

County of Los Angeles  
**MHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Minutes-Thursdays, March 9, 2023, Noon  
Kathleen Austria, Chair, Presiding  
**Approval Date: May 11, 2023**

**Motion moved by Commissioners Austria, Dagleish and Friedman by unanimous vote**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

**2. Administrative Matters**

- a. **Approval of the February 9, 2022 minutes: February 9, 2023 minutes tabled to April 13, 2023**

**3. Public Comment - Agenda & Non-Agenda Items**

a. **Osbee Sangster:**

Good day! My name is Osbee Sangster, speaking on behalf of the Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition, Inc. BLACCC's advocacy effort as part of our vision to live our value of continuous improvement. A generous (donor) in support of BLACCC'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's Literacy Project - has launched and providing technology to communities in Los Angeles County needy stakeholders / Give-Away H/P Chromebook computers to help provide access to digital inclusion that includes **Free self-paced online course where individuals can learn basic computer skills**, one full year of I/T support, a full year computer warranty and or replacement.

In addition, we can help you apply for low-cost internet through the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) along** with BLACCC's H/P Chromebook Intake Interview and Enrollment.

To determine if you're a LA County stakeholder eligible, for the **ACP** Connectivity Program? Let's Check your eligibility.

Currently, we have a limited supply; however, expecting more digital devices in the future to assist with technology, digital literacy, and internet resources ongoing. Please visit [www.blaccc.org](http://www.blaccc.org) website and obtain our telephone number. It is a landline; call and leave a message. And if you don't reach a person, please do so and do not text. Thank you.

b. **Hector Ramirez, Co-Chair:**

Thank you. Good afternoon, commissioners. I really appreciate your commitment. My name is Hector Ramirez. I am a co-chair for the Access For All UsCC, that is the LA County DMH group for people with disabilities, all disabilities. And we just had our meeting this week. And we just wanted to bring up an issue that we are noticing regarding MHSA contracts. We had a series of capacity projects that we were able to use with the money that our UsCC gets to do needs assessments for our deaf and hard of hearing, our blind, visually impaired, and people with mobility and disabilities for the Department of Mental Health.

And one of the problems that we have seen is that the contracts went to an agency that had no connection to the disability community. And as a result, the needs assessment that the county allowed this agency called "Painted Brain" is resulting not only in substandard services, but reports that don't necessarily are accurate with the concerns that our stakeholders are bringing

or the experiences that they're reporting. And we're very concerned that a lot of oversight and accountability and MHSA contracts for the Department of Mental Health are creating both products that are inaccurate but are going to hurt our community more. Because at the end of the day, they provide this needs assessment with wrong information about what are the actual needs and recommendations that our community are doing.

I recently attended some of this agency's listening sessions for this project, and there was only two people and the contractor doing all the talking. There weren't really any of my other peers or community members. So, their ability to do engagement to the community really is evident that is lacking. And so, again, I really want to bring up the issue to the commission of the department, that there needs to be some sort of oversight and accountability to ensure that taxpayer money that is coming out of MHSA, say, is being utilized, let's say, what's intended to do. Thank you.

- c. **Jim "The Hat"**: Hello, this is Jim The Hat, and glad be able to participate and make an announcement that in our world, day-to-day living, when you turn on one channel on the news, someone is getting shot; you turn to another channel getting local news, someone is running away from the police. We're saying that there's a disease, a new epidemic totally more deadly than COVID is hatred, hatred on all levels to spin it around the world. And as the Department of Mental Health might be interested in being able to see an evidence-based practice that is in the news is something that removes hatred, that's something that you all to me.

Well, the evidence-based practice of breaking this cycle of hatred, as the article in the Wake Magazine just recently costs very, very proliferating around the world, affecting all of us. And the Wake magazine by Jehovah Witness caused concern that we need to help, we find out real evidence. Now, somebody says you won't go that direction, but if we want the sunrise, we want to look to not the west, but sometimes even to the north where we can fall through the cracks. We as being responsible in the Department of Mental Health want to see the sunrise. We look to evidence-based practice, that practice works around the world, bring all people together and learning, bringing peace, look to change that we got for. Pray for the cycle of the cycle we got.

#### 4. Presentation

- a. **DMH Update – Crystal Kibby, DMH Board Liaison – [link](#)**
  - i. **Administrative Matters**
  - ii. **Board Report**

#### 5. Action Items

- a. **Prepare Full Commission Meeting Agenda for the March 23, 2023**
  - i. **Topics for consideration:**
    - 1. **Committee Proposals/Updates**
      - a. AOT
    - 2. **Ad Hoc Proposals/Updates**
      - a. Community Outreach and Engagement – Committee established moved, approved, and seconded.
      - b. Retreat Planning – Committee established moved, approved, and seconded.

**3. Committee/Ad hoc under consideration**

- a. MHSA Committee – under further discussion

**4. Commission Updates – No reports**

**5. Feedback for Stakeholder Group Reports (SALTs/UsCCc/CCC)**

**MHC wants to allow stakeholder speakers extra time to report on SALT activities**

**6. Standing items:**

- a. DMH Director’s Update
- b. DMH Legislative Update
- c. DMH Finance Report

**Topics for consideration vote, moved, approved, and seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

Chair Austria-Aye

Commissioner Friedman-Aye

Commissioner Dagleish-Aye

**Motion carries**

**7. New items to consider:**

- a. Election of Executive Committee Officers  
March: Distribution of “Interest Survey”
- b. MHSA Annual Updates Public Hearing
- c. MHSA Proposals and Stakeholder Engagement

**Motion to proceed with new items a, b, and c. Moved by Commissioner Dagleish, second by Commissioner Friedman**

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Friedman - Aye

Commissioner Dagleish - Aye

Chair Austria - Aye

**Motion carries**

**6. Public Comment - Agenda & Non-Agenda Items**

- a. Hector Ramirez. I'm an LA County DMH consumer at West Valley Mental Health Clinic in SALT 2. I'm Latino Native American. I'm a little bit shocked and very concerned of the lack of commissioner participation in this meeting. Given the fact that Los Angeles County, you've received the largest amounts of MHSA money in the state of California, and how it is the largest duty of oversight and accountability, and the fact that we only have three commissioners representing Los Angeles County with over 10 million people, it's a significant concern given the fact at the significant disparities that our community face. I have seen spaces at the state level where commissioners from this committee that I have been appointed to state bodies to represent are not even there.

And so, the lack of representation from supervisorial districts in our MHSA process is Very concerning, both as a consumer and as a community member who has been very actively engaged with the department and the county. As you considered outreaching for potential members of the commission, I really do want to recommend that Consumers of the department

be prioritized given the significant absence of current commissioners who are consumers of the Department of Mental Health, particularly for SALT Area 2.

And I really want to thank all of you could be there, particularly Commissioner Dagleish who is my commissioner for my area, but I'm very concerned that my area that has commissioners are not showing up to do the work that our community needs. Because we know when nobody shows up, our community suffers and we're already struggling. So, this is really concerning that at a project meeting, there's only a significant amount; very, very small amount of people that are continuously active while other commissioners are not at the table.

We are here, we aren't at the table, but we're here. And so not having commissioners is really a significant alarm for the County of Los Angeles.

- b. William:** I will urge the commissioners to support Mayor Bass's efforts to give the homeless issue. [Inaudible] council meeting to support the mayor to support the employment for clients and [Inaudible] about the homeless situation. And that [Inaudible] is not a problem, is not a big issue. It is a big issue, but LA County can deal with it. [Inaudible] city in the United States. I encourage the county commissioners and the staff to support [Inaudible]. It can be done.
- c. Wendy Cabil** from Antelope Valley, and I'm outside, so I can't mute the background right now. I'm waiting for a ride to go home with taxi. I want to applaud you all for still coming up, showing up at the table. This is very taxing work. I mean, I can't imagine all that you all have to have to deal with, but I just want you to all know that we're here as a community to support one another. And I'm glad that I can be in this space and that we have this space for the community to show up.

I'm always trying to encourage others, you know, empower my peers. Yes, there's lots that needs to be improved, but I do want to highlight the changes that I am noticing the improvements with the MHSA admin unit that's newly created. They're learning, they're taking - they are taking tips from the community to improve. So I'm liking that spirit of collaboration and I want to give kudos to Jean Harris, the SALT 1 co-chair who drove down here and I rode with her. We came down, we had perfect attendance at St. Anne's. And so, I want to thank her for her dedication and commitment as well. And, our new Service Area 1 chief, James Coomes. We had last month's SALT meeting. We outgrew the room because community involvement is expanding. And so that's a good thing.

And I'm looking forward to contributing more and getting my peers -- getting more of my peers involved. Yes, we do have this homeless crisis all around us and I've recently submitted a proposal with the pinnacle support of our Service Area 1 chief. And so I'm hoping to see better out there in Antelope Valley, dealing with the homelessness affecting the Black people in the community.

And finally, let's see the point. Oh, recently, well, just yesterday, I became one of the new co-chairs for the Cultural Competency Committee. And I'm looking forward to all the changes that's taken place to make sure that we're all in compliance.

**MHC Executive Committee Meeting**

**March 9, 2023**

**Page 5 of 5**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn moved by Commissioner Friedman, second by Commissioner Dagleish (time ended @ 1:05 pm)