

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
MHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes-Thursday, January 12, 2023, Noon
Kathleen Austria, Chair, Presiding
Minutes approved: February 09, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Okonji (P), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Dagleish (P), **Quorum present.**

Administrative Matters

1. Approval of the December 1, 2022 minutes:

Motion to approve minutes, moved by Commissioner Okonji, second by Commissioner Sanabria. Motion carries, minutes approved by unanimous vote: **Quorum present.**

Public Comment

2. Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Mark Karmatz: I like very much to endorse that you need to put the certified peer specialist information from CalMHSA on the agenda because they are extending the requirements for putting the applications for the certified peer specialist in on the-- until June 30th. So that's been extended.

Also, there is the mental health -- the Oversight and Accountability -- Mental Health Commission has extended the -- there are four dates for the stakeholder meetings. That's the Community Leadership Team meetings that will be taking place starting on the 20th. And you're going to be missing -- you're going to be after one of them. The first ones on the 20th, the second one's on the 31st, and then on the 17th of June -- the 17th of February. That's four. There are actually four meetings, and I missed one of them. I missed listening to one of them. But they need to -- they need to be on the agenda. And so do the certified peer specialists' requirements from the California Mental Health Administration. And there was stuff from CAMHPRO that was handed out that I sent out to several people on the California Mental Health Services Administration.

Osbee Sangster: Good day. My name is Osbee Sangster speaking on behalf of the Black Los Angeles County Coalition Inc, Black's advocacy effort as part of our vision to live a value of continuous improvement. A generous donor in support of Black's digital literacy effort to help the greatest number of people. Are you in need of access to the digital world? The Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition Literacy Project has launched and providing technology to continuous communities. Los Angeles County needy stakeholders give away Chromebook computers to help provide access to digital inclusion that includes a full year of IT support and a full warranty in or replacement.

In addition, we can help you apply for low internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), along with Black's HP Chromebook. Intake interview giveaway, enrollment to internment if you are a LA County stakeholder eligible in our family for ACP connectivity program, let's check your eligibility. Currently, we have a limited supply to expecting more digital devices in the future to assist with technology and internet resources. Please visit www.black.org site, a telephone number, call, leave a message. And Black landline, please no text. Call to set up an intake appointment. And thank you.

Presentation

- 3. DMH Update for January 2023 – Crystal Kibby – supporting documentation attached**

Action Items

4. Prepare Full Commission Meeting Agenda for the January 26, 2023

- Committee/Ad Hoc Proposals:
 - Established
 - AOT- AOT is functioning smoothly conducting meetings with subject matter experts.
 - Under Consideration
 - MHPA - The MHPA Division will report at the MHC retreat
 - Data Notebook – Commissioners Dagleish and Root will meet and go over the data notebook and provide an update at the January 26 full meeting. The next data notebook will focus on stakeholder engagement
 - Commission Annual Report – Commissioners Dagleish and Root will meet to review the annual report template provided by Commission Services and reports from other counties.
- Commission Updates:
 - MHC in-person meetings - Kenia Fuentes will follow-up with County Council on the decision made for commissioners to participate virtually after emergency order is lifted.
 - Ms. Fuentes announced new changes made to update the MHC website to have public access to agendas, recordings, and minutes. Anyone who visits the website can sign up to receive any updates from the commission. All stakeholder groups have been added to receive updates directly.
 - MHC Retreat - Identified new venue, Sheraton Hotel near LAX. Further details will be announced.
- Standing items:
 - DMH Update
 - DMH Legislative Update
 - DMH Finance Report - include regulations for funding in report
- New items to consider:
 - DMH/Metro Collaborations Update (February 23 full meeting)
 - Update on the County/DMH involvement with Mayor Bass’s emergency order (incorporate this item with DMH Update for January 26 full meeting)
 - New Koreatown (incorporate this item with DMH Update for January 26 full meeting)
 - Action: Invite United Mental Health Promoters to speak at full meeting
- Previously requested items:
 - PMRT Expansion (February 23)
 - Outcome of Emergency Room Diversion Efforts (February 23)
 - Update on Community Planning Process (previously requested and deferred)
 - Briefing on Training/Interns (February 23)

Public Comment

5. Agenda & Non-Agenda Items

Hector Ramirez: I'm an LA County DMH consumer. I get my services at Chatsworth at West Valley Mental Health Clinic. And I want to thank Commissioner Dalgleish and the report for really highlighting the significant need in staff that our clinic has had. It is not necessarily something new. It is something that has been very problematic and, unfortunately, got worse because really the inability sometimes our department and the commissioners are used to oversee that area to really highlight the need that this clinic has had. This clinic serves one largest number of Latino and Spanish-speaking populations in LA County, and we don't even have a Spanish speaking psychiatrist. And so, we haven't had a significant amount of our population trying to get services. But unfortunately, because of, like, staff and services our community is in significant need in a crisis. So, I really hope that the department and this commission really focuses on this historic inequity for this connect.

And, secondly, I just want to highlight the access being accessibility at this meeting with the technical issues with Microsoft Teams. And then it's not accessible even if you have CART and time language interpreters and you have commissioners interrupting each other, speaking over each other. That's autism, it's the type of disability discrimination. And it's just highlights, again, how difficult it is as a stakeholder member to participate in this commission when we experience discrimination and inability to even follow along with what's being said. So that's just wanting to highlight that that's another example of discrimination in case commissioners are not aware of it once they keep doing it over and over. Thank you.

Jean Harris: Yes. Good morning. Thank you for allowing public comment. I wanted to tell the commission that the CLT input sessions for community planning processors are in person in January and February at St. Anne's. I'm sorry, this is Jean Harris, Service Area 1 mental health advocate. Is the 3-Year Plan being distributed so our communities can review it before the January 20th input meeting? How are the SALTs participating in the community planning process as required by the MHSA? And can we discuss the follow-up on issues brought up at the meeting and by email to the Mental Health Commission? Also, are community members allowed to participate in committees of the commission? I'd reached out to Commissioner Acebo about joining an ongoing committee but got no response. How are the SALT reports being distributed? Are they still being emailed to the commission or is it only by verbal report at meetings?

I had talked to the commission about an issue in Service Area 1 and found that housing for registered sex offenders on parole in the county as extremely limited with Service Area 1, having no housing available. Supportive housing for parolees with severe mental illness is a necessity as well. Lack of ability for mental health treatment and housing for parolees is something that I need to address in Service Area 1. Can items deferred have the date that were they were originally requested so that we know how long these have been hanging in the deferred? And is it possible to have action items delineated on the minutes to assist in follow-up? We would love to reinstate commission town halls as we move out of the COVID restrictions. And I thank you all very much. Have a good day.

Wendy Cabil: Antelope Valley, SPA 1, And I'm a MHSA stakeholder client receiving service directly. And before I start my comment, I wanted to share my technical experience. Now, I noticed the email looks different now, thanks to our new staff, I forgot her name, thank you and welcome onboard. I did receive the email from SALT 5 and 6, and so that's how I was able to locate you all today. When I clicked on where it says, "live event," it shows me that it was closed, I mean, that it ended already. And I was confused because when I went back looking like it says today. So, then I scroll down and clicked on the

agenda. And when I saw the agenda, I clicked on the link there, and that's how I was able to enter. However, when I entered, I did not see the instructions posted. Somehow, I missed hearing the instructions when I logged. Well, I didn't know I logged out, but when I went out of the live mode to go back to the agenda so I could write down the instructions for the dialing mode, well, that's when I noticed I didn't hear anything anymore. So, I guess when you leave that live space whatever Microsoft does, you know, I didn't hear anything. So, I come back online and with the dialing mode and then I'm back on live mode. But like I said, I didn't hear the instructions, so I couldn't remember. But I'm just sharing that with you because that was very frustrating. One must know to go to the agenda to access that day's event. Looking above where it says "live events" link, that doesn't work. So, this, I mean, trial and error. Moving on to my public comment, I wanted to alert you how disappointed, and it's been a frustrating process as a client's stakeholder exercising my rights. And at the same time, I'm educating in the process stakeholder engagement process. And when I attended the CCC yesterday, I was very hurt, disappointed that in speaking about the labor acknowledgement that the two individuals who are Black: myself and Karis, who attended a previous discussion about this, were excluded in the conclusion of the matter. And I find that very odd and very strange that our voices were left out and the decisions are being made about labor acknowledgement that acknowledges Black African slave labor. So, I know time is of essence, but this is to be continued and I just wanted to bring it to your attention. Thank you.

Salam: Thank you very much for all of you trying to keep your promise. But there is a room for improvement again, to make sure that this meeting, when this meeting is being held and awareness is posted, it's not really clear. That needs to be addressed. Also, thank you very much for the City of Los Angeles and the County Board Supervisors officials to declare a state of emergency. We are in a humanitarian crisis, as you all know.

So, what can we do? From your point of view, I really think mental health if you're really thinking that to address these issues and to help the people, you know, having a stable place is very important. I think the other city, the states, the elected officer, you guys need to sit down, call a town hall meeting, and listen to the people where the system is failing people. It's very important to get people's cooperation so that they can get the help that they need, and then the caregivers also, we need support. We are doing your work. You dumped my daughter on the streets. The system held my daughter. Can you please help me to help my daughter and to help the others who are on the streets? I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Spanish Speaking Interpreter (Lucy Rivera)

Maritza LeBaron: I heard that someone said something of how they were reporting things to the Commissioners, and I wanted to know, because I am a Co-Chair, and I really don't know how things are going.

Let me go back. There's a lot of things that are happening and they call you as a Co-Chair and there's issues: issues that happen and experiences, life experiences that we have that you can offer. And it's never the right place. There's ever enough time. We think it is so important that we have minutes, like you have it here, where we can listen to the public and there are people who want to speak and there's never enough time. You just give us a little bit at the end. If there's time, you give us time. So, I think this part must be a place, a form where the public can express what's going on with them and don't know what door to knock on. And sometimes when we have these meetings, they want our input, but we say that the person that we're talking to that's leading the group, perhaps they're just summarizing what we said and so what we truly want is being lost.

What we wanted to do is be specific about the problem. I heard about Promotoras, I heard that they said that they're extending attention and there's questions and internal issues. And so, when you have all these people hired, then they won't require the services of the first Promotoras perhaps. And in December, we asked for a meeting; the meeting never happened. We wrote a letter and now it's important that there's issues with the funds, et cetera. So truly there is so much community. Then I see, like, for years of years, like Hector for example, I heard him speak on the line. We just say things over and over and they just leave him to one side. You are not deep into what we are saying. We want to know where, where in the department or the county do we have to go to? I'm begging you -- I know that my time's up, where do we go when we're having these issues? I know that we can't handle this in every meeting, but I know that the consumers, the clients, the department, we are all here and the programs and the expenses that have been incurred have incremented. It's like \$15 for a stipend to spend on one hour, two hours, four hours when everything has increased so much. This is not enough.

Leola Williams: Yes. Good afternoon to everyone. My name is Leola Williams. I'm in SPA Area 5. I'm also the President of Peer Action 4 Change. What I really want to put out there is that we really, really need to sell or promote the health support groups. We really need to get the word out, you know, regarding referral services. And this is not publicly being done. So, if anyone knows of any avenues, I'm thinking of your website and any other place that we can promote our support groups. Thank you so much for your time.

Jim "The" Hat: Hello, commissioners. How are you doing this year? This is Jim "The" Hat. I'm here with two things. One is that SAAC 5 is having its winter celebration on January the 20th at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium that's in Culver City from 10:00 to 1:00. All attending will be able to have lunch at Panera. Also, this month is Martin Luther King's birthday, a matter of being able to see the man who got the ball rolling to breaking the disease of racism or that disease of hatred. And if you go to jw.org, based on the cycle of hatred, that's the article, you'll see a mental health diagram of that cycle being broken up. That's jw.org, Jehovah Witness. Now that mental health article about breaking up that cycle of hatred of racism. And this is the special article that was done in the honor of George Floyd.

Andria McPerson: Hello, everyone. Happy New Year. I'm a Co-Chair of Service Area 5. We seem to be a common play today. Got a long, a lot of strong speakers, but Jim has -- he pretty much covered it. You know, I wanted to let you guys know about the event that we do have on the 20th. And there is an event this month for Martin Luther King Jr. Day for January the 16th at 9:00 AM. It's at John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, and that's 2425 16th Street in Santa Monica. So, everyone is welcome out and the Department of Mental Health, as a co-chair, I'm giving out information about our services in our area and different resources that are throughout the county. So, everyone is welcome.

And we're also planning an event for Black History Month. And so, we are totally willing to make sure that, of course, we stay up to par, but we want more organizations involved in our event and make sure that we have all types of resources because the Black community sometimes we don't have the proper resources or outreach person to person and different things like that. So, we're the highest mortality rate, chronic illness rate, and mental illness rate, and homeless rate. So, we need that outreach. So please come to our event, we will publicize it and send out a flyer. Thank you.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Commissioner Sanabria, 2nd by Commissioner Root. Meeting ended at (1:43 pm)

Supporting Document

DMH Updates for the MHC Executive Committee Meeting January 2023

1) Administrative Matters:

- DMH Leadership Position Promotions include: ○ Kimberly Nall, Administrative Deputy ○ Two Program Manager IIs
- Valley Coordinated Children’s Services
- Barry J. Nordoff Juvenile Hall
- Updated numbers on critical hire staffs-December 2022 ○ 23 positions filled ○ 66 positions pending hiring transactions
○ 159 positions in various stages of recruitment

2) Legislation Updates:

- Newly introduced State legislation
- Federal 2023 Fiscal Year Omnibus Package

3) PMRT Expansion (Allocation of additional teams):

Additional items shared in the October Full Commission Meeting were assigned based on call volume in each Service Area; existing staffing patterns; and ensuring each team had a peer.

4) United Mental Health Promoters Update

The Promotoras de Salud Mental has been expanding to a Countywide program, the United Mental Health Promoters. It has also been adapted and expanded to serve additional underserved cultural communities, including Black and African Heritage, Asian and Asian Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Eastern and Middle Eastern European, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Physically Disabled (Access for All), and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two Spirit and other (LGBTQIAS2-S) communities. Program highlights include:

- Cultural and Linguistic adaptations of program/material have been completed to accommodate Korean, African American, Chinese, Cambodian, American Indian, Arabic, and Amharic cultures/communities;
- Successful onboarding of LA County’s first ever Supervising Community Health Workers;
- Increased outreach, education, engagement, linkage, stigma reduction, school intervention, suicide prevention, and capacity in different languages and cultures; and
- Increased capacity for in person and virtual presentations.

5) **Report Response:** The following reports were submitted in December 2022.

- **“Report Back on Collection of Standardized Urgent Care Center Data (Item No.**

34, Agenda of April 28, 2015).” ○ The report provides an update on the ten currently open mental health Urgent Care Centers (UCCs) from January 2022-June 2022, including, but not limited to, data on services delivered, client demographics, number of clients, number of visits, and average length of stay for each facility. A few of the overall data points are highlighted below.

- 22,197 individuals served overall
- 20,619 total unique visits
- 57.12% overall utilization rate

- **“Ensuring the Community School Initiative (CSI) Has Access to the Most Accurate Data, Directive 2a (Item No. 34, Agenda of February 15, 2022).”** ○ The directive instructed DMH and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) AntiRacism, Diversion and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) and *“update the criteria for further future CSI funding and expansion so it is based on the most timely and complete data currently available on children’s mental health needs and provide in writing to the Board an updated CSI needs assessment before rolling over unspent funds or increasing or decreasing funds or staffing levels to support the CSI.”* The report provides a description of the needs assessment methodology, using data leveraged from the CEO’s Equity Map and relevant educational indicators, to select the six of the 15 CSI school sites to receive additional support from Master’s Level clinicians as part of the Mental Health Student Services Act grant funded project.

6) **Motions:** In December 2022, the motions below was approved by the Board that are to be submitted by DMH.

- **Mental Health Single Case Agreements (Item 2, Agendas of December 6, 2022, and December 20, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To allow DMH to implement temporary agreements with non-contract providers in order to provide Specialty Mental Health Services, that would be otherwise unavailable, as required by law.
- **Addressing the Inappropriate Transports of Psychiatric Patients to South Los Angeles (Revised Item 12, Agenda of December 6, 2022) [Link](#); [Link 2](#)** **Purpose:** To address the anticipated strain on the MLK CH and BHC, as well as the anticipated increase of people experiencing homelessness after discharge, of law enforcement bringing in individuals that reside outside of the service area.

- **Mentorship for At-Risk Black Girls in Los Angeles County (Item 14, Agenda of December 6, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To design and implement a mentorship pilot program for at risk black girls in LAC.
- **Feasibility Study for a Psychiatric UCC at Rancho Los Amigos (Item 91D, Agenda of December 6, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To evaluate the feasibility of adding a UCC in Service Area 7, specifically on the Rancho Los Amigos campus.
- **Community Care Expansion Preservation Program Administration and Management of Funds to Further Address Los Angeles County's Board and Care Crisis (Item 19/1-D, Agenda of December 20, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To provide the authority needed to move forward with implementing the work of preserving Board and Cares.
- **Preparing to Implement Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court in Los Angeles County (Item 21, Agenda of December 20, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To prepare for implementation of CARE Court.
- **County Support of the City of Los Angeles in their State of Emergency (Revised Item 22, Agenda of December 20, 2022) [Link 1](#); [Link 2](#)**
Purpose: To support collaboration with the City of Los Angeles in efforts to reduce homelessness.
- **9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Rollout Update (Item 28, Agenda of December 20, 2022) [Link](#)**
Purpose: To provide the Board and the community with an update (in writing and in a presentation) on implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and supportive resources/services. The presentation to the Board is anticipated for the January 24, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting.