



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
May 23, 2024, Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting
 (IN PERSON AND BY PHONE) TRANSCRIPT AND EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

Commissioners by Supervisorial District

District	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Supervisor	Hilda L. Solis	Holly J. Mitchell	Lindsey P. Horvath	Janice Hahn	Kathryn Barger
Commissioners	Susan Friedman	Kathleen Austria	Stacy Dalglish	Victor Manalo	Judy Cooperberg
	Bennett W. Root, Jr.	Reba Stevens	Thomas Roache	Michael Molina	Lawrence Schallert
	Imelda Padilla-Frausto	Vacant	Jaqueline Sandoval-Valenzuela	Marilyn Sanabria	Brittney Weissman

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

The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting. Emailed communication is attached separately.

Agenda #	Name	Method used to address the Commission (e.g., By phone, in-person, or email)	Type of Public Comment (e.g., General or Stakeholder Report)	Comments
Public Comment	Barbara Wilson	In Person	General	One of the overriding concerns that were expressed by mothers many of the mothers are past 65 and they are worried about who will provide care for the adult children. Once they have died and one mother expressed her son alluded to who is going to do this for me and she happens to have several other children and it is clear they will not be the ones to be directly involved in his care and this that is an overriding concern. Um, we also as a service area had our mental health awareness event on Cinco de Mayo and it was cool and we had tons of providers and tons of food trucks and my interest and, um, just good awareness and I think we had a lot of fun and we had earth there and had people on the stage and kids jumping in these jumper things and it was a lot of fun. And um, a lot of work to put it together and I was not one of the ones involve and had I am amazed at all of t steps that the staff has to go through to put together what seems to with be a onetime event. And I want to give a shout out to the DMH staff that does so much behind the scenes work we don't see or appreciate. And we also had an event. Our second event. A side event last Saturday May 18th and we were able the to pull off a major surprise to commissioner Larry Schallert

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				he was out of town and we worked behind the scenes. I was worried he would not come back on time and he did and last Saturday I brought programs.
Public Comment	Monica Olsen	In Person	Stakeholder Report	My name is Monica Olson and one of the three cochairs. The May mental health awareness month event occurred May the 4th and will continue to refine the planning process for future events and we have announced the up m doing cochair elections and our members are looking forward to receiving the updated bylaws from doctor horn and it is clear what the expectation will be should they put themselves forward for selection we continue to wait on we are moving forward with creating a planning committee to take suggestion from idea to reality now we have a clear understanding of the salt procurement process and hope to host more event in the new fiscal year.
Public Comment	Sydney	In Person	Stakeholder Report	Thank you this is my first experience with our mental health. Our event that we had on May 4th. And this was at belvedere park um, lake park. In east Los Angeles. Um, I was able to wear our 988 blue T shirt. And, um, once I did, I have noticed that I was able to have several conversations with several different individuals who had no idea what 988 was and, um, my mission now to talk to everyone where I go is 988 and I did that even at an IKEA and, um, any ways thank you for the opportunity to speak here. Happy mental month week. Mental month and now I pass the mic to Yvonne.
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In Person	Stakeholder Report	I am Ivan Sandoval from, um, salt seven. Thank you so much all of the effort and I know I got three minutes and I am trying to go write it. Here we go. I am here to report on area seven mental health event we had and reemphasizing park in east Los Angeles. We had 133 vendors and live entertainment it was a big stage and I guess you are aware that and had 3 or 4 performers that sang beautifully. We even had a meditation female. On the stage and it was phenomenal and maybe next time we have an agenda. So that they know who might be appearing on stage especially meditative

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				<p>people. Okay? We also had the big balloons, inflatable booths for the basketball hoops and roller-skating area and two large tents and what was happening the was the sound bowls. More and more people are familiar with what that is about and it is a great healing method and meditative practice going on in there and had an area with massage people and I know testimonies over the other areas I went to salt eight also over the weekend. So, yeah. Food huh a choice they give you a ticket when you register. Just sign your name and get a ticket and there were choices of what there was to eat ask and there were tacos we had a senior event May 9th. Catered Mexican food grill and had with all of the sides and (Indistinct) which is fresh fruit and waters and as the saying goes. (Indistinct). Meaning full stomachs and to your hearts content. We are having the next upcoming event on May 31st it is called south care event geared at south care and it is primarily for the employees. Anybody. F allover us. Right? And it is open to the public. It will be held at Salt Lake Park don't be con if fused with the other one and that one is in hunting ton park and it is from 11 to 3. Be early you might not find parking and don't expect them to be there at three they will be gone.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	<p>Excuse me you deny me and didn't respond to my grievance. From February 22nd. Do you remember I brought attention to your attention. The conflicts of interest that exists was in Los Angeles County mental health department and you didn't do it and you failed me, you failed all of us. Hospitals are discharging patients to the streets. Hospital number one discharged her to the streets. My beautiful daughter my precious gift and she got raped. Your responsibility. Second hospital they discharge her to someone who is not given the power of attorney and she attacked us twice and not once. Hospital number three right now. They wanted today discharge her on Friday. I stopped it. I was able to until Monday she is in Glendale right now. You did it. You, what is her name? She said something to me that I need to find people because of the</p>

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				<p>people. Because of our network we were able to put the pressure she is still there. Because of the Glen dale policy departments, they didn't search her and they are making her work to find a place. That is not her job. That is the social worker job. Isn't it? Commissioner Stacy? Commissioner ruby? What are you doing that I stop you? Huh? And then you have me followed. Who? Los Angeles county mental health department. Where is Lee is a Wong. You need to be investigated from A to Z and you give two minutes for all of this stuff. It is not only an attack on me and my daughter you are attacking the nation it is an attack on humanity that is why we have a crisis here. Hospitals. Cannot initiate (Indistinct). They are the one that she is in 53 days and didn't do it. I call it had department of public health department. They tipped her. There is a nationwide crisis let me tell you. And then also public what is snit public something. Guardianship they are run under public Los Angeles count yip mental health department. The chief hang up the phone as soon as I found out. Dr. Born doesn't is the one assigned to my case. Secretaries are hanging up the phone and lied and on the same page as the health care providers and you shut me down and what do providers know about it? Ten officers and ten surgeons and deputies harassed me the day before yesterday when I went to report to district county. What is this? What is your position. What are you doing? Do you remember commissioner Schallert? No. That is not your name. Lawrence. I meet you in Lancaster. We talked about it and you couldn't do anything because it was outside the meeting isn't it? You said yourself we have to for the written calculator. Did you? No, you didn't. The hospital she is right now is 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p>
Public Comment	Andrea McPhearson	In Person	Stakeholder Report	Service area leadership team five thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and I do want to go over, um, our great opportunity to give back to the community. Our event for take action May is mental health awareness we had a great opportunity to give necessary information's to our region and service area. Ask

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				<p>and um, it was um, May 18th. 11 o'clock. And we definitely had a lot of opportunity to have better intercommunication with the resource from the people who serve the mental health field. To all of the people that we have in our area and also it was nonprofit organizations. It was the department of mental health as well and a lot of the people don't know about all of the services that the department of mental health has available and I thought that was one of the great opportunities that we had because um, specifically I went through one of the activities and it was a musical mental evaluation and they put um, what do you call those things they.</p> <p>>> MICHAEL MOLINA: Headphones.</p> <p>>> Yes, headphones on your ears and you looked at the screen and you talked about certain things and it told you specifically how it affected your body through music and with that that was a function made to people understood what PTSD is we should get the name of the people to attend the events over come to the salt meeting and talk about what they do. And we music and we had free food we had things everyday senior disabled people need and that was great and with that we had um, music only thing we didn't have was KAROKE I would have got on the mic trust me and also. Um, we were kind of um, delayed on the outreach having to do with the developmentally delay and had I had a friend that came and he has been try to go get in contact with salt five for years now and has not been able the to become a member and with that we need to be able to open our doors again and COVID is over and not over completely and with that we need to be able to open the door back to people who want to participate and he wants to give his input and what he deals with on a regular basis because he is delayed doesn't mean that he doesn't have the right to have some sort of conversation about what happens to him. So, people can have real empathy and training and understanding from people from all perspectives and that is why it should we should have our doors</p>
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				<p>open again I love being here ask and may not be a chair too much longer because of my physical condition. I have epilepsy. During a meeting I was distraught and I had a seizure and I was in the emergency room for five days after that and I want to be able to give back to the community. But I want to be able to have the open opportunity and not feel as if I am being confrontational in any sort and I want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and including myself and so I may have to step down the due to that.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	By Phone	General	<p>Thank you very much commissioners and everybody there and everybody that is online. Um, I have a few things to say ask and it is a beautiful day. Um, happy we are having the commission is back open the to everyone. I had the opportunity to attend a salt six meeting and I was confused and had don't understand I thought government agencies are to use the brown act and if so in salt six it is not being fully enforced and secondly there was an agenda and we were told there are going to be nominees for the new chair I guess their time has come to end and one of the challenges we had was there is no notice. That went out to talk about the nomination process to nominate yourself. There were people selected to be chair nominees and I didn't understand that and second part that happened was there was an election held that wasn't on the agenda and I was floored by that and was like it is not on the agenda why are we holding elections and thirdly the meeting went very long. Not 11 time did anyone say the to ask for our opinion or ask was t okay that we go over the time thirdly um, I thought all of the meetings were to be recorded. We had problems with the recording and it was never really troubleshoot to see if we could get t that right. And that bothered me and more importantly I believe one of the chairs and I can't recall which it was asked the department of mental health to bring the bylaws for service area six what caught me off guard was the explanation was that they were busy and they could not bring the bylaws and that is unacceptable. One of the</p>

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				recommendations is spa six hold a workshop going through the bylaws and brown act and making sure the chairs and members are properly educated object on both thank you for your time, God bless you and God bless America. Operator anyone else in the queue?
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	Im a patient advocate with LA care for 20 years now and I wanted to find out how do I join this group is?
Public Comment	Russell Muller	In Person	General	Good morning I am a patient advocate for 13 year ss and I too want to know how I can join this group service area four. Thank you.
Public Comment	Reba Stevens	In Person	Stakeholder Report	We had an election that took place and I am kind of disturbed by the public comment. What I will say is the election was not on the agenda and nominations was on the agenda and it was a very interesting process. Unexpected as well to me the two cochairs that were elected is myself and um, Edward ham ill ton. Which we were the previous chairs that was elected back in and a half and so we will resume there was a request for the bylaws to be present and, um, I just I am I do have an ask and share some of the concerns that and in order for us the to move forward that there has to be a foundation and some structure and the bylaws would create for all of the service area groups and the election should not take place and it is something we had your DMH by laws and we were told we were not to use those by laws and in you by laws were being create and had so I would hope that the department would think twice about moving forward with an election of any sort across the service area groups until they are in play and I also believe it is important that the body itself um, is clear about those bylaws. One of the reasons why it is critically important to me as to why I was requesting it was so that community at large would really understand the roles and responsibilities so people could perhaps say I want to do that and it is hard to get involvement when you don't know what you are getting involved in. So, we were promised by Dr. Horn that we will have our bylaws and I think that the gentleman that spoke about his experience in service area six I can support that workshop or some type of educational piece where we would go through the bylaws. I know as a cochair that we were we received a draft of the bylaws

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				some time ago for our review but not in a revised version of it as of to date. So, I am just that is all I have at this moment and I will ask to talk with Dr. Horn as we move forward.

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