



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023
Time: 11:00 am
Location: 510 S Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Virtual: [Meeting Recording](#)

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| MEETING TYPE: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> Special |
| MINUTES TYPE: | <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved |

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am

2. ROLL CALL/WELCOME

- a. MHC Member Attendance:
 Commissioner Root (A), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (A), Commissioner Friedman (A),
 Commissioner Stevens (A), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalglish (P),
 Commissioner Banko (A), Commissioner Peng Xu (A), Commissioner Molina (P),
 Commissioner Sanabria (A), Commissioner Manalo (P), Commissioner Cooperberg (P),
 Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), Supervisor Janice Hahn (A)-
 QUORUM NOT PRESENT
 Absent (A); Present (P); Present Virtually (PV)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Stakeholder Group Reports
 - i. SALT 1, Monica Olsen reported on activities and updates at SALT meetings and events; a presentation from American Indian Counseling Center, public comment time was extended for consumers and family to speak. We are looking forward to the MHC Town Hall in Lancaster.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
 - ii. SALT 2, Barbara Wilson briefly reported the SALT meeting discussed good things happening and not good things happening. There are more not good things happening. No further details were reported on the SALT meeting.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
 - iii. Access for All UsCC, Hector Ramirez stated the stakeholder group are working on projects; looking for volunteers with disabilities to assist with meetings and recruiting a third co-chair and working closely with DMH to solve a critical ASL shortage of sign language. Mirtala Parada Ward gave a presentation on developing guidelines for SALT members.

A copy of the meeting minutes are available for public inspection at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mental-health-commission/minutes/> within 15 business days for proposed minutes and within 5 business days of approval for approved minutes.



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- a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- iv. SALT 8, Paul Stansbury provided updates: Peer celebration was held October 27, 2023, and Native American Heritage month held. The committee discussed the upcoming town hall meeting on April 25, 2024. Meetings are now occurring twice a month and receive good input. Members are working on current CPT guidelines and SB326/Proposition 1. SALT continue moving forward to open their peer resource center.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- v. CCC, Bernice Mascher provided updates on meetings and activities during the month of October and November given by an Indian and California Native. Dr. Robert Byrd, Deputy Director, Prevention Bureau attended the meeting and addressed areas of interest for the CCC.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- b. Members of the public comments
 - i. Bennie Tensen, announced the closing of a senior resident facility. He submitted a proposal to get funding.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
 - ii. Mark Karmatz, announced Project Return will return January 2024 and the Peer Resource is opening.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
 - iii. Ahmed Saafir, President of LARCA, spoke about a discrepancy. He receives \$44 per day to provide full service to board and care residents and motels are receiving \$3k a month for their residents. President Saafir asked the MHC help to release the available fast track funding.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Speaker asked the MHC help to release the available fast track funding to care for board and care residents.
 - iv. Dr. Jay Plotzker, PhD, spoke about consequences experienced trying to keep the facility and the residents. It’s impossible to continue with \$44 per day.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – Speaker is concerned about the facility continuing a \$44 per day per resident.
 - v. NAMI Contractor for LARCA, advocating to maintain board and cares in business, funding is available and when can we get it?
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
 - vi. Hector Ramirez, spoke about being a consumer and living in Chatsworth. He has spoken with the SALT representative to uplift the people that live in board and care homes. Consumers want supportive housing with options. As a result, consumers continue to be further marginalized.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE



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- vii. Desire, spoke about getting support to advocate for the facility to remain open so the residents can stay.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- viii. Salaneka Smith, spoke about her residents receive full personal care, they are the most vulnerable population.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- ix. Michelle Pullum works directly with the residents who keep at risk population off the streets, funding is needed to stay open.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE
- x. Barbara Wilson, spoke about the licensing facilities continuing to close. The current residents are afraid of dying.
 - a. **Issues/Concerns** – NONE

MHC Question-Is there a completed fiscal analysis to increase the board and care funding daily to \$100? *Response-* MHC invite staff to attend MHC meeting to talk about the funding.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Roll call resulted no quorum. *Consent agenda items listed including minutes will be carried over to December 14, 2023.*

- a. Approval of the October 26, 2023, minutes.
- b. Follow up on constituents’ concerns/issues – *Concerns and issues gathered from constituent comments will be issued to MHC.*
- c. DMH Legislative Update (*Monthly report/quarterly presentation*)
- d. Ad Hoc Reports – *No update*
 - i. Data Notebook (Commissioners Dalgleish and Austria)

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Carried from 10/26/23)**

- a. *DMH Finance Report Back on Service Area Leadership Teams (SALTs) budget guidelines and spending flexibility. Click [here](#) to see the DMH Finance Report on SALTs Budget.*
 - i. Sara Lee Dato, reported the SALT funding and budget total amounts are \$100,000 dollars for each SALT, including rollover of \$50,000 for two fiscal years due to COVID. Funds can be used to facilitate planning, outreach, and engagement efforts.
MHC Recommendation – Provide a mid-year report showing 6-month SALT expenditures in January 2024.

MHC Question – Can SALT dollars be used to organize mini-SALT expenditures?
Response – Leader of SALT decide on the use of mini-SALT expenses.



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MHC Question – Will any of the funds be shared with board & care and the homeless population?

Response – If clarity on the issues is available, information will be provided.

MHC Question – When will specific impacts be available so that information is available for discussion with the board?

Response – Greatest impact will be outpatient and prevention programs.

6. **STANDING ITEMS**

- a. *DMH Director Updates (Lisa Wong, DMH Director). Click [here](#) for presentation.*

Dr. Wong provided updates on the following topics:

- i. DMH Overall Hiring Efforts to Date
- ii. New Hires/Promotions by Classification - October 2023
- iii. DMH Hiring Efforts: Leadership Positions - October 2023
- iv. DMH Update: State of Emergency on Homelessness Encampment Resolutions
- v. DMH Update: State of Emergency on Homelessness Housing
- vi. DMH Update: State of Emergency on Homelessness Delegated Authorities & Expedited Processes

MHC Question – Regarding vacancy rates data listed in supervisorial districts, it is more helpful to receive the data in service areas.

MHC Question – How many staff are leaving?

Response – Retention is good because we hire candidates for the new programs like ARC teams.

MHC Question – What can be done in the Hollywood district because psychiatry wait time is 6 months.

Response – Recruiting psychiatric residents is available but HR needs reorganization.

- b. *DMH MHSA Updates (MHSA Administration Team: Kalene Gilbert and Dr. Darlesh Horn)*

- i. Kalene Gilbert provided update the SB326/Proposition 1 changes below. Click [here](#) for presentation.
 - a. SB326/Proposition 1
 - b. Proposition 1 Programmatic Changes
 - c. Current Available Funding Sources

MHC Question – If the state takes decision-making power from DMH, how do we shape decisions?



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Response – LA County will continue to make decisions for programs regardless. DMH will provide a report back on the issue.

- ii. Dr. Darlesh Horn provided updates on the CPT process and workgroups. Click [here](#) for presentation. Community Planning Team (CPT) Updates:
 - a. CPT Current Status and Outcomes
 - b. 4 Workgroups and CPT Feedback Categories
 - c. CPT Themes across 4 Workgroups
 - d. Community Planning Process Challenges
- c. *DMH Finance Report – Sara Lee Dato*. Click [here](#) to see report.
 - i. Unmet needs - Sara Dato explained the unmet need process. A base budget request and an official budget request is submitted to the supervisors. The difference between both budgets is unmet needs or critical needs, like a wish-list.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. *Introduction – Toni Robinson, DBH, LLM, Chief of Peer Services*. Ms. Robinson joined DMH 5 months ago. Before she was Manager of MHSA Innovation and Cultural Competency. Ms. Robinson stated her role is to make sure peer services, peer workforce and programs, clinics and service areas are served. In addition to oversee the Peer workforce is in training, education, career ladders to promote, and recertify state peer certification.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. *MHC Retreat – 12/14/2023, 11am to 2:30pm.*
 - i. Discuss agenda.
- b. *Two Town Hall MHC meetings FY 2023-2024 (SA 1 and SA 8)*
 - i. SA 1 – January 25, 2024, 11:00am to 3:00pm
 - ii. SA 8 – April 25, 2024, 10:00am to 1:30pm
- c. *Select and vote on Executive Committee Member vacant seat*. Commissioner Weissman recommended a commissioner volunteer to join the Executive Committee before a member is recruited.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** Time: 1:04p.m.