



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
**July 25, 2024, Mental Health Commission Regular Meeting**  
 (IN PERSON AND BY PHONE) TRANSCRIPT AND EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

**Commissioners by Supervisorial District**

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

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

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The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting. Emailed communication is attached separately.				
Public Comment	Anonymous	In person	General	<p>Good morning. I became a regular customer, so today is about public guardianship. Public guardianship is run again by the Department of Mental Health. How could you allow this kind of conflict of interest to exist within the County and then with the loved ones? We, the loved ones, are denied public guardianship. How could you do that?</p> <p>You allow this kind of conflict of interest that the Department of Mental Health has, which I did report it in February. You're not responding to me.</p> <p>I did hear you, Commissioner Molina, saying that we need to respond. You didn't respond to me since February. What does it tell me?</p> <p>I feel like you don't care. So because I cannot file conservatorship to my daughter, my only child, she keeps going back and forth. And taking care of her business is very, very difficult. So can you please help us? The hospital don't want to conservatorship; as a result, the hospitals keep pushing people out on the streets. They're dumping them, the patients.</p> <p>What they're doing, this is uncalled for. We really need a serious</p>

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				reform here in this county or call the Feds to come and investigate what's going on. Thank you.
Public Comment	Irene Ratcliff	In person	General	<p>. My name is Irene Ratcliffe. One of the things (coughing) I wanted to say is, are there any policies currently on drone surveillances? Drone surveillances is satellites. And how what I'm here to inform you is that they are using it and how that plays into mental health. That's it, thank you.</p> <p>I know I just did the questions via e mail in regards to drones, satellites. And what is Los Angeles County policies with these new businesses they're coming up with, different satellite, drones? I mean, we are at some type of business with it, sure. You know, but the thing is that we also know that drones are used to harm people.</p> <p>And, um, what is Los Angeles County's position in regards to regulating or overseeing it? And is there anything currently to address that?</p> <p>You know, there's people, if we were looking at mental health, that is also associated with domestic violence. Thank you very much.</p>
Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	In Person	General	<p>Good morning, Commissioners. Good morning, Chair. My name is Ricardo Kim. I'm a stakeholder in Service Area 4 and also for SALT 4.</p> <p>My public comment today is, I just had a couple of questions. What can DMH do to kind of, to increase the engagement and the information about the MHSA community planning team stakeholder meetings?</p> <p>If the members of the public would like to attend town halls or attend the retreats, what effort is being made for, in terms of transportation, in terms of, um, Lyft or Uber or some kind of van ride or whatever from all the different service areas so members from different service areas can attend these Mental Health Commission functions and town halls?</p>

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Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In person	Stakeholder	<p>Yes, good morning. I guess I've been given the mic to share with you some of the stuff we've been doing there in our area of well, we had our meeting this last time, the second Friday of the month. Not too many showed up, we're finally coming out of just you know on Zoom and teams. So one of the events that took place on the 17th of July was a clergy breakfast and they had it there in Santa Rosa Catholic church in that's Bellegarde ins or Bellegarde ins. And it was beautiful. We will be going in in the month of August. And what else did we want to share?</p> <p>Just staying engaged. I'm doing my best, promoting the news that we have our meetings. Everyone's welcome. There's always food; that might bring in. So extra folks. They're welcome to come here. And so and it's not just us. So I bet my time is up.</p>
Public Comment	Ceasar Partto	By Phone	General	<p>My name is Caesar Peretto and I'm calling from the East Coast. I wanted to bring I I come before the board today to bring awareness of something that's really going on and getting out of control. I have a special needs son who has multiple disabilities. He's presently occurring in a private.I guess private house that he's renting a room with other adults with special needs. I don't know if I'll be able to cover everything within two minutes, but I'll just give you the talking points. What's I've noticed happening in these private home private owners or private businesses are buying up homes. Single family homes and trafficking a special needs adults will. You'll have like 3 two or four people to a room and they're being charged 800 to \$1000 a month and there's no oversight to see the quality of life of these special needs adults. So this is some type of trafficking that's being a happening in my son's previous fording care. I don't know if it's the call boarding care, but it was a whole.It's a privately owned home.And then you have basically three to four people into a room.</p>

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				<p>Ohh special needs adults and the this place was located on Australia Ave in Los Angeles.</p> <p>Ohh.</p> <p>Spare you the name, but I'll follow up with an email.</p> <p>Last year, for example, this director was caching my son Social Security checks.</p> <p>And then passing it on to his real estate partner, who has a real estate office in.</p> <p>Hollywood this case is still being investigated by the hook Foothill Police Department.</p> <p>They've tried to reach out to these people and they've been basically being stonewalling them, but this is going on and on and on where, you know these private businesses or private homeowners are taking advantage of special needs adults because of the housing crisis here.</p> <p>And there's no oversight.</p> <p>There's no agency to come and check in the private home that my sons currently living in Sun Valley.</p> <p>Now, like when I called APS or social workers to come in the the the owner has not allowed them to come into the house.</p> <p>I think there is one situation where a social worker did go in and go into the living room, but they were not allowed to go to see the bedrooms or anything like that.</p> <p>But that was the isolated incident.</p> <p>Most of the times his caseworkers would be, they wouldn't even allow them into the house to speak to my son, and my son is a find a regional center.</p> <p>So there's there's, there's got to be some kind of Jewish legislation that would allow some type of oversight of these homeowner</p>

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				<p>private homes that have someone from the county to check in on the quality of life of these residents.            I you know, there's another situation.            A friend of mine who has a son in Chatsworth, where again private owner has three to four special needs adults and one room and and I think the last thing the last heat wave, they didn't have the AC on APS had to be called in to do something about it.            But again, uh, we we need the law on our side.            We need the politicians on the side that that you just can't buy a house and start trafficking special needs adults and jamming them into her room and charging them \$1000 a pop.            That's not right, you know.            So I just wanted to bring awareness to that and I don't know, I'll follow up with an email to give you more details, names and dates like that, but wanted to see if you all had any comments or anything I can do moving forward.            Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Sherry Fedder	By Phone	General	<p>I'm not sure who line 16 is. He was in rehab for one month and discharged. But Right Choice never told SSI that he was there so (AUDIO AND CAPTIONS CUT OFF)</p>
Public Comment	Kathryn Lindcomb	By Phone	General	<p>Okay, great. I'm Kathryn. And I was on the call with the CAF of funding to become a person to get the funding for the new membership classes. Who do I contact?            Now that I'm trying to get, you know, the process into that program, who is the next step that I go to to get fully processed into the CAF program?            And then what program can I sit under to be a part, like a clergy process or a program or a clergy board?</p>
Public Comment				

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Public Comment	Osbee Sangster	By Phone	General	<p>Good morning, Mental Health Commissioners, staff and guests. My name is (indiscernible). I'm speaking on behalf of the Black Los Angeles County Coalition. We must rise above the conditions. We must seize the opportunity and recognize Vice President Kamala Harris becomes the first Black woman nominee as the choice to succeed President Joe Biden, making her the first.</p> <p>Over 400 years, history, people who look like Kamala Harris gave their sweat, blood and tears to build this nation.</p> <p>And I would say that is probably only right and fitting and appropriate that 400 years later, a person of color, an African American woman whose ancestors helped to build this nation, now stands to help lead this country.</p> <p>The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, over 55 years since his death, still fighting for issues, voting rights, democracy, freedom is at stake. Make a path. When you vote, think about who's going to get us over the finish line.</p> <p>Lift every voice, vote your conscience up and down the ballot for the future of democracy is on the ballot.</p> <p>Freedom, liberty, progress, the vision of democracy is at stake. The importance of the times we are living, equality now or never; 61 years after the march on Washington, Americans are still fighting a battle, impoverished Americans of all races, color and creed, but the fight for true equality continues.</p> <p>It's our time and beauty to build better for our next generation. In closing, when someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.</p>
Public Comment	VV Jones	By Phone	General	<p>Okay, yes. My name is VV Jones. I'll try to collapse what I say so I'm not too long. I was one of the first petitioners who got their petition accepted for Care Court. And I want to speak about Care Court, the public guardianship and the need for more workers for the Care Court and perhaps (indiscernible) more workers.</p>

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				<p>So I applied for Care Court. And at the first Care Court meeting which was in Norwalk, that night my daughter had a psychosis and was put into college hospital for 6 weeks. That was her first extended stay.</p> <p>She did not do an ROI so I was not able to attend. The doctor thought that she should have a guardianship, that she should be conserved. But the Judge said that she presented well. So my question to the board is, how can a Judge overrule what the doctor says?</p> <p>She should have been in my opinion under a conservatorship because she is reluctant to take her her medication. So right now since we are still in Care Court and during the recent hearing, she chose Care Court over LPS. That was another reason why they continued the Care Court route.</p> <p>She's unmedicated, which is a problem, which is a problem I tried to present to them, that I have to wait until her August meeting for Care Court to go before the Judge for the care plan before I can fight the fact that this period of time that she's unmedicated, anything could happen.</p> <p>I think that I really do appreciate Care Court, I really do. It gave me a vehicle to be able to help my daughter that I didn't have before. So I'm really not complaining as much as I am citing a scenario that I heard in the Care Court that many people have.</p> <p>It's this in between period, when nothing is being done for our children, our family members.</p> <p>Another thing is the Care Court told me that they have a lack of workers. So you have a lot of kids getting their degrees in social work, psychology, and I don't know if you could work with those systems for those young adults to be out in the field, the AOT workers and the SFP workers that are in there for Care Court.</p> <p>Okay. That was it. That's all I had to say, thank you.</p>

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Public Comment	Ronald Williams	By Phone	General	<p>My name is Ronald Williams. I am part of CAF. However, I applied for Service Area 6; there was a vacant seat for Commissioner, and, um, I sent the e mail and I tried to find the process.</p> <p>I even went on the website because I was instructed to go on the website to find the application. And I still couldn't find the application to apply for that vacant seat, which is now filled. And I actually feel slighted as a Black man, having the education and the knowledge and the experience, also lived experience to bring a different and more profound knowledge base to the table, not given that opportunity. And I'm very disappointed.</p> <p>However, I'm very happy for the Commissioner, for the person who was elected, Dr. I'm sorry, I forgot her name but I'm very happy for that.</p> <p>However, there is still a disposition where Black men are not at the table and that I have a very strong opposition to. With that, I want to thank everyone for this opportunity. Thank you very much, and that's all I have to say.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	By Phone	Stakeholder	<p>Yes, sir. Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to speak. And, um, I've been the most positive person you would ever want to say, and I will continue to be.</p> <p>So that's also representing people with disabilities that did want to join with us in the service area leadership team generally and also Service Area 5, that's who I represent. I represent Service Area Leadership Team 5.</p> <p>And I think it's very important that we take the time out to understand that some people have limitations when it comes to the orientation. And everyone knows someone who is disabled or a senior, someone who does not have an e mail address and someone who may need more directions. You know?</p> <p>And it just doesn't come easy, you know? And with that, we need</p>

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				<p>more intercommunication with the staff, okay?            I'm not saying all staff, um, as disconnected. But I will say this: I will say that it's very important to have some sort of phone number directly for maybe disabled people or seniors. And then in that way, they can be walked through the process because they deserve to have a voice.            They are going through a lot of mental disparities that a lot of people don't know about today in LA County. And with that, also disabled people, um, people who are legally blind and the latter. And with that, that orientation needs to be hybrid just like the meeting today.            And in that way, people who had maybe disparities having to do with the whole virtual hybrid world that we live in, they would have been able to be in person as well.            And with that, I ask the Commission, please, take the time out to talk to each other and come up with some sort of, um, answer for the people that really want to be a part of this now and feel left out in a sense to where they don't feel as though they will be able to participate and the only thing they had left in order to tell their story and try to get some changes made in LA County.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	<p>Oh, thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you for still being here. I'm late. So like my preceding lady, I represent Service Area 2, which is the San Fernando Valley. So good morning, Dr. Wong. You abandoned us for, you know, this new gig you got.            [Laughter]            &gt;&gt; AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. So just to report out, our last meeting was devoted towards putting in the mechanisms of the new bylaws and we had the elections. By default, I think this, is not suburbia; I am now the only chair (laughter) of Service Area 2.            Um, that wasn't how it was planned but that's where we are right now. So we will go forward and try to rebuild our community and</p>

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				<p>hopefully we can have an in person meeting in September. We don't know. We got a lot of work to do.</p> <p>And thank you, Cory, for being here. And I want to just share with you really briefly why I was late is I got a call from a facility operator who was very distraught.</p> <p>She has had a person be in her facility for over six months, without payment. And she can't evict because of the licensing requirements from Title 22.</p> <p>So she really feels in a bind. So I'm hopeful that she's also talking about the difference between having people come in that have been homeless and previously using drugs versus and trying to fit them into a facility where there has not been drug use and the intimidation that goes on and she has a responsibility to keep everybody safe.</p> <p>So I'm going to shut up. But please know that this is a problem that is coming, is, you know, a Mac truck and we've got to get in front of it. Thank you so much.</p>

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