

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

March 23, 2023 - Minutes

Kathleen Austria, Chair, Second District

APPROVED: April 27, 2023

Motion made Commissioner by Commissioner Molina, second by Commissioner Dalglish

Discussion

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (A), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Barbour (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalglish (P), Commissioner Banko (A), Commissioner Molina (P), Commissioner Sanabria (A), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P) - **QUORUM PRESENT**

2. Administrative Matters

- a. Approval of the February 23, 2023, meeting minutes – Motion proposed to table February 23, 2023, minutes to April 27, 2023. Moved by Commissioner Dalglish, second by Commissioner Root. Motion to table minutes carried.

3. General Public Comment

a. **Telephonic Public Comment: Agenda & Non-Agenda Items**

Osbee Sangster Los Angeles County Black Client Coalition Inc. (*public comment emailed to MHC*)
Good day! My name is Osbee Sangster, Speaking on behalf of the Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition, Inc. Our 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 eligible stakeholder, 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; <http://www.blaccc.org> website; and obtain our telephone number:

Call and leave a message! This is BLACCC's Landline Number; so please don't (TEXT.) Call to set up an intake appointment. Thank you!

Jean Harris - I've been having an issue with public comment not being followed up on. I would really love to figure out. I mean, even in our minutes of our SALT, public comment was removed because of privacy issues. But if someone is speaking at a public meeting that they know is being recorded and then we cannot document what they said because of privacy issues, I'm confused. And so, I want to have follow-up on public comment. I want people to know that somebody heard them, and it wasn't just filed away in a drawer to be shut forever. I want to know what is happening to help provide support.

4. Updates/Action Items

a. **Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Proposals/Updates**

i. *Committee*

1. AOT – Next AOT meeting date is March 28, 2023

ii. *Ad Hoc*

1. Community Outreach and Engagement – Commissioners Cooperberg, Schallert, Molina, Stevens, and Dalgleish formed ad hoc committee to discuss holding townhalls and other community outreach and engagement activities. SALT Chairs will be invited to join the Committee planning activities.
2. Retreat Planning Commissioners Weissman, Barbour and Root confirmed the list of volunteers joining the ad hoc committee to plan the next retreat.

b. **Committee Under Consideration**

- i. *MHSA Committee – Commissioners discussed developing a MHC MHSA Committee. They spoke about what responsibilities would be needed outside of reports presented from DMH staff. Commissioners decided to invite MHSA Division to provide monthly updates to eliminate waiting the last month to weigh-in on important information. MHC decided to table the discussion until the full May meeting.*

c. **MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2023-24**

- i. *Local Review – Kaleen Gilbert stated the 10-month annual update plan started by first expanding the stakeholder groups. The MHSA Annual Update report is ready for posting, sharing, and public comments.*

MHSA Annual Update Announcements:

1. *30-Day Public Comment Period will end April 24, 2023*
2. *Public Hearing date is April 27, 2023*

MHC Comment

1. *Commissioners inquired about what happen to MHSA updates and previews presented several times last year prior to the public hearing. Are we going directly to the public hearing without previews and updates of the annual report?*
2. **ACTION ITEM** – *MHC scheduled a Special Executive Committee meeting April 13, 2023, for all Commissioners attend to preview the MHSA Annual Report prior to attending the upcoming public hearing.*

d. **Stakeholder Groups (SALTs/UsCCc/CCC) Reporting to the Commission**

- i. *Report template review – Kenia discussed a new report template for stakeholder group reporting to MHC. Commissioners stated SALT Chairs should review the template before a final decision is adopted.*
- ii. *Consider as a standing item on agenda – No discussion*
- iii. *Stakeholder Group Reports*

Jean Harris, Co-Chair for Service Area 1 SALT. I got elected in January coming back from a couple of year hiatus, so I'm happy to be part of an effort to get more client engagement at the SALT meeting. I was part of the process when a previous director, Dr. Sherin, shared his vision of the communication process and getting from the community to the SALT to the Mental Health Commission via these reports, and then to include DMH staff in the process. You know, we've got to have that kind of a flow chart. And so I was actually asked to help create more engagement of clients and family members in our SALT in the Antelope Valley area.

Our meeting on March 16th was at a new location because we overflowed the old location of the Department of Public Health. And so, the two co-chairs were unable to attend, and so I got to facilitate the meeting and we provided dinner for participants as well. That was delicious. We talked about our budget because, again, this whole last-minute thing, you know. Oh, really? We must have a budget submitted by April 15th, and we haven't talked about it until March 16th? Okay.

We received 10 responses to a survey asking for people at our SALTs, all the participants to vote on what they thought were their priorities. Suicide prevention campaign was number one. Suicide is way, way up in the Antelope Valley. Training and support for family and friends. Gap analysis number three. Four was student empowerment. Five is MHSA training. And six is transportation assistance to attend events in Los Angeles Basin.

We had six -- at least six new members attend and fill out membership forms. At that meeting, we discussed having a subcommittee, which DMH leadership is going to get back to us on how we do that and what the rules and regulations that we must comply with. Internet issues prevail. Even in our new location it is hard to hear if you're online, what's happening. It is common for internet to go down, and then we're trying to hold the meeting so people attending online aren't missing what's happening.

I want to get back to it as much in-person attendance as possible. I'd like to get presentations from the QIC about client and stakeholder surveys and how that whole quality improvement works. I've been invited to attend the ICCTM, which is a model from Solano County about how to include more culturally diverse services in communities, not just DMH, but including community-based organizations. So, I'm looking forward to that. We had our first introductory meeting today.

Hector Ramirez - Hi. I enjoyed that this is really extended public comment time. It really allows clarification. First of all, buenos tardes. My name is Hector Ramirez, one of the co-chairs for the Access For All UsCC. March is Disability Awareness Month. We started our meeting definitely, of course, by having a presentation for stakeholders. We had over 35 people show up for our meeting. We are the second largest stakeholder group for DMH. The Latino us, the biggest one with over 100. We come in second. That's why we have three co-chairs.

And so, we had a presentation for our group around MHSA from the department, both from Dr. Byrd who many of our community were familiar with. And then definitely we also had a presentation from Mary Baraza. So that really helped to educate our stakeholders around the department's MHSA strategy moving forward. We really like to educate our stakeholders about these things. And so, it's not a surprise that doing this whole MHSA process, out of the 250,000 consumers that get services from the department, the one consumer that applied was from our UsCC. And so, you know, so we were very glad that we have that opportunity to represent. We wished the process was a little bit more accessible, you know, from the beginning and not the point that we have to be constantly fighting about it. It's a 30-year-old law requirement.

So many of our folks are still requesting MHSA material to be available in plain language. And that has been a documented request that we have made since last year and even before when

we had the previous director. So, we're still waiting for a response to that. But then we also talked about -- we have a new staff that has great skills. And so, it really shows some of the quality of work that we're able to do now. And so, we presented on two of our capacity projects. We have a domestic violence campaign. That's coming in line. And then we're going to be redoing our funding proposals since we have problems with the current MOUs. And so, we're going to be looking to stakeholders to decide how to do that. Our group is supposed to be working with Governor Newsom MHPA group.

Wendi Cabil, Good morning, commissioners, and everyone in the public attending. I'm serving as a co-chair, one of the three for the Cultural Competency Committee. And just briefly, just letting you know, we're in transition now that I've joined the team and we are working on some future projects, so stay tuned. Thank you.

e. Election of Executive Committee Officers

i. March: Distribution of "Interest Survey"

Kenia will provide the Interest survey to MHC after today's meeting.

f. Commission Updates – updates tabled due to time limits

5. Presentations/Reports

a. DMH Update **Connie D. Draxler, Acting Chief Deputy Director ([link](#))**

Connie Draxler provided updates and slides on the following topics: (see link for details)

- I. DMH Hiring Efforts to Date*
- II. DMH Hiring Efforts-Leadership Positions (February 2023)*
- III. CalAIM Update*
- IV. CARE Act Update – DMH will coordinate CARE Court*

b. DMH Finance Report - **Sara Lee Dato, Acting Finance Manager ([link](#))**

Sara Dato provided budget updates and slides on the following topics: (see link for details)

- I. Budget Process Timeline*
- II. Housing and Homeless Initiative Program*
- III. Community Care Expansion Program*
- IV. Mental Health Commission Budget*

c. DMH Legislative Updates **Cynthia Wheaton, Legislative Analyst ([link](#))**

Cynthia Wheaton provided state legislation updates on the following state assembly bills and the status (see link for details)

- I. Assembly Bill 86 (Jones-Sawyer) Homelessness: lead entity (spot bill)*
- II. Assembly Bill 268 (Weber) Board of State and Community Corrections*
- III. Assembly Bill 283 (Patterson) Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission*
- IV. Assembly Bill 745 (Bryan) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program*

Adjournment

Commissioner Molina moved to adjourn, Commissioner Stevens second, meeting adjourned.