



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 August 15, 2024, Mental Health Commission Meeting/Retreat
 (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	Lawrence Schallert
	Bennett W. Root, Jr.	Reba Stevens	Thomas Roache	Michael Molina	Brittney Weissman
	Imelda Padilla-Frausto	Erica Holmes	Jaqueline Sandoval-Valenzuela	Marilyn Sanabria	Vacant

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	Rick Pulido	In Person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Thank you, honorable chairman Molina and to all the commissioners. Thank you for being here. Welcome from the SALT 8 community here. I am Rick, your new commissioner person, and I brought my beautiful wife with me. She may say a few words later.</p> <p>On behalf of all of us in the SALT, we're delighted you could come to our SALT area. We have a lot to share with us, and some has been well-versed throughout the years.</p> <p>We want to speak about that family-peer resource center. I know Heather and Jennifer and Mike and all the commissioners know that all SALTs should have a peer resource center. We want to add that "family" in there and make sure it's for the family and the peer resource center for all community.</p> <p>In recovery and in full recovery. By that, I mean our children are doing so well. Thank God. We're very proud to say that NOMI has been our savior for 15 years now. On behalf of the SALT, we want you to know that Yvonne and Paul are here. He laughs but he has another prior meeting, but he is listening in. Paul, I know you're out there. Thank you for all your leadership that he does, all the due</p>

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				<p>diligence he does with you all, all the writing, reports, and the hard legwork you put in, and the analysts, making sure we do everything properly.</p> <p>Again, our main emphasis of course is the PRC, but it's also the trauma-informed situations that's happening right now within our midst. We know we need more beds. We know Prop 1 is here, but we think more than that, we need to start implementing now, and I know Dr. Wong is on this right now with the DMH team and with the commissioners overseeing it. You're recommending to our Board of Supervisors -- and hi Janice and Holly and all the commissioners, Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Again, their whole emphasis should be -- I know it's behavioral health service act now, but we should put behavioral mental health act. They forgot to put the M in there, but it's okay. We know it's there. We want to merge and make sure that that grows into and blossoms into a full cultivated, if you will, tree of knowledge for all of our communities, for all of our loved ones, you're not alone, and you have a opportunity to be part of the beautiful family of DMH.</p> <p>This is the strongest and the biggest, let's face it, department in the United States. There's nobody like us. We are the forefront leaders through Mike's leadership, through Janice's leadership, and the honorable supervisors. I was going to say President Molina. Promoting everybody today!</p> <p>I want to say we're looking forward to working closely on the new Co-Chair, and I know my other Co-Chair will say a few words. I want to let you know that we are here to serve. We're knocking on doors and listening, making sure we're the eyes and ears for you all, and I want report to you regularly and I'm looking forward to being with you as a team player.</p> <p>Thank you very much. God bless you. (Speaking Spanish) Thank you very much. God bless.</p>

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Public Comment	Yolanda Woodington	In person	General	<p>>> My name is Yolanda. I am a licensed clinical social worker. I am with an organization, a nonprofit called (unintelligible) friends, dedicated to providing behavioral health to women across all age groups.</p> <p>Particularly, our focus now is on our elder women. I'm here to ask the commission for their permission to get on your next agenda to present to you the opportunity for us to open up a psychiatric residential treatment facility in this second district for older adults.</p> <p>In the past, there were several Board and Cares that have since been closed in the second district. These Board and Cares were closed due to the lack of funding that was available, but with the introduction of the behavioral health continuum infrastructure bond act, this gives us an opportunity to add this much-needed resource to our community.</p> <p>With the lack of the interim funding that we once had and supplemental rates we once had, that's left us with a dire need to be able to offer this facility in the second district. So, this is my request. Hopefully, the commission will be able to accommodate me to be able to present a little bit more on our proposal.</p> <p>I'd like to thank the commission for your time and all the work you do for mental health. Thank you, commissioners.</p>
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In Person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Good morning, everybody. I'm Yvonne Sandoval from the great SALT 7. I have a couple announcements. This has been so far a beautiful August. Lot of heat. I'm trying to stay cool and calm and hydrated.</p> <p>First of all, I want to mention, on the 20th, that will be a Tuesday coming up, there will be a Latino UsCC meeting online.</p> <p>On the 21st, SALT 7 will be at Park in East Los Angeles, which is right off First Street, in the neck of my woods. They will be having -- I forgot what she called it, but there will be backpacks for kids, and I believe also eye screening for the young ones. That will</p>

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				<p>be next Wednesday. 9:00 o'clock. 9:00 to 12:00.</p> <p>On the 23rd will be, the last Friday of the month, our MHSA meeting. That will definitely only be online. I hope anybody and all can come to that.</p> <p>On the 27th, which will be the last Tuesday of the month, we'll have a round-table at our Area 7 at Saint Gertrude. That's 10:00 to 12:00. Okay.</p> <p>Of course, coming up for September, we'll have our regular meeting. We were dark this month of August, and we will have our regular meeting on the second Friday of the month. Again, 10:00 to 12:00. Understand it's probably hybrid. We'll be in the City of Whittier. That's great to join them there.</p> <p>I just want to say, I'm always involved in a couple of things. One of my enlightening parts is a drum circle that I belong to, Indigenous drumming circle. I can't tell you how much that has lifted my spirit, and I feel that with all the -- because it's a female drumming circle.</p> <p>You know, it's so enlightening and inspiring. I realize I'm in the right spot. So, there is hope. There is inspiration. Everyone here, everyone listening, if you're new, come join us. There's much to learn here, and inspire yourself, and hope just continues, and it can still be attained.</p> <p>So, thank you very much.</p>
Public Comment	Yvonne	In Person	Stakeholder Report	<p>>> Good morning, everyone. You know, I'm going to piggyback off of Rick. The importance of having a community -- and I say community resource center for our families, our peers, because it brings us together.</p> <p>Not only does it bring people together and help support each other through, but it also supports our mental health workers. It helps eliminate a lot of issues that -- and to address some of them before they get to the clinic, before they get, and to help support</p>

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				<p>them through that.</p> <p>It really works as a win-win situation for everybody concerned. Like I stated a while back, we really need four, but I'll be happy with two eventually. Our area is so big. By the way, our area, Service Area 8, also covers Catalina and Catalina needs help. Just advocating.</p> <p>Also, one thing, please, please, please, it cannot be a "small room and it will do." These people need an area where they can have support groups of various kinds, have meetings and be able to link the people to the right services that they need and help them with the steps they need for their recovery.</p> <p>Recovery is possible for everyone. The only hard part about recovery is we ourselves have to do the work in order to get there. So, thank you very much, commissioner.</p>
Public Comment	Allison	In Person	General	<p>>> Good morning. My name is Allison, with the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. I am the new mental health program manager within the department. I'm in the LCSW. I also have a master's in public health.</p> <p>We would like to really work together to improve the continuum of care and services so we don't duplicate services, and that we're better connected. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Modesta	In Person	General	<p>Hi, everybody. Welcome to the meeting today. Thank you for being here and also for -- thank you for the commissioners to present this meeting for us. It's very important for all of us to come here and express ourselves about the issues we have and also events.</p> <p>The events of 25th of August, we will have an LA County (unintelligible) and then we are all invited to go there. Also, we will have the conference on October 3 and 4 in Anaheim. This is really good for all of us to go there also. Also, everybody is invited.</p> <p>Classes. For first-time -- for the history, we're working on</p>

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				<p>Catalina Island and also virtual support group for everybody in the Spanish programs. Hopefully, everything goes well. Maria Solis is helping us to do a partnership with them over there.</p> <p>I think with that, I just want to say thank you! Thank you for being all here. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Osbee Sangster	By Phone	General	<p>Good morning. My name is (unintelligible) speaking on behalf of the Black Los Angeles County coalition. Good morning, Mental Health Commissioners, staff, and guests.</p> <p>Housing is a human right and can't make clearing and criminalization. Criminal penalties. We must alternatives, explore alternatives immediately.</p> <p>Criminalization is an expensive way to make homelessness worse. The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the City of Grants Pass Oregon v. Johnson, Grants Pass on people with disabilities.</p> <p>Housing is a human right. Housing is a human right. Without housing is a way to make homelessness worse. People with disabilities are particularly at risk of harm due to increased criminalization. We can do better, and we must do better. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Andrea McPhearson	By Phone	Stakeholder Report	<p>Okay. Sorry I couldn't be there. Unfortunately, I had another event I had to do at the same time, advocating for proper healthcare for all, including the disabled and seniors, which is who I advocate for.</p> <p>I wanted to talk about two separate things. One is the fact that we do need virtual classes for seniors and for the disabled. With that, we do have services CCC talked about the last meeting we had, about a resource services that actually have classes for seniors and the disabled people to learn the virtual world.</p> <p>That way, it's more than just calling or actually going to different events, when you are restricted. It is actually -- excuse me. Someone is passing while I'm making this comment! (laughs)</p> <p>They have an opportunity -- well, we have an opportunity to go</p>

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				<p>to the doctor online to do all types of things online. That way, they're not just left out. The disability rights and Agua Dulce laws should adhere to the necessities of people who need extra assistance, and that's with all SALTs and CASps, people.</p> <p>We need someone to come to each SALT and talk about those opportunities. Not only that, they also need -- the homeless situation. We need to address that, due to the fact there are people who are disabled and people who have mental illnesses that definitely need someone to do a psychological evaluation. Whether it's domestic-violence victims, someone who is developmentally-delayed, they need these people to be evaluated first, then set in a program that has the empathy enough. There needs to be a discussion about that during our CASp meeting so we -- so it's easier for everyone. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	<p>It is exclusion. Transportation, we were denied by the company. So we are in crisis. As a nation, when humanity is under attack when all these people from all the backgrounds are on the streets of Los Angeles or California, or the nation, we have to do something about it. We cannot fix this system by yourself as leaders of this. You have to include us, the patients. You have to include the loved ones. You have to make us part of it. If you don't, you will never solve it. So humanity is under attack. Yes, this is not America we used to know. So let's not exclude the loved ones. Let's come together and solve it. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	<p>Can you hear me? Okay, great. Thank you. First of all, we like to thank all of you for the great work you're doing. I know when you're sitting at that table as a volunteer and hear all the expectations, it's something that comes from the community. But as a community organizer and working for a non-profit organization in this area, I would like to see more of the community health workers included. And this is what you were talking about the people in the</p>

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				community. This is great and strategic planning went really well. And thank you, and I applaud your efforts. And thank you for your time. Congrats.
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	>> You know, I'll be here and there. But it was ironic when we see this retreat in my email. After giving the Mental Health Commission a big shout-out, we want to check out the structure of what's going on in the county. Come to the mental health commission meeting. So it's like, everything lands on today of 3 SALT meetings. And that's why I approach Kaylene first to say why is this on the day of SALT 4 and SALT 6 meeting? SALT 4 is going on right now. So you know, so I'd rather just lay back and make it to the majority of the meeting, because I've been doing this for what? 16 or 17 years? Ever since she worked for the other Board of Supervisors, Kaylene. And I can hear the stress of Commissioners being here before pre-COVID. I can hear the stress in your tone. That is getting frustrated that it looked like we're back at the same date. So you know. So just be laid back. We might have to go to social media and see the structure of the Brown Act and YouTube and Instagramers, and things like that. So that's about it. Going in a the future, now, AI stuff, that's another boat.
Public Comment	Krista	In Person	General	I'm Krista and I work for the department of public health, SAPC. I am a substance abuse counselor and I want to say the opportunity for integration of mental health and substance use, thank you. This is going to be a new beginning, I think. And I'm very thankful for that, because in my feel, I'm on the ground. I'm out with people. And it's very much-needed. Because it's like this. I work at the court center in Inglewood. I'm in SPA 8. If there's any events I can table to provide information on substance use prevention, education, overdose awareness, et cetera, but I can also help link people to treatment. So if anybody is interested in the packet of what we do, I have it.

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Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In Person	General	>> I live in City of Commerce. And miracle, the Promotoras had a series of workshops. And I should say thank you, because somehow they got there where mental health, you know, they don't want to talk about it. So they're there. And now because I am from project return, I had to have a physical group from having a call in thing. And I have my group there too. So it's awesome. People are interested. They won't maybe totally say what's totally on their mind, but they go this is a very interesting subject. And just like that. So I thank all the less stigma of mental health is becoming normal, just like a physical thing. So I thank everybody that were all involve in this and we can get through it and move forward.

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