



**Los Angeles County**  
**Mental Health Commission**  
*"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"*

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Member from LAC Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Represented by Anders Corey				

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D.  
Director, Department of Mental Health  
510 S. Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, California 90020

**Dear Supervisors and Director Wong:**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT PUBLIC HEARING:  
TWO YEAR PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE PLAN 2024-25 THROUGH 2025-26**

On March 28, 2024, the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission (Commission) held a Public Hearing relative to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Two Year Program and Expenditure Plan for the years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. The Department of Mental Health submitted the Plan on February 28, 2024, for a 30-day Comment Period. A total of 56 members of the public participated March 28th Hearing (both in-person and via online) and 22 persons provided Public Comment. This letter provides a summary of the comments received by members of the public and by the Commission.

**Public Outreach**

The leadership of the Department of Mental Health (LADMH) is to be commended for its tremendous efforts to engage stakeholders through a robust nine-month Community Planning Process. Community and institutional partners were invited to participate in this process and in the development of recommendations. Workgroups were established among the participants to identify priority areas and changes to the plan were proposed.

Several members of the public commented on their satisfaction for being part of the process. Levels of engagement by stakeholders was noticeably improved. Some commented, including members of the Commission, that despite the efforts to engage a cross-section of participants that level was never fully achieved.

Commissioners' comments also described the lack of easy access to information on the LADMH website of the process.

The value of LADMH's programs and activities rests on its ability to ensure the delivery of quality services to those most in need. A key component of the delivery process is communication. We must ensure pan-programmatic commitment that any and all programs, initiatives, and products be able to be accessed, utilized, and understood by members of the disabled and/or refugee communities residing in the County. That list of communities should explicitly include but not be limited to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and deaf-disabled, as well as those immigrating from regions such as Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Pacific Islanders, Africa and Latin America.

#### Recommendation

LADMH staff is encouraged to find ways to further enhance the Community Planning Process by securing the participation of more stakeholders, particularly from underserved communities and our ethnic groups. Staff is further encouraged to utilize the LADMH website as a tool for education, outreach and communication by improving its landing page with clear methods for gaining information. The website should be enhanced to clearly provide performance metrics indicating the number of persons served in various service categories.

Staff is urged to review communication efforts to include the above-mentioned communities through all aspects of its public outreach and information shared.

Staff is also requested to review programs, initiatives, and products to ensure that communication can be accessed, utilized and understood by the communities described above. This review should include any and all publicity or outreach efforts and associated materials and centralized information resources meant to be accessed by the public (public databases, websites, etc.).

#### **Community Planning Team Recommendations**

The document provides a list of Recommendations, by component, for funding consideration. In the Public Hearing, questions were asked relative to the process by which institutions applied for possible funding. Was the process seamless? One organization, Parents Anonymous, was not approved for funding despite their participation in previous years. Their representatives actively participated in the Public Hearing and commissioners asked whether institutions understood the method of applying.

#### Recommendation

LADMH staff is encouraged to review the process to ensure that institutions and community groups fully understand the application process and the method by which recommendations are made. Additionally, staff is requested to dialogue with Parents Anonymous to resolve their questions and concerns.

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### **Demographics of Clients Served**

The document identifies population served using several categories: by age group, ethnic groups and by service area. Since the Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors, it is important for the Commission to also be given the demographic of clients served by Supervisorial District.

#### Recommendation

LADMH staff is asked to include in the Plan the County populations served by Supervisorial District.

### **Future Impact of Proposition 1**

Last month's election resulted in the passage of Proposition 1 which will significantly reshape the Mental Health Services Act of 2004. While LADMH leadership and the Commission have already addressed its potential impact several times, we must be vigilant in our efforts to properly prepare for the changes to come.

#### Recommendation

LADMH staff is requested to collaborate with the Commission and pertinent County personnel as we prepare for the 2026 implementation of Proposition 1.

The release of the MHSA Two Year Program and Expenditure Plan for the years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 is the culmination of a detailed and exhaustive process. We commend our LADMH staff for completing this process. The Commission remains committed to working with staff and all stakeholders towards successful achievements in the next two years.

Sincerely,



Michael Molina, Chair  
Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission