



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

REGULAR MEETING & SA 8 TOWN HALL MINUTES

Date: April 25, 2024

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Carson Event Center, 801 East Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745

Attachments: [Meeting Recording](#) / [Public Comment Transcript](#)

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

Minutes approved on May 23, 2024, motion moved by Commissioner Manalo, second by Commissioner Dagleish, minutes approved by unanimous vote.

1. **NETWORKING**
2. **TOWN HALL CALL TO ORDER**
3. **ROLL CALL/WELCOME**

MHC Member Attendance:

Commissioner Root (A), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (P), Commissioner Friedman (P), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dagleish (P), Commissioner Roache (P), Commissioner Sandoval-Valenzuela (P), 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)

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. *Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2024, meeting. (Carry over minutes to May 23, 2024, regular meeting)*
- b. *DMH Legislative Update – See link [DMH Legislative Report](#)*
- c. *DMH Finance Update*
 - i. *MHC Budget Report – See link [MHC Budget Allocation and Expenditure Detail](#)*
- d. *DMH Constituent Follow-up Report - See link [DMH Constituent Referral report for MHC](#)*



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

Chair motion to move the consent agenda without item a. Motion to move, Commissioner Weissman, second Commissioner Austria, consent agenda unanimously approved.

5. STANDING ITEMS

a. DMH Director Updates (Dr. Lisa Wong, DMH, Director)

See link: [DMH Director's Update: Mental Health Commission](#)

Question-Commissioner Austria: How can the MHC be more involved in the planning. More closely involved rather than listening to reports?

Response-Lisa Wong: I think you will potentially have space on planning committees within DMH. At the state level, it is by state invitation only.

Question-Commissioner Friedman: When will we be called behavioral health instead of mental health and reduce stigma?

Response-Lisa Wong: Renaming the department is step one and a major part of our funding. I will meet today with Fifth District to discuss integrating with SAPC and moving toward those needs.

Question-Commissioner Schallert: Read in newspaper 450 new positions awarded. How does that go with Prop 1?

Response-Lisa Wong: State has yet to decide who will be given the funds.

Hiring will not be problematic we are very strategic on how we hire. We have a certain pool of vacancies and items to put them in higher areas first.

Question-Commissioner Stevens: Integration is important, can you ensure the stakeholder process that communities are informed where we are going?

Response-Lisa Wong: We are increasing our stakeholders to start local to ensure the stakeholders are well informed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Words from Michael Molina, MHC Chair

Chair Molina stated Kenia Fuentes, Executive Assistant is wonderful. She always interrupts in case we're missing anything. Kenia put together this day, and you can imagine, in-person and online. She does a terrific job; everyone thank Kenia for everything she does. (Applause)

b. Presentation

i. Update on 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

*Reuben Wilson and Jennifer Hallman, Department of Mental Health
Carolyn Levitan, Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center*

See link: [Update on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)

Question-Commissioner Weissman: We as Commissioners don't hear when things go right, what happens to the 3% not resolved by phone,



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

if any call is dropped? Is there a survey for clients or customers to call with satisfaction or closing?

Response-Caroline Levitan: As far as the 3% ending up in the first-person response, that percent is volunteer. Whether they take themselves or have a loved one take them to an emergency room, and that's the lost goal as far as that person, probably less than 1% end up in that situation. We have gotten better being a part of that large 988.

Question-Commissioner Sandoval-Valenzuela: Who pays for the services? If someone calls you and they do get admitted to your services, does their insurance pay for it? Do you have anything that covers it? Like the follow-ups or these resources, is everything free? I mean, financially.

Response-Caroline Levitan: Anytime someone calls 988 that it is a free and confidential service, so are the follow-up calls.

Question-Commissioner Sandoval-Valenzuela: If the patient doesn't have insurance?

Response-Caroline Levitan: The county will cover the services for patients without insurance.

Question-Commissioner Roache: You mentioned this year is a big push as far as outreach. If there's a discrepancy, what might you be doing for those demographics in need, and you had in the last quarter 18 transgender persons. I think that's a high-risk population. I was alarmed it was so low. If you can speak to that?

Response-Caroline Levitan: When you call 988 you are directed to specialty services for LGBTQ+youth. There is an option to direct and be routed to a specially trained provider. We ask gunowners if they have firearms because it puts them at risk for suicide.

Comments-Commissioner Stevens: Concerned about the following: underserved communities of poverty; waiting, law enforcement arriving late in the day. You improved from 6 hours to 2 hours, however experiencing suicidal ideation can happen.

You talked about four-year-old children calling. That was alarming because it questions what's going on in the environment. Do you find a large population of those contacting you? Is housing and security available, are they unhoused? There is a lot missing in your presentation, I thought it was well put together.



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

Question-Commissioner Austria: Do you have the data where the calls are emanating from?

Response-Caroline Levitan: Demographically we ask them what is your zip code so that someone will help link them to appropriate resources and where to get information.

Request from Chair Molina: Provide the MHC with a list of demographics by service area to Kenia Fuentes so she can forward to the Commission.

c. Speakers

i. Service Area 8 Leadership Introductions:

- 1. Jennifer Bailey Hernandez, LCSW, Program Manager III/SA 8 Administration District Chief*
- 2. Lori M. Willis, PhD, Program Manager III/Prevention and Child Wellbeing Administration*
- 3. Heather S. Jensen, PhD, Program Manager III/District Chief, Harbor UCLA/Service Area 5*
- 4. Paul Stansbury and Yvonne – SA 8 Co-Chairs*

ii. Anders Corey, Health Deputy, representing Supervisor Kathryn Barger

On behalf of the BOS, hearing from all stakeholders how everything is going and sharing perspectives is the best way we will improve services.

d. Discussion to approve request to form an MHC Outreach and Engagement Ad Hoc (Request by Commissioner Dalglish to remove item)

e. Executive Committee Officers Election -

iii. Ratification of Nominations Committee.

Commissioners Stevens and Dalglish are the two volunteers for the Nominations Committee. Motion moved by Commissioner Manalo, second by Commissioner Weissman to ratify the Nominations Committee. Motion unanimously approved.

f. MHC Recommendation Letter to the DMH Director for the MHSA Plan Two Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 through 2025-2026. See link [MHC Recommendation Letter for the MHSA Annual Update](#)

Final MHC Recommendation letter to the DMH Director for the MHSA Plan Two Year Program and Expenditure Plan, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 through 2025-2026 is complete. Chair thanked Commissioners who put together the letter, particularly Commissioners Roache, Stevens, and Schallert who provided feedback.



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

"Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action"

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

John, Martin, Victor, Shirley Jones, Maria Neon, Anonymous, Rick, Brooke, Anonymous, Anonymous, Joann Freeman, Santa Marios, Mario Lopez, Sue, Kas, Katina Davis, Anonymous, Sydney, Anonymous, Osbee Sangster, Barbara Wilson, Andria McFerson

Attachment, [Public Comment Transcript](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT – @ 2:00pm