



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

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

*Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding*

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** February 22, 2024  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**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 March 28, 2024 – Motion approved by Commissioner Manalo, second by Commissioner Austria**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

a. MHC Full Meeting started @ 11:08 am

**2. ROLL CALL/WELCOME**

Chair Molina welcome new Commissioner Thomas Roache, appointed by Supervisor Horvath, 5th District.

MHC Member Attendance:

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

Absent (A); Present (P)

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT- Opportunity for members of the public to address the Mental Health Commission.**

Jean Harris, Co-Chair SALT 1, Barbara Wilson, Co-Chair SALT 2, Michael Dutton, Co-Chair SALT 1, Lewis Scott, Paul Stansbury, Co-Chair SALT 8, Osbee Sangster, Theresa Comstock, Pastor Joshua Nah, Co-Chair SALT 4, Anonymous, Yvonne Sandoval, Co-Chair SALT 7, Andria McFerson, Co-Chair SALT 5, Reba Stevens, Co-Chair SALT 6, John Alexander, addressed the Commission either in person or by phone.

Attachments: [Public Comment Transcript](#)



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*Commissioner Dalgleish Question* – Was there a discussion to use funding to provide transportation for people? There was one person who came from another area and spent her own money (\$100). Is the MHC and SALTs willing to give people the opportunity to attend from other areas?

*Response from Chair Molina:* Transportation is an issue raised by community members and it is a solution forthcoming.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of the following minutes. Motion made, moved by Commissioner Stevens, second by Commissioner Manalo.

Minutes of the December 14, 2023, meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

Minutes of the January 25, 2024, meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

- b. Follow-up on Constituent Concerns/Issues (Crystal Kibby)

*DMH received five (5) constituent referrals from the MH Commission during the month of January 2024. One referral was a public records request which was processed according to procedure. Three of the referrals were for mental health services, and one referral related to concerns regarding access to events. The constituents were contacted and assisted with requests for services and access.*

- c. MH Commissioners Travel Expense Reimbursement Process and Procedures

*Kenia Fuentes, Executive Assistant, developed a guide, MHC External Travel Approval Process, for MH Commissioners to follow when seeking budget funds for travel.*

### **5. ITEMS CARRIED FROM PRIOR MEETING** *(Carried from 11/02/2023)*

- a. *Commissioner Victor Manalo appointed by the MH Commission to the Executive Committee by unanimous vote.*

### **6. STANDING ITEMS**

- a. DMH Director Updates (Connie Draxler, Acting Chief Deputy Director) –

See link – [DMH Director’s Update Presentation](#)

Connie Draxler introduced new employee, Jacob Lam, Senior Deputy Director. Jacob Lam comes from DHCS with lots of experience at the state level. He is learning the county way, helping provide financial analysis and helping develop long term and short-term financial strategy for the department.

- i. Update on Proposition 1 and Senate Bill (SB) 43



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*Commissioner Schallert Question: – Do we know what the loss of federal matching funds will be because of this?*

*Jacob Lam Response: We don't have the number and its difficult projecting the number. We are not sure what we can use the money for in the future which makes it hard to compare pre/post Prop 1 on the impact of federal dollars.*

*Commissioner Weissman Question: About the 14% shift between licenses, is there a way or anywhere we can find what the differential impact would be with no shift, maximum shift, partial shift? I am having hard time wrapping my mind around the ultimate or potential impact.*

*Jacob Lam Response: In terms of percentage yes. Look at the side-by-side chart on the right assumes we are availing ourselves on the max shift of the housing and FSP into the early intervention core service category. Look at the first table from Connie. This slide with the single pi-chart that assumes no shift between the 7% between categories. Funding categories is on the chart.*

*Commissioner Weissman Question: How many get served by FSP today verses how many are served in BHSA?*

*Connie Draxler Response: I will have to get back to you on that.*

*Commissioner Austria Question: Is there polling on this to see where it stands with the public whether it will pass or not?*

*Response from Connie Draxler: I'm sure there is polling, and I don't know if we have been tracking it.*

*Response from Elan Shultz: Polling is done and conducted by the PPIC (Public Policy Institutes of California). The polling does show support greater than 50%.*

*Commissioner Austria Question: I understand that if this passes the (?) funds the state would retain and would not be spent and will be using them to balance the budget for three years?*

*Connie Draxler Response: The proposition and legislation that supported it indicated that three years will be ongoing and increase the workforce.*



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*Commissioner Austria Question: Do you know what their budget is? How do we integrate all the services?*

*Connie Draxler Response: There is an effort driven by board motion and from the state that substance use services and mental health services need to be administratively integrated in the county and certain items we must do between now and 2027.*

*Susan Friedman Question: This is an amazing thing that you presented. Am I to assume this is going to change DMH?*

*Connie Draxler Response: We will make it positive. Our goal is everyone who needs services will get services.*

*Commissioner Schallert Question: Has the new administrative cost that the state will encumber been analyzed? Will that money come out of the total MHSA money? What I'm worried about is that means allocation of the county is less. Can you confirm the information we heard a couple of months ago that was \$6.2 billion?*

*Connie Draxler Response: For the bond measure? I don't know that number. I'm not tracking the \$14 billion number for the board measure either.*

*Commissioner Weissman Question: A quick question and I am glad to see family members taking advantage of petitioning. Any effort on DMH's part to help other petitioners and potential petitioners to help file and find folks who are eligible and good candidates for CARE court?*

*Connie Draxler Response: We are utilizing the self-help center in the court. The department is there in the self-help center and the court contracted out. In terms of other petitioners beyond county partners we are asking them to refer to us and we be the petitioner because it makes better sense.*

*Commissioner Weissman Question: I mean community-based organizations folks that are not part of the county family.*

*Connie Draxler Response: There are 12 courts that have self-help centers and if you go to a court other than Norwalk that self-help center will connect you to our employee that we have at Norwalk and we can address any questions they have about treatment and all of that and we are coordinating with all the self-help centers and we are locally involved at the Norwalk courthouse.*



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- ii. Update on Care Court Implementation  
*Commissioner Weissman Question: Any information on DMH’s part to help other petitioners and potential petitioners to help find folks who are eligible food candidates for CARE Court?*  
*Response from Connie Draxler: No number at this point. The difficulty in projecting is that we are not sure we can use the funds for the future. It is hard to compare pre and post Prop 1 on the impact of federal dollars.*
- b. DMH MHSA Updates (Dr. Darlesh Horn/Kalene Gilbert, DMH MHSA Administration). See links – [CPT Update Presentation](#); [DMH List of Recommendations MHSA Programming](#)
  - i. Community Planning Team (CPT)  
*Community Planning Process update.*
- c. DMH Legislative Update (Elan Shultz, Director of Policy & Strategy). See link – [DMH Legislative Updates Presentation](#)
  - i. SB 402 intension from DMH staff  
*Commissioner Schallert Question: Question, it looks like this bill will allow people that are not necessarily working on a contracted agency or working for DMH could be somebody for example, a licensed therapist at a college. Is that still in the bill or right now from what I understand you are either in law enforcement or a county contractor or directly operated, do you know? Do you know the question I am asking?*  
*Elan Shultz Response: I do at one point the bill said the provider had to be a contractor or staff of the county. At this point you can be a contractor and can be staff or designated by the county and I believe either way you must be designated by the county.*  
  
*Commissioner Schallert Question: So, the county is going to make those decisions on a case-by-case basis or going to not designate unless you are working?*  
*Elan Shultz Response: Let me answer a different question. We received a question from the commission as to how DMH was planning to implement this bill. It is too early to figure that out. The bill is moving through Sacramento and may be in the final form and may be further amended. We are not trying to figure out how to implement it yet.*



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- d. DMH Finance Update (Sara Lee Dato, Finance Manager). See link – [Mental Health Commission Budget & Expenditures](#)

- i. MHC Budget Update:

*Sara Lee Dato will be providing the presentation on the mental health commission budget.*

- e. SALT’s Budget Remaining Balances (Dr. Darlesh Horn/Kalene Gilbert, DMH MSHA Administration). See link - [FY2023-2024 SERVICE AREA LEADERSHIP TEAM \(SALT\) BUDGETS](#); [Annual MSHA Outreach and Engagement Spending Plan Proposal Form](#); [O&E MSHA Spending Plan Request Workflow](#); [MSHA Outreach & Engagement \(O&E\)](#); [Becoming a County Vendor](#)

*Commissioner Friedman Question: Why can’t managers of the SALTs communicate the amount of money they have and entice more people to attend meetings?*

*Response Kalene Gilbert: The managers meet on a regular basis, and this is a good agenda title. I can sit down to see what is available to them. That is something we can and address going forward.*

*Reba Stevens Question: Is there any way, you know, to spend some of the time on some of the dollars?*

*Response-Kalene Gilbert: The dollars don't technically roll over they go into an unspent fund and reallocate them. We will make a request to meet with finance.*

*Reba Stevens Question: Asking Kalene to improve service area six, have a special meeting online to vote on the events that we would like to move forward so we don't have to wait until March the 21st to do so.*

*Response-Kalene Gilbert: I can commit to bring that back and have the bylaws to solve how to move things faster. Those are problem solving areas we need to prioritize.*

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Form new MHC Outreach and Engagement Ad Hoc – See link- [MHC Outreach and Engagement Proposal](#)

*Two Chairs: Commissioner Stevens and Dalglish*

*Name of Ad Hoc: Outreach and Engagement*



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*Purpose/Goal: "Ensure community involvement at all stages of the process leading to the formation and adoption of the County alcohol and drug program plans." Per California WIC. 5604*

### 8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discuss Data Notebook –

Commissioner Dalgleish discussed the data notebook.

*The data notebook is something that is done every year and it is a joint assignment between the Commission and the DMH staff. It is divided into two parts. Part one is the same questions that are asked every year. Part two the request changes each year and this one is stakeholder engagement.*

*When the questions are available, we'd like to calendar an item on the Commission agenda for all the SALTs and USCC and CCC be involved in the process.*

- b. MHC SA 1 1/25/24 – Feedback/Future Consideration. See link – [SA 1 Town Hall Report](#)

*Chair acknowledged Kenia Fuentes, Executive Assistant, for developing a report on Service Area 1 Town Hall Event in Lancaster*

### 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. MHC SA 8 Town Hall – April 25, 2024, 10:30am to 2:30am

### 10. ADJORNMENT – Meeting ended @ 1:53pm