50-50. Going forward, many of the folks from Substance Abuse will have increased presence due to the funding that will be coming from SAMSHA and other SUD resources. I hear on Zero funding coming for adults who have psychosis and Zero Substance Abuse. I fear there will be no room left to hear their voices and the voices of their families.
			Traute Winters	December 16, 2024 Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County

As of: 12/18/2024 9:00:08 AM



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Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Adoption of Mental Health Commission Bylaw Amendments—OPPOSE

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Greater Los Angeles County (NAMI GLAC), I write to express our opposition to Supervisor Barger's motion to adopt bylaw amendments for the Mental Health Commission, as set forth in item 71-B on the supplemental agenda for the December 17 Board of Supervisors meeting.

NAMI GLAC represents the grassroots voice of tens of thousands of individuals and families affected by mental illness in Los Angeles County. NAMI GLAC has long appreciated and supported county efforts to improve mental health treatment and care for those in need. The Mental Health Commission - to be the Behavioral Health Commission under this item - serves as an important forum to address key needs of the mental health community.

NAMI GLAC understands that certain changes must be implemented under state law, namely Proposition 1, passed by California voters earlier this year. NAMI GLAC also understands that as part of this transition, substance use disorder and mental illness both must be represented on what will become the Behavioral Health Commission. NAMI GLAC supports the voice of the substance use and co-occurring disorder communities as individuals and families often experience both mental illness and substance use disorder.

NAMI GLAC opposes this motion because it disproportionately dilutes the voice of the mental health community on the Mental Health Commission, because it does not specify or adequately elevate the voice of the co-occurring disorder community, and because it has been placed on the agenda with little to no time for input from the stakeholder communities who will be most affected by these bylaw changes.

This item would fundamentally and significantly change this Commission. NAMI GLAC is concerned that these significant changes have been rushed and could have unintended consequences.

NAMI GLAC urges the Board to reconsider this item after there has been greater opportunity for stakeholder engagement. Less sweeping changes could be made to the Commission to meet requirements mandated by the state while delaying further, potentially lasting, changes that will alter the Commission. The Mental Health Commission is the only forum of its kind in the county for the mental health community and significant amendments to its structure should include robust engagement with those most affected.

				<p>For these reasons, NAMI GLAC respectfully requests you oppose this motion.</p> <p>With deepest appreciation for your consideration and service to the County,</p> <p>Traute Winters</p> <p>Executive Director National Alliance on Mental Illness, Greater Los Angeles County</p>
		Item Total	6	
Grand Total			6	



December 16, 2024

Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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With deepest appreciation for your consideration and service to the County,

Traute Winters

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Winters". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "W" and a cursive "inters".

Executive Director
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Greater Los Angeles County



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Janus of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz

December 16, 2024

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Fifth District

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Adoption of the Mental Health Commission Bylaw Amendments (Supplemental Agenda Item 71-B)

Dear Supervisor Barger:

I am writing on behalf of the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. (CAADPE) regarding your motion to adopt the Mental Health Commission Bylaw Amendments, which is scheduled for discussion by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

CAADPE acknowledges and appreciates the motion to amend the bylaw to include six (6) out of nineteen (19) seats for substance use disorder (SUD) representation. However, we believe that SUD representation should ideally be closer to 50%. We respectfully request that the BOS consider increasing the number of SUD seats to better represent those in need. If this is not feasible, we urge each Board office to leverage your office seats on the commission to appoint individuals to this newly formed commission who represent the SUD community or possess substantial experience in both SUD and mental health advocacy. While there are shared objectives between the mental health and SUD fields, it is crucial to recognize the significant differences and specialized needs that require dedicated advocacy.

We concur that it is essential for the Behavioral Health Commission to expand its scope to include representation for co-occurring and substance use disorders. The field of substance use disorder has long advocated for parity, and it is imperative that we strive for equitable representation on this commission. Los Angeles County communities merit this consideration.

CAADPE welcomes any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ttcadmin@tarzanatc.org or by phone at (818) 654-3815.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Senella".

Albert Senella, President

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives

c: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D. M.P.H., M.Ed., Director, Department of Public Health
Lisa Wong, Psy.D., Director, Department of Mental Health
Hilda L. Solis, First District, Supervisor
Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, Supervisor
Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District, Supervisor
Janice Hahn, Fourth District Supervisor
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Yolanda Vera, Second District, Senior Deputy, Health and Wellness
Angelica Ayala, Third District, Senior Health Deputy
Kyla Coates, Fourth District, Justice & Mental Health Deputy
Anders Corey, Fifth District, Health Deputy