



MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION (MHC) REGULAR MEETING

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

Michael Molina, Chair, Fourth District, Presiding

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 23, 2024
Time: 10:30 am
Location: 510 South Vermont Ave., 9th Fl, Level (T), Los Angeles, CA 90020
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 June 27, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner Sanabria, seconded by Commissioner Weissman.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL/WELCOME

MHC Member Attendance:

Commissioner Root (A), Commissioner Padilla-Frausto (A), Commissioner Friedman (A), Commissioner Stevens (P), Commissioner Austria (P), Commissioner Dalglish (P), Commissioner Roache (A), Commissioner Sandoval-Valenzuela (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. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Wilson, Monica Olsen, Sydney-SALT 7, Yvonne Sandoval-SALT 7, Anonymous, Andria McFerson-SALT 5, Anonymous, Demetrius Savor-SALT 4, Russell, SALT 4, Reba Stevens-SALT 6
Attachment, [Public Comment Transcript](#)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. *Approval of the following minutes: motion made, moved by Commissioner Manalo, second by Commissioner Dalglish. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.*
 - i. *March 28, 2024, meeting*
 - ii. *April 25, 2024, meeting*



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- b. *Follow-up on Constituent Concerns/Issues (Crystal Kibby)*
See link: [DMH Constituent Referral Report-May 23, 2024](#)
- c. *DMH Finance Report - MHC Budget Report (Kenia Fuentes)*
See link: [MHC-Budget Report-5.23.2024](#)
- d. *DMH Legislative Report – See link [DMH Legislative Report-May 23, 2024](#)*
[DMH Master Bill List 05.17.2024](#)
- e. *MHC Topics of Interest List - See link [MHC Topics of Interest List-May 23, 2024](#)*

5. STANDING ITEMS

- a. *DMH Director Updates – (Jaclyn Baucum, Deputy Director, Health Access and Integration)*
 - i. *Bed Shortage Reporting:*

Question- Commissioner Austria: Could we see where the beds are being placed, are they being equitably placed and staff? The second district has the highest amount of homelessness and cutting and moving people off. Like the staff at Hawkins. They have been losing expertise and I would like to know where all the staff are located, where the contracts are and where they are located. Supervisor Mitchell is concerned about equity and doesn't mean divide by five it means divide by need.

Beds to be used by Medical. What level of beds are being produced?

Response-Jaclyn Baucum: For the acute inpatient there were 110 that have been brought online since June 22 and more in development that receive the BHIC dollars. We wrote letters of support to add beds in the acute inpatient beds and that projected 224 and in the quarterly update we do track all the bed additions. In the next one in June, we are also going to show any the loss. The goal is to trend up and when we hit the number that we need to keep it stable as it fluctuates.

Question-Commissioner Austria: Could we see where the beds are being placed and are they being equitably placed and the staff?

Report back-Chair Molina: How long will it take to get back to us?

Response-Jaclyn Baucum: The county ones do not take very long, about a month.

Report back: Chair Molina: Send information to Kenia and Kenia will send to us.



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b. DMH MHSA Updates (Dr. Darlesh Horn, DMH MHSA Administration)

i. Brief detail about the July 25, 2024, stakeholder “Budget Essentials Training”

See link: [Outline for Stakeholder Budget Essentials Training 5.23.2024](#)

Question-Commissioner Weissman: Will you get maximum participation from the groups. PRC folks coming and anyone else who has access to the funds, can we help in the training as much as possible?

Response-Dr. Horn: We are having a one joint meeting next week to provide the training information to the SALT liaison groups. As you said, the training will be open to the Commission.

Question-Commissioner Dalglish: CPT, several months ago, Commissioner Stevens and I reviewed applicants to be a part of the MHSA development. At the first meeting, some people attended, and over time I did not see those people again. They were clearly informed of what the responsibility was. So much time was put into evaluating every single applicant and they did not show up.

Response-Dr. Horn: Commissioner Dalglish is referring to the CPT members selected who attended the larger stakeholder meeting. Our list is up to 3,000 and documents for stakeholder meetings are posted. I will be asking for greater accountability for signing-in.

Question-Commissioner Manalo: Is there an opportunity for SALTs to leverage funds with cities?

Response-Dr. Horn: Yes, SALTs can also leverage their funds with cities and other groups.

Question-Commissioner Austria: I am concerned that we talk about expanding communities and yet I hear sometimes there is still a barrier to join SALTs.

Response-Dr. Horn: We are working in this fiscal year to do outreach. Lots of things that happen during COVID we are recovering. Folks are unable to meet in public, and the membership died off. We are working to do capacity building and how to outreach. I'll give a little preview of a new concept called beyond the walls. Outside of our regular stakeholder meetings we will be holding



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bi-monthly meetings in each community working with libraries, parks, natural spaces to use their space on a Saturday or Sunday. Comment-Commissioner Stevens: I want to touch bases on the outreach and engagement piece for the Co-Chairs. There is outreach and engagement teams that are paid by way of DMH to outreach to our communities. I do outreach all the time. For instance, if my role is outreach to Co-Chair my first desire would be to our directly operated clinics and legal entity clinics to build the capacity where our people who are utilizing services would be welcome as well as staff.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Housing and Homelessness (PEH-SMI)

See link: [Homeless and Housing PEH-SMI Updates](#)

- i. Enriched Residential Care - Presented by Maria Funk, PhD, Deputy Director, Housing and Job Development Division*
- ii. State of Emergency Impact - Presented by La Tina Jackson, LCSW Deputy Director, Countywide Engagement Division*

Question-Commissioner Stevens: Congratulations to all hires and making this an open door to hire people. What are we doing about after hours, and providing services for more people, how do we expand that? Can we do more FSP on the weekend and maybe up to 8pm at night?

Response-LaTina Jackson: We hired 364 individuals using emergency appointments. In the last two weeks we recruited another 25 for the newly established interim housing. To bring services to the interim housing sites people come to us or they are enrolled in an FSP. The program is a collaboration between DMH and DPH.

Chair Molina: Report back to MHC with # of beds in county facilities.

Question-Commissioner Weissman: On CCE, how long will it take to hear back regarding the funding awards?

Response-Maria Funk: Application portal was closed March 4th. All applicants were reviewed.

Question-Commissioner Weissman: Enhanced rate, is there an enhanced rate disparity? Some facilities are small and have six people and maybe one of them gets the enhanced rate and in some facilities maybe hundreds of people gain hundreds and single thousands dollar patches for every client per month. I wonder if there is disparity in terms of outcome.



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Response-Maria Funk: One challenge we do not have enough money. I hear what you are saying, and I think looking at the issue of disparity we can look at data offline.

Question-Commissioner Dalglish: Anyone keeping track of what happens when B&C close?

Response-Maria Funk: There has been a few closures and many residents go back home but they lost their community.

Comment-Commissioner Schallert: When a facility has one person that receives thousand dollars and the whole facility is going broke, how does that work out? What I understand is the enhanced rates are to help people have more services and it puts more pressure on the B&C and the ARF. What does that overage to the B&C operators keep from going broke, make any sense to you?

b. *Licensed Adult Residential Care Association (LARCA)*

Presentation (Presenter: Bennie Tinson, Executive Director and Salaneka Smith, LARCA Director of Member Services)

See link: [LARCA Presentation-5.23.24](#)

Questions-Commissioner Dalglish: Have you prepared for annual funding?

Response-LARCA: Yes, we did to go BOS for additional funding.

Questions-Chair Molina: Are your members paying dues?

Response-LARCA: Not yet.

Comment-Commissioner Stevens: What can MHC do?

Questions-Commissioner Schallert: How many members?

Response-LACRA:

Question-Commissioner Schallert: FSP and legal entities?

Response-LARCA: 16,000 low incomes; 16,000 people, and 400 residents

Comment-Chair Molina requested the budget be forwarded to the MHC to Kenia to kept on the list of items. We hope to have you back in the next few months and look forward to the report back.

Questions-Chair Molina: How old is your organization?

Response-LACRA: We are about two-years old.

Questions-Are you are looking for a permanent office, where are you working now?

Response-LARCA: We are working out of the Los Angeles County Libraries across counties to visit gives us an opportunity to go around and visit our members.

Comment-Chair Molina: Thank you for your work. I know you received \$500,000 to prepare for an annual report or do you have a breakdown of



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how those funds were spent, it was approved by the BOS, correct? Are you planning on going to them to ask for additional funding?

Response-LARCA: Yes, we do want to go to BOS to ask for additional funding and invite you to go with us. We are at a critical point as we continue to see the number of homelessness increases on the street and in our county. There is a need especially as we look at interim housing to make sure folks are moved into B&C who need additional support.

Question-Schallert: Your 440 members, are they paying dues, if not we hope to have a dues structure in place by the end of the year?

Comment-Schallert: There are a couple of nice, beautiful libraries in Santa Clarita and we welcome you to come up and meet with you.

c. Executive Committee Officers Election

i. Nominations Committee Presents Nominees Recommendations Report

Nominations Committee announced the following slate:

Chair – Michael Molina

Vice Chair – Brittney Weissman

2nd Vice Chair – Brittney Weissman

Members-at-Large – Victor Manalo and Kathleen Austria

d. Review MHC Published Meeting Schedule Announcement for FY 2023-2024 and first half of FY 2024-2025. Special note:

i. June 27th meeting will be held at Los Angeles Valley College. All rooms at headquarters are reserved for an HR Homeless Initiative hiring event.

ii. August 15, 2024 – The Commission is usually dark in August. However, the next MHC retreat has been scheduled for 8/15/2024. This meeting will NOT be hosted at headquarters.

iii. September 2024, a town hall is being planned during this month. Commissioners should plan for a state, location, and/or time change for the regular commission meeting.

iv. November and December 2024 dates differ from regular Thursdays. This is to accommodate holidays.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. MHC Retreat – Current Executive Committee is planning this retreat. The new Executive Committee for FY2024-2025 is expected to assume this responsibility.

i. Date: August 15, 2024, time and offsite location (TBD)

b. MHC SA 6 Town Hall



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- i. Tentatively to be held in September: Location, date, and time to be determined.*

8. ADJOURNMENT – @ 1:43pm