

Los Angeles County
Mental Health Commission

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”



First District
Bennett W. Root, Jr.
Imelda Padilla-Frausto
Susan Friedman

Second District
Jack Barbour
Kathleen Austria
Reba Stevens

Third District
Martel Okonji
Stacy Dagleish
Teresa Banko

Fourth District
Marilyn Sanabria
Michael Molina
Vacant

Fifth District
Brittney Weissman
Judy Cooperberg
Lawrence Schallert

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

November 17, 2022 - Minutes

Kathleen Austria, Chair

PPROVED: January 26, 2023

Motion made by Commissioner Cooperberg second by Commissioner Barbour

Discussion

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Root (AE), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (AE), Commissioner Friedman (AE), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Barbour (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dagleish (P), Commissioner Banko (AE), Commissioner Okonji (P), Commissioner Molina (P), Commissioner Sanabria (AE), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), Lily Sofiani (P) - **QUORUM PRESENT**

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Acknowledgements: Chair thanked ASL Interpreters, Spanish interpreters, CART captioner, technology and multimedia team, and staff.

Public Comment

4. Public Comment: Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Osbee Sangster obo Los Angeles County Black Client Coalition Inc. Black Advocacy effort today with all due respect in moment. A point in question of special public importance and hopeful remnants of strategic planning and removing social hurdles and barriers that offer a vision for change. We are concerned. L.A. County DMH, CAF Administration, CAF Outreach, and engagement events are on hold and awaiting details on approval. CAF meetings for O and E, Outreach and engagement Services provided in our service areas that assists with increasing community engagement, attending booths and community health events, and so forth. We are concerned when there's many, many dollars set aside for this type of activity.

Furthermore, are you in need of access into the world, the Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition literacy project? Black will write soon in and provide technology to communities and needy stakeholders, Chromebook computers, HP to help provide access to digital inclusion. Currently, we have a good supply. However, expecting more digital devices in a near future to assist with technology. Digital literacy and internet resources are ongoing. Please, visit blacc.org website and obtain the telephone number to call to set up an intake appointment.

Jean M. Harris (Public Comment received via MHCommission@dmh.lacounty.gov). I have to date received no response to the emails above. If my request to Commissioner Acebo could be forwarded it would be greatly appreciated! posted to the public at this time is from May 2022! It would be very important to have a more

current access to previous MHC minutes including presentations and reports submitted at or subsequent to the Commission meetings. I also am aware that the minutes must be approved before being posted, so as of today's approval vote the minutes from the October 2022 Commission meeting could be posted. That would apparently allow me to access the presentation on efforts to fill open DMH positions as initially requested in my email of October 27, 2022.

How can we work to address the issue of timely posting of minutes and what would that timeline look like? I appreciate your responses,

Jean M Harris - On Wed, Nov 2, 2022, at 4:06 PM Jean Harris <jharris.nami@gmail.com> wrote: Commissioner Acebo, My name is Jean Harris and I work with NAMI Antelope Valley/Urban Los Angeles. I am interested in how we can advocate for more mental health professionals, including joining the sub-committee on workforce development. Can we connect to see how SALTs and other community and CBO members can assist in this process?

Administrative Matters

5. Approval of October 27, 2022, Full Mental Health Commission (MHC) minutes

Moved to approve by of Commissioner Molina, seconded by Commissioner Acebo. Motion to approve October 27, 2022, minutes carried by roll call vote:

Ayes (8): Motion to approve minutes moved by Commissioner Molina second by Commissioner Okonji, Commissioner Barbour, Commissioner Austria, Commissioner Dagleish, Commissioner Okonji, Commissioner Molina, Commissioner Cooperberg, Commissioner Schallert, Commissioner Weissman

Nay (0)

Updates/Action Items

6. Committee/Ad Hoc Proposals

- a. MHSAd Hoc or Standing Committee
 - i. Commissioners approved the name MHSAd Hoc Committee
- b. MHC Annual Report and Data Notebook As Hoc Committee
 - i. Staff resend samples of past annual reports for Commission review

7. Board of Supervisors Update - 2nd Supervisorial District Representative

- a. November 15, 2022, board approved a Kuehl -- uh, Supervisor Kuehl motion that granted flexibility to DMH, uh, to amend an agreement with the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, uh, to implement the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project. And these actions are intended to facilitate DMH's efforts to place an additional home team, uh, uh, and 54 additional staff for that Hollywood project.
- b. Board also approved a Kuehl -- Supervisor Kuehl/Barger motion, uh, to accept, uh, 1.5 million, um, for the, uh, Olive View Community Mental Health Urgent Care Center that's going to be near Sylmar.
- c. Board approved various other board letters that DMH submitted. For example, there was an amendment for Hillview Mental Health Centre. An agreement with the state of California Department of Aging to allow DMH's Office of the Public Guardian to implement a new public patient representative program.
- d. Board authorized a sole-source agreement with a group called California Mental Health Services Authority for \$560,000 a year to help DMH contract state hospital beds.

- e. Board approved took two major actions related to mental health. They approved the Director of Military and Veteran Affairs to work with DMH to design and develop services at a new Arts and Veterans Center in Santa Clarita Valley.
- f. Board approved the contract for the Mental Health Community-Based Incubation Academy, which trains CBOs to get contracts with DMH. The Incubation Academy contract will extend to 2024.

8. Commissioner Updates

- a. Commissioner Dagleish will set up a Mental Health Commission table at a Service Area 5 event.
- b. Commissioner Schallert shared suicide rates in Santa Clarita. There were 26 reported as of October using firearms, trains and jumping. These hardcore statistics show it's a serious issue.
- c. Commissioner Weissman reported the following.
 - i. Carolyn Canecko, LCSW, new Program Head at Hollywood MHC
 - ii. Invite Hollywood 2.0 to present at Commission meeting on the process, delays, expectation, and the potential of Hollywood.
 - iii. DHCS (state) is considering it's 11-15 waiver; not sure about the level of advocacy the state is willing to take. Anyone interested in creating a committee to advance the state's action and take steps to help people get into care?
- d. Commissioner Barbour reported that CalAIMS will be starting again in July 2023. Commissioner attended presentations around different subjects on mental health funding, workforce development challenges, and MHS and CalAIMS collaboration.
- e. Angel Baker reported the Executive Assistant will be arriving at the first of December.

9. MHC Retreat Update

- a. Retreat will be held over two days, **February 2nd and 3rd, 2023**. We will inquire with the Department to see if overnight stay can be covered.

10. Stakeholder Engagement

- a. Chair proposed the Commission be a major part of stakeholder engagement. Active members, subject matter experts, bring ideas from the community for advice.
- b. Commissioner Okonji proposed leading an ad hoc to focus on the African American Community
- c. Commissioner Dagleish proposed adding a peer ad hoc committee
- d. Angel Baker reported silos were occurring during the planning and they are now putting together an internal structure to close the loop so that feedback from the community gets to the department for better communication.

11. Community Stakeholder Reports –

- a. **Barbara Wilson, SALT 2 Co-Chair:** I am delighted to be heard. I'm reporting on SALT 2, and I'll try to do it quickly. We have a wonderful presentation on grief and loss by, a lady named Seta Haig from Didi Hirsch. There was a lot of active discussion about the meaning of loss, particularly to, the specific, demographics such as Spanish-speaking, gay and lesbian, and there was a decision that we should ask for, culturally appropriate group, and launch programs for those groups, including Native American and that sort of thing. And as has already been mentioned, there was some interest about the increase in, too much of, suicides in Santa Clarita. And we also talked about the fact that, we're still in Santa Clarita, which is part of Service Area 2. A lot of people forget that but that we have no inpatient services for adolescents and children, so that's requires families to travel considerable distance of 40 and, SO, 60 miles to support their child when they're in treatment. And the fact that we have had no restoration of the bus connection between the Santa Clarita Transit Center and the Sylmar Transit Centre. We also continue to have technology issues, and, hopefully, somebody will come, to meet with us. Finally, we have board and care homes that are still closing, so thank you.

- b. **Andria McFearson, SALT 5 Co-Chair:** I think it's a good idea to have more structured meetings, um, like posting a coinciding link with the monthly calendars to each person. It could be separately to the commissioner to the co-chairs or to the public separately, on issues like who are able to meet, who are willing to meet and just different things like that so that we can attend, the meetings consistently and coincide with everyone. And I believe Stacy is talking about it as well.
- c. **LaVon Robinson, SALT 3 Co-Chair:** Meeting Overview: SALT received update information for Dept. of Mental Health, Healthy Neighborhood, and the stakeholders. Updates on the upcoming conference notifying members that a location has not been confirmed at this time to accommodate a large group of committed people. Attendees were informed on agencies they were not aware of and now know how to access their services. SALT3 will not have a meeting in December. **Meeting presentations:** Our SALT members received informative and collaborative information from LA County Help Me Grow on their mission, resources, population providing services for and how to access their services. We received valuable information from The Client Coalition on the services that provided for peers as well as information members of the community their role and responsibility reporting their issues and solution to DMH. We learned about Parents Anonymous and the role they play throughout the world but started in Los Angeles. We heard from parents and survivors who have used their service and how it is a positive impact on their lives. These organizations will collaborate with the members and stakeholders of SALT 3. **Goals achieved:** In October SALT 3 collaborate to present to the San Gabriel Valley a Film Festival and Suicide Awareness event that was culturally diverse to attract new members of the community to join the SALT. We reach one-thousand community members that did not know this resource and/or group was working for the community and the betterment of everyone's mental health. Because of that event, we were able to add new members. At our conference, that is for the community as well as providers, we are anticipating adding newer members to SALT 3
- d. **Paul Stansbury, SALT 8 Co-Chair. Meeting overview:** At the SALT 8 meeting on November 4, 2022, held virtually we acknowledged Veterans Day, and National Native American Heritage Month. We also provided resources on events for the holiday and month including the theme of Stronger Together for the Native American Indian Commission. Part of the acknowledgement include the Land Acknowledgment that the Board of Supervisors approved by the Board on 11/1/2022. The main agenda item at the meeting was to have a discussion on priorities for the SALT 8. Our major priorities for the last couple of years have been addressing homelessness, trauma informed care and mental health in the schools. In preparation for the discussion the members were surveyed. The results of the survey were discussed in breakout sessions and members were encouraged to complete the survey if they haven't already completed. **Meeting presentations:** The breakout rooms provided for the members to have discussions about priorities in view the changes in the community because of COVID, the surge in racism, continuing concerns about housing homelessness and mental health, and the increasing amount of mental health conditions among youth. There were also updates from Dr. Lori Willis and Scott Hanada the Dept of Mental Health Service Area 8 Chiefs. The co-chairs also reported on the CLT retreat and the meetings on the potential changes to the CLT structure meetings. The Peer Mentoring Work Group continues to meet and provide opportunity for peers to learn how to get involved in the SALT. **Goals achieved:** The discussions were informative and productive. They will be continued at next meeting and basis for discussion on MHSA and DMH plans for coming year planning cycle. **Group questions and concerns:** The increase in mental health conditions in the community and challenges of staffing within DMH and mental health providers is a going concern to address the needs especially in view of the increasing needs of the 988 and CARE Court programs. Some concern about being able to have hybrid meetings and when in persons meeting will be possible. **Additional comments:** SALT 8 does not meet in January as the normal meeting date is the first Friday of the month.

Presentations

12. DMH Update (Dr. Lisa Wong, Interim Director): Dr. Wong provided information on DMH Department-Wide Workforce statics requested by the Commission

- a. Budgeted FTE – 6509
- b. Filled FTE - 4697 (72%)
- c. Vacant FTE - 1812 (28%)
- d. Encumbered Unified Positions - 79
- e. Clinical Hiring Efforts (Outpatient Programs)
 - i. Total Positions in Outpatient Program - 2,246
 - ii. Encumbered: 1857
 - iii. Pending hiring transactions – 67
 - iv. Positions currently in recruitment/interviews - 172
- f. Leadership Positions
 - i. Senior Deputy, Deputy Director, Manager III, 4 Program Manager IIs, 3 Program Manager Is, and candidates selected and in process for Administrative Deputy Director and Peer Chief
- g. Teleworking Update, Method of Service Delivery- See statics listed in the supported documentation

Dr. Wong also reported on how DMH is committed to equity and inclusion for Los Angeles County and develops programs using an equity lens. See supporting documentation

13. Legislative Update (Cynthia Wheaton, Legislative Analyst) - See supporting documents:

- a. Cynthia Wheaton reported on the Senate Finance Committee Behavioral Health Package. Senate Finance Committee released the fourth of its planned five discussion drafts, the integration, coordination, and access to care.
- b. Requires HHS:
 - i. Give states analysis and models of integrating mental health and substance use disorder to primary care.
 - ii. Give states and other stakeholders guidance and technical assistance on providing community social supports and services.
 - iii. Guide crisis response continuum (including unspecified amount of planning grant funding to states).
 - iv. Makes the state option to provide mobile crisis permanent.

14. DMH Financial Update - Kalene Gilbert. See supporting documentation. Kaleen Gilbert reported on the MHSA Funding, Programs and Services through CalMHSA Background

- a. MHSA and CalMHSA (California Mental Health Services Authority) is an independent organization that provides California counties and cities with administrative and fiscal structure to fund, develop and implement mental health services and educational programs.
- b. The purpose of CalMHSA is to promote efficiency, effectiveness and enterprise among California counties and cities. CalMHSA member counties and cities can pursue projects through collaborative agreements at the state or regional level and individual counties can have their County-specific participation agreements. LA County MHSA Funded Participation Agreements:
 - i. State Hospitals Program, \$556,594, end date 6/30/2023
 - ii. WET Loan Repayment, \$12,306,376, end date 6/30/2023
 1. Help@Hand, \$33,000,000, end date 6/30/2023
 2. Prevention Program, \$51,000,000, end date 6/30/2023

- 15. Innovations II/Community Ambassador Network Update (CAN)** Dr. Robert Byrd, Acting Deputy Director, Prevention Division. See supporting documentation. Dr. Byrd, provided a brief summary on the impact of the INN 2 and Community Ambassador Network:
- a.** Innovations 2 (INN 2) program centers o increasing awareness and understanding of trauma and available supports to strengthen trauma- resiliency within communities.
 - b.** In July 2018, nine agencies and their community partners began implementation of capacity building strategies that utilize innovative outreach approaches while also addressing important issues such as healthy parenting skills, homelessness, or recidivism.
 - c.** The Community Ambassador Network benefits from the community trust and capacity building infrastructure build through relationships and collaboration with organizations and community leaders, and trauma-informed trainings and professional development opportunities for staff during the first two years of the INN2.
 - d.** Data is included in the report was recorded in iHOMS (a secure electronic data collection and reporting system designed for the initiative) through June 2022.supporting document

Adjournment

- 16. Commissioner Dagleish moved to adjourn, Commissioner Cooperberg second, meeting adjourned**