



**MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING**

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

**REGULAR MEETING & SA 1 TOWNHALL MINUTES**

**Date:** January 25, 2024  
**Time:** 11:00am  
**Location:** 510 S Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020  
**Attachments:** [Meeting Recording](#) / [Public Comment Transcript](#)

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

**Minutes approved on:** February 22, 2024

**1. NETWORKING/MEET AND GREET**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

a. 11:15 am

**3. ROLL CALL/WELCOME**

MHC Member Attendance:

Commissioner Root (P), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (P), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalgleish (P), Commissioner Banko (A), Commissioner Peng Xu (A), Commissioner Molina (P), Commissioner Sanabria (A), Commissioner Manalo (A), Commissioner Cooperberg (P), Commissioner Weissman (P), Commissioner Schallert (P), Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Represented by Anders Corey (P)- Absent (A); Present (P)

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Approval of minutes of the December 14, 2023, Meeting (*Approval of the minutes carried to MHC Regular Meeting, February 22, 2024*)

**5. SPEAKERS**

a. Judy Cooperberg, Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> District.  
Being on the Commission for 12 years, appointed by Former Supervisor Anonovich there was very few resources in the valley. In 2012, Mental Health America in Los Angeles hosted the first town hall meeting in the Antelope Valley, 160 attended. The SALT



## MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"

*Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding*

developed a list of five unmet needs, a psychiatric urgent care center, mental health evaluation team, increase capacity for all age groups in community care, increase homeless services, housing, and transportation. Now there are five mental health evaluation teams, greater increase in psychiatry, more housing resources. In the past 36 years AV has made a huge difference in identifying unmet needs.

- b. James Coomes, Mental Health Program Manager, III  
Mr. Coomes gave an update on the Antelope Valley programs and staff.

### **Antelope Valley Update:**

- Three directly operated mental health programs, 23 contract providers and 220 DMH staff in the Antelope Valley.
- The network serves approximately 25k people across the Antelope Valley
- Community members and service providers address concerns and advocate at the Service Area Leadership Team (SALT 1) meetings. SALT 1 is chaired by Jean Harris, Monica Olsen, and Michael Dutton.
- Health Neighborhood Groups: Agencies gather to share resources and collaborate to address unmet needs.
- Faith-based network meets regularly to learn about resources and serve congregations.

- c. Dr. Lisa Wong, Department of Mental Health Director  
Dr. Wong spoke about welcoming the new year 2024 with optimism, hope, and promise with the challenges from Proposition 1, AB 531 and SB 326.

### **Highlights:**

- **Proposition 1** is an initiative on the March ballot that asks voters to approve and adopt [AB 531](#) and [SB 326](#); two bills that were passed by the California legislature and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom last year.
  - If passed, Proposition 1 would make significant changes to how the State and counties, including Los Angeles County, spend revenue generated by the 2004 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).
  - Proposition 1 would also create a \$6.3B bond to fund the construction of new residential treatment beds and



## MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"

*Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding*

housing units. The bond would be paid back by California taxpayers.

- This proposition will not only rename the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), but it also proposes changes to the MHSA for all of California's counties and how the MHSA funds are spent.
  - If Proposition 1 is approved by voters, all these changes will be implemented in July 2026.
  - If Proposition 1 fails, then no changes will be made to MHSA spending and the \$6.3B bond will not be created.
- **Antelope Valley Mental Health Center (AVMHC):**
  - The Full Service Partnership (FSP) team is staffed at 85% and is accepting new referrals. Our total capacity is 100 participants.
- **Antelope Valley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program:**
  - The first directly operated Child and Adolescent Program in the Antelope Valley is now staffed at 50% -- and we anticipate a grand opening in April.
- **Palmdale Mental Health Center:**
  - Our new facility location opened in August 2023 where each of our staff have workstations – and our field staff have spaces where they can 'hotel' when they need to drop in for clinic-based resources.
- **AV-UPP:**
  - This is a collaboration between UCLA, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health Services' pediatric department which continues to see clients through telehealth.
  - Since it was established in December 2020, 218 children and their families have been served.
- **Department A-16 (Michael Antonovich Courthouse):**
  - The Alternative Resource Court (ARC) program was established in 2017.



## MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

- A DMH staff member participates in a multi-agency partnership to offer diversion through the delivery of mental health and substance use services.
- We are paving the way within the courthouse for the Mental Health Court Linkage Program to provide similar services in other courtrooms.
- **Full Service Partnerships (FSP):**
  - The Child-Young Adult FSP has 103 total slots: with 49 available slots. Last year (2023), 114 children were served.
  - Wrap-around FSP has 60 total slots: with 35 available slots.
  - Adult FSP has 540 total slots: with 89 available slots.
- **Service Area 1 Administration:**
  - Mark your calendars! The Antelope Valley *May Is Mental Health Month* celebration and event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at the Sgt. Steve Owen Memorial Park in Lancaster – and the Peer Resource Center will be opening this summer!
  - And finally, the Active Service Area Leadership Team has been collaborating between community members and service providers, providing input to the Mental Health Services Act process, and hosting an annual Day of Giving every December.

d. Anders Corey, Health Deputy, Supervisor Kathryn Barber Office, 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Health Deputy Corey spoke about conversations and feedback received from DMH leadership about the ground-breaking projects and providing services for the youth in crisis. We are excited about the \$43M grant awarded from the state for adult residential treatment at High Desert Hub and providing more funding for AV.

### 6. **IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT** – Listening Session

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Mental Health Commission.

Osbee Sangster, Kimberly Dorris, John Keith, David Harris, Barbara Wilson, Kimberly Harvey, Wendy Cabil, Maria Guerra, Matt (Commission for Aging and Disabilities), Bronica Sara, Yvonne Sandoval, Anonymous,



## MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"

*Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding*

Consumer, Jean Harris, Alonzo Braggs, Dr. Rachelle Commadi, Speaker, Raquelle Darfiller, Mylka White, Ngaco Cangina, Benjamin Martin, Luna Walker, Dr. Lisa Piers Berlin, Viva Richer, Lajo, Antonia Reyas, Reba Workshire, , Steven, Daniel Aisles, DACA Student Nardi Lopaz, Amber, Jesse Lee, Dr. Lisa Gantz, Jacqueline Diaz, Chad Scott, Jan Lenus Archana, Anonymous, Charles Wade, Stepaune Wallace, Anonymous.

[Attachment](#)

**ADJOURNMENT @ 1:38pm**