



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
 September 26, 2024, Mental Health Commission 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	Okay. I'll try to go by memory. My situation is that I need to get a transplant and yeah, go ahead. I need to get a transplant because of lithium, my kidneys failed. I have bipolar disorder. So, I'm literally fighting for my life. What I find is I can earn the money that I need to get housing but I'm already on the A.L.W program. If I earn the money that I need for housing, I'm going to lose Medi Cal which will cover the transplant. So, UCLA, and Cedar said. This is something that doctors are aware of now, but I wouldn't be able to sue a doctor for research that happened over time just like people are claiming long term effects of COVID. How can you predict the future? I'm not trying to attack the system; I'm trying to figure out how to survive and right now the laws are not in my favor. So right now, we're trying to look for a voucher so I can go past what basically UCLA is saying I can get on the list with a transplant in a couple years. So, the key is just housing. If we can get a voucher somehow and bypass the speed of, you know, there's a long line of people that basically are set up for housing because they're the rules are basically set in the way that you have to have the unhoused. So,

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				with the A.L.W. program, which is a state program, they cover pretty much everything. I'm pretty comfortable the way I am now, but it's not going to get me on the list. So that's basically I hope that's three minutes. But that's the situation, that's what I'm asking for to try to document.
Public Comment	Kathrine Clay	In person	General	<p>My name is Katherine Clay and I'm speaking today on behalf of one of our visitors, Fred. Fred is one of our unhoused community members that have been coming to the P.R.C. for over a year. He's finally decided to get connected to mental health. Fred has he's not a native of California, he was born in Alabama and because he cannot get a document from housing, I reached out to Alabama's health services to some kind of fee waiver. I sent Fred next door to the department of mental health where he receives his services. And they'd be able to assist with a fee waiver and once again he was told no. So I think this plays a big part in our housing, in our homeless problem is if people are shipped in or come here from other states and then apart of getting your birth certificate is a part of document ready and you can't receive one and so we brought him up here because he didn't know what to do and I just on this commission has to be representing some kind of housing. So, Fred is right here and if someone's able to connect him with some kind of supportive services to reach out and help him ready into is that not something that can be done at the P.R.C. for people or do they have to be connected to it a department or have a caseworker for that to happen? I see.</p> <p>&gt;&gt; There needs to be funding to have a system. When I talked to Alabama health services this morning, they said if he got it by mail, it would cost \$20. If he got it online it would be \$39, but he's unhoused and don't have no income so we're thinking there would be some kind of the state of California actually has a waiver if you need a birth certificate to get document ready you could get it for</p>

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				<p>free but because he's from Alabama, that's the hold up in his document.</p> <p>&gt;&gt; I thought that they would give you an address.</p> <p>&gt;&gt; He can use it. The thing is the funding or a waiver to allow him to get the actual birth certificate so just thinking innovatively like united way or another WORGS would be able to assist him, but this is a wall that's set up within the department of mental health or at the P.R.C. because that's where people come that's not really connected to mental health services.</p>
Public Comment	Barbara Wilson	In Person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Good morning commissioners. I'm here to give the report from service area two or SALT 2. We had our last meeting. We meet on the second Thursday of every month, and we had Jamie Walker come and get us up to speed on the changes that are coming that we need to have our meetings be more formalized and more business-like with which we have not, we've operated more like a meet and greet. So, we're planning and getting on board with the new changes and the second part of my report has nothing to do with the SALT, but it does. As you know, we are still crunching. We're just collapsing really. I have just spent a lot of time with a mother who is desperate. She has a 25-year-old son who has serious mental illness. He's a wonderful young man but he is psychotic and so that they can parse pate in the F.S.P. program which we have fewer than 50% of the licensed facilities that we had in 2010 and service area two. So, I just want to say we are desperate for license accommodations for someone who has to have medications, monitored, and administered by the dose and so I've called every single board and care home that's licensed. They will not accept him or anybody else at that rate. We are living in the reality of having no license beds for people that are low income. Now, if mom had millions of dollars or even could match the thank you.</p>
Public	Milka White	In Person	Stakeholder Report	Good morning commissioners. I represent now I'm the new I'm just

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Comment				<p>going to try to bullet. And it's been cleared up but the fact that it happened was very disturbing to me. My friend and you know her, Wendy Cabil was dealing with a situation where her housing I'm dealing with the bridge to home LA family housing and family wash ups. When they placed me in that area, I went through what Wendy went through. I paid what I was supposed to pay and then the caseworker and the I guess my housing stabilizer did not make sure that the rent from their portion was paid which puts me in the position of having to go through an eviction. Fortunately, Wendy has not gotten to go through that but that was just appalling to me when I got that message to her within the last five weeks. So, I just don't understand why there seems to be a malfeasance of behavior between navigators and caseworkers. It's still happening. So that's one. The next one is within the area of spa one, it seems like the LA county area considers us bottom feeders as far as our transportation to even get our money out there. That's all I have to say. I go to the board transportation meetings because I currently do not have a physical car, so I use my medical I've given them to our board members in regard to the make-up of the vehicles. To step into the vehicles is not safe. I'm just giving some lived experiences with the tools I know you have helped us to get but it just doesn't seem like it works correctly. Even safety issues happen that was mentioned by one young lady this past Tuesday and for me as a person who's a young senior, I think it would be great to have the opportunity to have an additional commissioner person that is a working person and dealing with life situations, not a person who's just retired and just trying to live their life. I'm not trying to be disrespectful but there's some of us who still have to work. Thank you. We still have to work and create our income.</p>

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Public Comment	Irene Ratliff	In person	General	<p>My name is Irene Ratliff. I came here two months ago with my concern about satellites, drones, and lasers. I'm still concerned even though I've been able to get around and meet people and the service areas that I work and live with just eight and six, it's not enough. And I think that what I will start doing is writing but what it was is that I was concerned about my personal approach because I'm crying, I'm affected and I'm hurting. So, for me to assume that, oh, okay this is some illuminati or we're just going to go cocoa puffs. It's false. This is real stuff that's happening and there should be some type of accountability for Los Angeles county and the city because this is where I reside in the state of California to say there needs to be some implementation, not something gradual but something right now to identify our human rights which I will call chick which is chick is constitution, human rights, independence, and civil rights with this matter because right now we had a civil matter under a constitutional something because I'm at home. And I'm saying maybe out in space. And they're using these things on our bodies, and it is changing. It's altering. Not only do I feel it, but I hear it and it's been a long time I just want to say I'm looking for support. My telephone number is a public number even though it's private. (323) 750 0402. My name is Irene Ratliff and I'm an administrator for Street Me company.</p>
Public Comment	Louis Scott	In person	General	<p>My name is Louis Scott and I'm here in response to section 8. In 1920 they had the COVID quarantine but section eight terminated many people using that as a leverage to terminate them saying we did not grant them entry for inspections but they were not going out so that put me in a situation now where I'm homeless and there is other but they're not and I've gotten no word from nobody. I went to the mayor's office, and I haven't been able to see the mayor. I see her aid and I still haven't gotten any word but still peoples then we found out and you ask what face to face hearing, you don't get it. I'd</p>

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				Luke a response to that.
Public Comment	Charles Wade	In Person	General	My name is Charles wade. I just want to know will they continue to provide bus rides here. Thank you
Public Comment	Sydney Tabizon	In Person	Stakeholder Report	We're here now in the celebration of national Hispanic month it will locate tomorrow from 12:00 to 3:00. We're hosting a baby shower titled baby shower and wellness. East LA on Caesar Chavez between Caesar Chavez and to afford and you do have to register. Not to this is something that's very dear to me and as advocates, I like to public indicate it more and be aware that there is a better answering call than 911 which is 988. I happen to be on dialysis for coming to and from, I always share that with my drivers. Nobody knows about it. Nobody. I was even at a lunch where I spoke to a council woman, and I asked her. Do you know 911 I said yes. Do you know 988 and she said no. So, it's just that so we can advocate it more because it's something very dear to my heart and let's get out there and tell everybody about 988 and I think I have one more thing to talk about.
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	Good morning. Is it still morning? Yes, it's still morning. Hello, commissioners. First, I want to appreciate you all for providing transportation for folks to have access to this meeting. Hi. Love the commercials, you know the outreach to engage folks to receive D.M.H. services and thank you for your service to commissioners on the board and I know the time it takes away from other things so thank you. I represent a nonprofit organization alliance for community empowerment and we're over in district three. I know I'm speaking for myself but I'm speaking on behalf of other colleagues in the field that are trying to have a relationship with the Department of Mental Health and for the past few years, we have tried to go through the whole solicitation process that constantly changes. We provide mental health services. Unfortunately, I have wait lists of people seeking our mental health services. I need a

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				contract with D.M. H, I need to be able to access my own tax paying dollars to I can serve my community. This is me, but I represent a lot of organizations that have the same concern. We want to be able to partner and align with DMH. I would ask the commission to request sew if the commission can connect.
Public Comment	Kathrine	In Person	General	Good morning. My name is Katherine I came in years ago as a consumer. Now I am a minister. I am a community advocator and most of all, I do community outreach. I am a 501C. My ministry is Hallelujah Anyhow. I am a member of S.A.C. six and I just want to thank you guys recently, I am being reinvented with S.A.C.6. So, I just want to say thank you for welcoming me back aboard. It's amazing to me. The I've been around in ten, twelve years and I'm running into people that still remember me. What a joy to my heart, you know. So, thank you Reba for all that you do. Thank you.
Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	In Person	Stakeholder Report	Good morning commissioners. My name is Ricardo Kim service area four SALT stakeholder. I want to thank the commission and DMH for allowing this robust gathering. I hope we can do more to engage our stakeholders to join our meeting. I also want to tell how much we love her and how much we agree with her. I've known her since 2018 and I am missing her and grieving with her right now. I hope that one day that when she is ready, we will be able to celebrate her many years of public service and the work and dedication she had to the Mental Health Commission. I wanted to say that quick. Lastly, I just want to go back to our July 25th meeting, and I see some things on our minutes but it's really about the conversation that occurred between Dr. Wong, Commissioner Austria and commissioner Wiseman. What would the commission do in being involved with the MHSA. The feeling I got from that meeting was Dr. Wong wasn't Shimon Peres being informed but she wasn't really maybe few commissions can go up there per diem paid for, travel expenses hotels, meals, whatever but also maybe our co-

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				chairs or anybody who wants to know about the changes MHSA to BHSA whether it's in LA county, whether it's throughout the state or in Sacramento. I think the Mental Health Commission members should be a part of should have a seat at the B.HSA table with DMH staff and whether that but the Mental Health Commission is very important and should have a seat at this.
Public Comment	Selam	By Phone	General	>> Access to transportation, we are being denied by the insurance company saying we have to meet one to one with you know what's going on and (indiscernible) I heard you say public comment is a process to follow up.
Public Comment	Osbee Sangster	By Phone	General	. My name is (indiscernible) speaking on behalf of the black Los Angeles County Coalition Inc. Cap we must rise above the conditions and (indiscernible) penalties. We must find alternatives about you have to move. If we don't find more housing, we'll get more homelessness. Criminalization is an expensive way to make homelessness worse. The cruel and ineffective criminalization of unhoused people in Los Angeles documents the experience of people living on the street and in vehicles, temporary shelters, and parks in Los Angeles. With houselessness, a pervasive problem. In the county of Los Angeles with the monetary value of property has risen to the extreme heights. Has stagnated for decades, houselessness has exploded into public view. To issue publicly and acknowledge the necessity of increased housing to solve houselessness criminalization of those without it. The criminalization of houselessness means treating people who live on the streets as criminals and directing resources toward arresting and siting them. And extreme poverty from the view of house public. Criminalization is ineffective because it punishes people for living in poverty. Property owners and business elites at the expense and rights of people living in poverty to adequately standard living. As a consequence of historical and present policies and practices that

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				drum Nate against black and other people, these groups improve the brutalization. Stand up for the people. Stand up for the county. Hold out hope. Vote. Take action.
Public Comment	Danielle Curtis	By Phone	General	>> I am a registered nurse. But today I'm not coming to you as a professional, I'm coming to you as a professional and an advocate. My son has been suffering from mental illness. Currently, he's sitting in an acute care psychiatric hospital. He's literally on a waiting list at DMHICD to be on an I.M.D. waiting list. This has happened due to an overly strict policy and lack of appropriate treatment options and care coordination for his patient population. Appropriate treatment options for his patient population which is the people with serious mental illness do not include best partnerships, board, and cares, those are options where those patients are able to actively participate and don't need medication management. Those are not appropriate for S.M.I. community. My son and other patients need to be prioritized by the department of Mental Health. This population of patients is the sickest and most in need and forgotten. MHSA funds need to be redirected and established so that we can have additional I.M.D. sub-acute facilities and wrap around services by increasing the number of beds and facilities and by using a multi-model including MHSA funds. We can prevent additional deterioration of condition for this patient population. It might also be possibly decreasing the number of homeless patients with serious mental illness. We might literally preventing the death of these patients and possibly the death of my son. Please help them and help me to re prioritize the patient community when it comes to allocation and providing services. Providing beds and providing intervention. Particularly in the cases of faces with serious mental illness.
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	We are really in a crisis for people who are homeless and on the streets. We need more services, more client run services actually.

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				One of the issues I have is this meeting takes place at the same time. We need to this meeting needs to be on another day rather than the fourth Thursday of the month. And it needs to be instead needs to be not at the time would be you talked about this at the they are available online. You don't necessarily need to be there in order to attend because of technology. On a Wednesday rather than in the fourth Thursday of the month. The fourth Thursday of the month is the best.

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