

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Mental Health Commission Special Meeting
August 27, 2021
MINUTES
Stacy Dalgleish, Chair

I. Call to Order

a. Roll Call – Commission Staff

- i. Present: Commissioner Padilla-Frausto, Commissioner Root, Commissioner Friedman, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Stevens, Commissioner Dalgleish, Commissioner Benko, Commissioner Ogawa, Commissioner Molina, Commissioner Acebo, Commissioner Weissman, Commissioner Schallert – **QUORUM PRESENT**
- ii. Absent Excused: Commissioner Cooperberg

II. Public Comment: Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

- Jim “The Hat” – Comments made on hope, discrimination, and racism
- Pete Thompson – Comments made on those suffering PTSD and childhood abuse are misunderstood by family members.
- Hector Ramirez – Regarding agenda item #6, look forward to hearing the deliberations and planning for the next couple of months and be in communication with the Commission.
- Osbee Sangster – Question: Will DMH hiring freeze, mental health hiring freeze, and SB803 interfere with or temporary delay training for Peer Certification?

III. Icebreaker Activity: Chair asked Commissioners to answer several questions, e.g., what is your favorite physical activity, what is the most unique thing on your bucket list, what is your favorite Halloween costume.

IV. Discussions: Board of Supervisors Concerns & Priorities

a. District 1: Commissioners Padilla-Frausto, Friedman, Root

- immediate concern is getting people in the community vaccinated
- equitable delivery of service
- further utilize and expand direct community outreach and assistance programs for LatinX and API communities

b. District 2: Commissioners Stevens, Turner

- distribution of services while addressing unmet needs
- continue to respond to COVID19 issues
- overarching priority is SB2 equity along with an antiracist agenda, mental health, and youth

c. District 3: Commissioners Banko, Dalgleish

- workshop just for MHC on racism
- coordination around the efforts in Afghanistan where mental health is needed
- District 3 has strong commitment to suicide prevention, homelessness, and Veterans Row

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- d. District 4: Commissioners Acebo, Molina, Patrick
 - staff vacancies in DMH practically confusion, need for clarification and why vacancies exist
 - increase Mobile Response Team to 24/7 operation
 - DMH fill the legislative advocacy position
 - encourage DMH to be very strong advocating for SB 988
 - DMH investigate community-based integration which allows opportunity to beta test efforts
 - encourage DMH to look at all DMH funding
- e. District 5: Commissioners Cooperberg, Shallert, Weissman
 - behavioral health centers for youth are strongly needed in the community none exists in LA County District 5, the closest one is Bakersfield improve services for the uninsured and the underinsured. Insurance coverage is too expensive copays and deductible are too high
 - SCV lacks drop-in centers, detox center, and urgent care center.
 - developing a coalition for a PSA to address suicide prevention and substance abuse.
 - increase B&C rates to reflect SCV costs
 - hiring freeze issue is impacting FSP and outpatient programs and MET Teams
 - increase funding to mental health clinics.

V. Carryover Issues and New Concerns – Commissioners collectively worked on developing the priorities plan

VI. Looking Forward

- a. Plan Calendar 2021 – 2022
 - September 2021 – Board and Care and Homelessness
 - October 2021 – School Based Mental Health -LACOE DMH Team
 - January and March 2022 - UCLA Data Presentation
 - February 2022 - DMH Vacancies

VII. Conversation with DMH Director

Dr. Sherin spoke about overarching issues with budgets, hiring freeze and resignations during COVID19. DMH continued to advocate for funding and do everything that's needed 24/7. A discussion opened on communication among the Commission and the Director. Discussion concluded to support DMH the Commission be a part of the communication chain and solutions.

VIII. Closing / Adjournment