



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 June 27, 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	Jean Harris	In person	Stakeholder Report	Good morning thanks you for having us here and I want to comment on service area one leadership the team. We had our meeting last Thursday. And elected a new cochair all three of the current cochairs including myself stepped down as of July 1st and so, um, we were going over the new bylaws that were delivered to us the week prior. Ask and, um, there is so many restrictions that very few people are eligible to be cochairs anymore. And so, we had one individual who was interested in becoming a cochair and she was elected unanimously. We will move forward with one cochair and that is really all I know at the moment and I will miss being inclusive in attending the salt meetings cochairing and going to the other meetings. Um, when we counted, we came up with seven meetings a month that cochairs need to attend. And not all of them are virtual. And the MHSA community planning team meetings in LA have been the most difficult because if you participate online when there is an in person meeting then you are not participating and you are not able to give any comments or have any verbal involvement in the

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				process and it is a distance for us to drive from service area one in the antelope valley to come down unto the LA basin for meetings but we have enjoyed our time as cochairs.
Public Comment	Michael Dutton	In Person	Stakeholder Report	, I like to chime in and join Jean in talking about salt one and what is going on up there. The new regulations that everybody has to abide by to be a cochair. Um, is a little daunting and can it be a little bit of a surprise and you know we are managing it and we will make the adjustment as we can and need to and I want to take a moment to add to what Jean is saying relative to activity up in salt one and also respond to and I see on the agenda we have recognition for Judy Cooperberg and her retirement and I want to say that Judy has been an asset in salt area one. You had a meeting up there not long ago at the fairgrounds and had a chance to see with your own eyes the fact that there is definitely um, a need for inclusion and activity in north county and we often and I have been on several boards in the county and, um, there is an urban mindset that sort of escapes up there in high desert and doesn't necessarily connect and it is always good to come down and listen and hear what you are all saying and given the opportunity to impart our situation as we experience life in north county because it is not the same as living the city. I want to add that in there and thank you very much.
Public Comment	Milka White	In person	Stakeholder Report	Yeah, my name is -- white and I am afro centric Latino person with now um, with help with this young lady to define as lived experience. I didn't know how to say it and I used to have to say it raw. And I am saying this because I think it is important for you to get to know me some of the things your clients and they are clients and not participants and you become a participant of all of you and your subordinates and you those above you and if we are not treated with respect makes a difference. Became abandoned and a young man defined under special needs and fired it when we dealt with housing disenfranchisement, I feel it is important for you to know. The reason why you talk the way I do on the meetings is

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				<p>because I am a voice to people who feel they don't have a voice and aren't cared for in the positions we hold the building is called age and disability and it has a covering and it is not covered correctly I see from the top to the bottom and I was in tears because I had said I wanted my hat in the ring in April and I experienced things between April and now and I said I can't do that and last Thursday when I was at the June event at the building and sitting next to a Hispanic lady whose husband died in January. Was deep for me sometimes I felt alone having people call child services on me and what is called awesome town USA and have an organization saying they are bridging people to home and partnering with LA family housing and I am throwing the names out and they are not doing and misappropriating money and not delegating until you get a voucher. I want to say this is me and I will be professional and do the best I can and hope I can get support from the different salt in any way possible.</p>
Public Comment	Barbara Wilson	In Person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Barbara Wilson service area two. And I want to do I need to stand up? Just want to bring everybody up to date and we had our service area meeting and for the first time in the history I believe the first time ever in our history. We have a presentation on the intersectionality between people who have queer issues. And mental health issues and it was a productive conversation and a lot of people share and had we a wonderful presentation. Two moms one of who was a psychologist and sees both as a professional and as a mother of her daughters a lesbian. I little thing I want to add to this. I came back from a quarterly meeting that I attend California behavioral health planning counsel and of course I should not expect a lot of discussion about prop one and SB 43. There is an absence of discussion about providing services and safe housing for people adults that have serious mental illness but are not substance abusers or new to sobriety there is little discussion about how to have them have a separate living space so they are not</p>

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				exposed to people that are using and maybe bringing drugs onto the property or outside of the property and sometimes predatory behavior. I just want to put that out there.
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval			Good morning and those who are able to come to the meeting here. My name is Yvonne Sandoval and I #u am here with Sidney we are the newest cochairs for salt seven. And I am here to let you know we had a great June 8th men's awareness health event. And it was splendid. And they Jamie Gomez was able the to put together a men's panel of speakers. And what I saw because I was down below and I looked around ask and I really, we saw a lot of just people stopping and really listening to what they had to say. You know? Sometimes when it goes on for too long people get distract and had they start to walk around and do other things and it was very engaging. From what I understand now and I haven't seen I it yet. And I saw them there and Dr. Bond was part of the panel and it is now a pod cast with area seven. Log onto service area seven and you will see the different things going on we were reelected for the next to two years and will May 3rd is self care and it was awesome and thank you Dr. Horn for allowing us to have a personal service and it was meant for the lows and cochairs and thank you to department area seven and got a certificate for our work. I want to give the mic to Sidney and she can mention the upcoming events that are happening with salt seven.
Public Comment	Sydney Tabizon	In person	Stakeholder Report	I am Sidney. Upcoming events for service area seven. It is the clergy breakfast on Wednesday July 17th. It is hybrid. At Santa Rosa and also, we will have on July 12th hybrid at al ma family services. For a salt seven meeting. This is all salt seven meetings and also there will be connected for town hall. On Thursday July 18th. Microsoft teams.
Public Comment	Regina	In person	General	My name is Regina and I hope this is the correct time and this is my first meeting here and I am a mom and I am also a member of the NAMI organization and I am here to plead for my daughter I have actually two adult children with mental illness and my daughter is

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				<p>having a lot of issues and she has been under the FSP program in Granada hills and we have been having more issues than help and I am here to plead for her case and I understand that we have certain protocols and laws to follow. But I also understand or at least it was my understanding and maybe I am confused there is a standard of care that every patient is entitled to receive and we are not receiving that. We are getting basically push back are from her doctor and not getting cooperation. And we had an opportunity and she was in my home for 12en months and giving feedback so they were knowing what was going on and I got push back from the doctor unwilling to listen and change meds and now she is back at her own apartment and she is compensating badly and we are concerned for her and I am here to plead for help and ask for changes and I have a letter that I have composed with all kinds of information that I would like to give to whomever the appropriate person is.</p>
Public Comment	Monica Olsen	In person	Stakeholder report	<p>My name is Monica Olson. Because we were only able to (Indistinct) in the right place to fill the position just yet. I would like to bring a concern regarding the current bylaws and I know the importance of involving the community and appearance of a conflict of interest I believe that the current restrictions on who may fill the cochair position are at odds with the mental health community outreach ask and goals. DMH contracted with every organization with a vested interest in mental health thereby eliminating the opportunity of an employee for consideration. Those who have approximately 25 to 30 hours a month to travel to and attend the required meetings at different days and different times since employers who pr not stakeholder in the mental health world are unlikely to grant so much leave this eliminates parties that work standard business hour which is and I request that you consider amending the bylaws to prevent conflict of interest in making certain decision and when certain individuals are permitted to chair the service area leadership teams. Salt, one has moved forward with create ago planning committee to take on the outreach and engagement suggestions from ideas to reality and we look forward</p>

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				to seeing more event in the coming fiscal year.
Public Comment	Wendy	In Person	General	<p>Hi a salt one member and here as a community advocate this moment and I am thankful that I can come in person and give a special thank you to the department of mental health for providing the transportation with our fear less driver here and her copilot. Welcome to DMH and um, I just want to also uplift our new cochair and as well as the previous thank you for your commitment. Those rides we took down late together has been a wonderful journey and thank you for your input and insight that you shared in the leadership real m and moving forward I am here to support you. We have lots to cover together as advocates and thank you all and Judy you are still a part of the family. So, you are not going too far and I wish you the best and enjoying your journey moving if forward all of the passion and good health to you have and your family. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Steven	In Person	General	<p>My name is Steven and I drove down from the antelope valley and I attend all of the salt meetings. There was a couple of times where I there is a couple of times I went to the antelope valley is and they would not take me they said I had to make an appointment to see someone in two weeks when people are manic and dealing with what they are dealing with in their head they need help now and I don't think we should go through all of the red tape and stuff. My question is how many of you out there. On your panel deal with mental health on a daily basis. I would take none of you. Ask and I guess everybody learned stuff from a book and don't have real life experiences. I am I am an adult that tried to commit suicide that if got me in this chair. I just wish the whole system was so much better. And not treat us the way they do. Like we are crazy and treat us with respect. And a lot of the places don't do that. They don't and we have people living parks that are homeless and deal with more stuff than what I am dealing with. The things that I you have I encountered in the antelope valley have to change. Just got a hospital. Out there that they needed for years and years but they</p>

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				just put up a hospital. I am even scared to go there because they are going to look you up for 5150 and I am scared to call for help because they are going to send somebody from the sheriff's department and they don't know anything about mental health first thing they do is put you in handcuffs and take you to jail. It is really hard. Really is. And thank you for being here and bringing this to light so people know this is a real problem and people need help.
Public Comment	Obsee Sangster	Phone	General	My name is (Indistinct) speak on behalf Los Angeles County coalition good morning to the commissioner staff and guest. If we don't fund affordable housing we will get more homelessness. Governor ga vin Newsom promise to build 1 million affordable homes by 2030 and currently the state is falling billions of dollars short of what is need and had we need the state to invest \$18 billion each year to get our goal and yet the state lacked add dedicated source of revenue for affordable housing and now we can change that. AB 1657 is moving through the legislative ask and will raise 10 billion for affordable housing. Thanks to your organizing we will and we can manage to prevent 3 billion in cuts. From the government. California still 15 billion short.
Public Comment	Mark	Phone	General	Yeah. Yeah, I am not I am not sure I want to make a comment right now. Thank you but I do have some announcements for later. > MICHAEL MOLINA: This will be the time to make announcements Mark go ahead. >> Okay. Um, going to read what had I got. The mental health services act is meeting at the same time. And I have a concern. That you guys are meeting at the same time as they are. And I think the mental health commission needs to consider meeting at a different date so they can (Indistinct). Accountability commission meeting and the California association of peer supporters is it has been doing certified peer specialist trainings and they they will be m doing out with probably in the next week or two. New dates for that to take place. People need to apply. They talked b about

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				<p>resilience at the meeting on Tuesday and they had. Ask and, that is something we need to get into, I think. Let me see what my I am looking for the ore announcements and I can't find off of hand ask and I have about 5 or 6. Oh</p> <p>> MICHAEL MOLINA: Give us a couple of more Mark what else do you have to announce? The academy I talked about that and that is about it for right now. I will give it to you later if I can find it.</p>
Public Comment	Selam Alem	Phone	General	<p>Hi my name is (Indistinct) and last name first of all I want to apologize for my actions in the last meeting. I hope the commissioners (Indistinct) they understand my situation and I was exposed to. Where my daughter was pulled out and sign the paper and pushed out of the hospital and at that moment when is at the meeting. Dr. Horn was involved and had some of the department. And for that I am going to say thank you and number one (Indistinct). Hospital continues to discharge patient in an unsafe way. Number two being denied ask and indirectly to (Indistinct) loved one and also need to be loved and number three. (Indistinct). The function of (Indistinct) like you mentioned. In February to 24. Regarding the conflict of interest that exists in Los Angeles County keeping people off of the street and as a result we (Indistinct) loved ones are suffering way too much and you heard from it from many of the speakers today. Via phone and what are you doing? Please don't listen and do not respond that sends the wrong message to us p because not taking action and (Indistinct) we are doing something and, because my daughter was (Indistinct). Three hospitals and not one. And we are exposed to tremendous trauma as a result. So, department of mental health what they are doing is uncalled for and you are talking about (Indistinct). Comes by you by the department of mental health. It is creating a lot of drama. Please listen to us and take action. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	William Legere	Phone	General	<p>(Indistinct). Homelessness (Indistinct) promises and um, (Indistinct) the homeless situation. And, um, create for tr housing for all. For housing for affordable housing. And (Indistinct) for a long time and I remember (Indistinct). We need affordable housing</p>

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				and (Indistinct). (Indistinct) affordable housing for all people. For the veterans. The encampment in Los Angeles. That is, it thanks you.

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