



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
 October 10, 2024, Mental Health Commission Executive Committee 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	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	Jim "The Hat"	In person	General	Kathleen, I'm glad to see that some of us are here. And interestingly enough this is the thing that I'm making a public comment about. Because of the fact that when I went to the suicide not school. Requirements for suicide. Excuse me. Okay. Now my coffee kicked in. For suicide requirement only a few from south LA men were there of the African descent and only a few and when I say few, out 46 attendants at the suicide convention or micro convention we have with (indiscernible) I was the only one there. I'm saying that we're not reaching out to our black men community. Causing a lack of communication. We have a problem of communication. And not to be cliché from the movie, but we need better communication. Being able to target that audience in the health care system, medical health care system they are starting to use AI to make better communication. Because it can do the job of four, three, ten people to continually keep up with those persons. So, my suggestion to implement that next meeting be able to achieve that communication with AI marketing. This is what's coming with the hat. Honest and trustworthy to advertising or marketing that we cannot allow people to fall through the cracks and be able to attain

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				better communication with everyone. It's a lack of communication. A real hope. Thank you very much.
Public Comment	Kathrine Henderson	In Person	General	<p>Good afternoon. My name is Kathrine Hendersen, I'm a consumer not only am I consumer I'm also a minister. I've been around with the Department of Mental health ever since 1996. For some time, I was one of the first consumers to ever work at (indiscernible) when they were first hiring in consumers I went away for a while and back to school to get my minister's degrees in the name of Jesus. I came back and all I wanted to do was volunteer a little time here down at DMH, so I came down. I went to the drop incenter, and I spoke to lady, a doctor, her name started with an M. She referred me to another lady, and they were telling me what I had to do. I had to be referred from a clinic. Well, I haven't been connected to a clinic in years. I'm thinking there must be another way around that. I'm a vibrant person. I need to be here for the seniors, and I need to be able to volunteer and help with seniors for help better meant for their wellness and also do all that I can to help them not stay in bed, to get around and be active, and do good things for themselves. And not only that, help them with their housing.</p> <p>I don't feel, you know, you don't have to forever be on medication, and I hope I'm not talking too much about that. You can be do things holistic and get better, and that doesn't mean you can't get better. And I do believe in that. I focus on that. E ah, also I did sign up to be a part of the sigh fen program, and I signed up way back in August. Have not heard a word. But I didn't come here to get paid. I came here to help and be a part of a blessing to those that would receive me and embrace what I have to offer. You should say to me, welcome, Cathy, come on in and bless us. Don't you think? Thank you very much</p>
Public	Anonymous	In Person	General	I'm still dealing with the same situation with Section 8. During a

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Comment				<p>queer teen they terminated thousands of people to request for face-to-face hearing and we never received it. Each time they grant me, and they say that your certificate has been approved but each time it comes down for me to receive it they also missing one form that they already have. This is the fourth time they've done it, and now it's like I'm just sitting back and wondering when they will pass me my certificate so I can get my own place. That's one item. Then there's another item. The cost of living that social security was to grant everybody they granted from when you first became either on SSI or SSDI sin stead of the point where you're living now. Then when it comes down to it and is the consumer looks at everything, they are only receiving 50 bucks as far as the cost of living. Now, where is the money going and why are they going back to the beginning, the very beginning to add the money so they can simply say oh yes, we gave it to them but that's not where it was supposed to be placed. It was supposed to be placed where we're leaving as today. The question still where the money going? There's still the question why no one is truly trying to help the homeless. Why is there so much hesitation in everything. When the paperwork they request I bring it to them either 2 to 3 days after. There's still time for them to handle my paperwork and put me through this whole process but yet and still my paperwork sits until my papers expire and then they want me to rush and regret them. Honestly this is the fourth time. They are saying this is my third and last time. When you asked me the first time why didn't you process my paper then? The second time the same thing, the third time the same thing, but I'm still not receiving any type of answer. Any type of assistance. The only time I get help is when I come to DMH or PRC but, I'm still roaming the streets trying to locate a place to live. The other situations in my life that I'm also trying to deal with, and I can't do everything at once. Yes, I do get frustrated. Yes, I feel like cursing</p>

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				out
Public Comment	Cathrine Clay	In Person	General	Good afternoon. I'm Catherine Clay. I'm from the peer resource center downstairs I wanted to be able to come and give an update on Fred's behalf. I spoke last time to the full commission about Fred was having to struggle with being able to obtain his birth certificate from the state of Alabama in order to become housing ready or to get any kind of support. I was very excited and so was Fred when (indiscernible) came down and assisted right after the commission meeting. She went and had her lunch, and she came down. She listen today Fred, she talked to Fred, got his understanding of what was going on. She went and advocated next door, and I'm happy to report that Fred has now applied for his birth certificate for the state of Alabama. They've told him that it should be hereby Friday. The only issue as the advocate and the person speaking on his behalf have, is he had to come out of pocket and pay the \$35 his own self. When just as I said I felt that if the department may have had some kind of flex funds to be able to do it, but, I'm very happy to be able to report that advocacy did happen and we were very excited about benny coming down and talking to him and being able to go and advocate however when it came time to case management that I still had Fred being able to do it his own self. It's a win win but I think it would have been greater if someone that was unhoused could have been gotten some support from the clinic, he receives his services to be able to assist minimum. Thank you.
Public Comment	John	In Person	General	Hi, good afternoon. Thank you it's my first time here at commission meeting and I heard about it for a longtime and Daniel mentioned this to me that was happening today. I'm psychiatric social worker downstairs and it just popped into my head because I was talking to one of my colleagues and he's actually trying to assist one of our guests downstair. He's a mental health consumer maybe not

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				currently but maybe in the past is also you unhoused and he's trying to get back to his native Texas and we're just trying to think about. I know I heard about stern certain programs in the past that may be able to help with bus tickets. Do you I was wondering if you have recommendations about any programs that might be able to assist him?
Public Comment	Fred	In Person	General	Again, my name is Fred. I kind of feel like there was a program I was going through center for living and learning with Ms. Nancy and I kind of like didn't like the mental health problems I was having at the particular time. If I'm working like during janitor job or anything like that so forth or even during my acting career it kind of like I kind of take the part of me that has the schizophrenia, the part of me that has PTSD, and I am able to apply that. There are other things that I exhibit over the year I do suffer with HIV, and I have been a patient for quite some time. There is another program that I was supposed to go to perfectly west side clinic are you all familiar with Beverly Hills West Side Clinic. That's a program that I had been receiving my medication. I'm currently out of the medication. Is there someone that can help assist me.
Public Comment	Princess Okimi	By Phone	General	Hi. My name is princess key pee and I have two questions in the comment. I'm a license clinical social worker and advocate for individuals in psychiatric facilities. And I'm curious to know what the process is to have a client who has been deemed by the court ready to step down from inpatient psychiatric unit to sub-acute IMDB looking to be transferred to one county in Southern California to another county in Northern California for the most locked facilities in opposing counties don't take lateral transfers what does one do to affiliate this type of transfer with transportation and care team member to ensure safe transfer is there person or department that solely handles these types of (indiscernible) if so

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				<p>who and what department he. That's my first question.</p> <p>My second question is does the commission have or open to creating a community liaison position for each service area who can attend these meetings to give a voice to all the stakeholders in the various spots so treatments nurses judges etcetera. This way the commission can work directly with the constituents on addressing pressings issues like complex transfers like I asked about and other complex processes. I'm asking this because what I'm finding is everyone is tired compassion, fatigued and burnt out in so many cases and no idea how to go about any complicated process. Those are the two questions, and then my next comment is there or if not could there be an earlier think tank that stakeholders can attend to bring up pressing issues that everyone can collectively talk about and come up with effective and ethical solutions and the agreed upon solutions can be put on like DMH Website where anyone can go and get the answers or a step by step process in how to do things like complex lateral transfers, etcetera. I know this can work because I'm an aces aware advisor and they are making impact and eliminating stress and burn out for Erin. Yeah, I know that was a lot, but just wondering if you can answer two questions and respond to that comment, please.</p>
Public Comment	Andria McFerson	By Phone	General	<p>Yes, I can. Okay. My name is Andrew MacPherson and you guys won't believe this. I had an instance where it was a scare. I went to the hospital just due to the fact that I got hit with a skateboard. On the board walk in front of my house, and the emergency room said it was a sprain. I did my research and followed up with the orthopedic specialist, and he said quite clearly this is a swollen fracture on your leg and you can't walk on it. And what needs to happen is and he told me all these different things I needed to do unfortunately, and I had another instance where I had a kid any malfunction. Now, I'm a</p>

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				<p>disabled child with disabled Veteran and I had a lot of different birth defects including kid any malfunction and epilepsy and I advocate but to be treat like that that was so scary because the second time I had to go to the emergency room it was stated that I was complaining about something previously that was unwarranted so then when they see me and they see me having muscle spasms due to low potassium and kidney malfunction they automatically assumed I had a mental health or homeless and wanted drugs. Well, actually that's the hospital that I had the brain surgery with and that was for epilepsy. When I started having these muscle spasms, they claim that it was unwarranted, and they told me that they would put me in a psych ward. Once my neurologist got in contact with them and basically put them accountable for all the different things, they were doing with me at that particular time while I was still in the hospital. You don't want to know half of the things that happened to me that night from that hospital.</p> <p>She was very upset. We had a follow up visit today. She apologized. She wants to make sure that that never happens to me again so now I'm going to see a kidney specialist along with an ankle specialist because now being that the muscle spasms I was having worsened my ankle. These things should not happen, you know, and we should have some sort of communication towards the patients directly. They don't have ombudsman anymore so with that being said we need service workers to work with patients because even my situation, I'm able to speak and come and tell you guys about it but everyone doesn't have that and that's why I advocate. Thanks, guys.</p>
Public Comment	Osbee Sangster	By Phone	General	Good afternoon. Mental health consumers. Commissioners staff and guests my name is [NAME] speaking on behalf of the black coalition. Today is world mental health day. Mental health matters.

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				<p>Remember it's okay to seek help. Voting matters, you don't need a home to vote how can you help? Promote voting access for low income and homeless persons to ensure that people who are economically disadvantaged maintain a voice in shaping their future. The corner stone of democracy is citizens to make wishes known to the election process. People do not lose citizenship when they lose their home low-income voters and particularly people experiencing homelessness consistently when it comes to voter turnout. People unhoused or otherwise experiencing poverty or housing insecurity have faced numerous barriers to their full participation in the election process just to name a few lacking appropriate documents required to register or vote. Lacking the resources to educate themselves about candidates no way to get to the polls on election day. We employ counsel, organizations and their programs shelter male programs or subsidize can housing complexes and individual interests. In helping people experiencing homelessness overcome the obstacles that center prevented from becoming registered active votes. Help with voting registration among those without housing the unhoused. Encourage greater action around solving homelessness. Voter education registration is critical to keeping those without housing engaged about voting. Lastly, we encourage you to assist people who are unhoused to actually cast a ballot. Early voting is often the easiest way for a person without a stable residence to vote. Freedoms and democracies is on the bat lot. Positive words for today world mental health day, quote mental strength is not just about being able to handle the challenges in life it's about being able to grow from them. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Selam	By Phone	General	<p>Good morning. This is Selam. I really think I'm sorry. Andrea for what you went through that's one of the reasons why I want everyone to know what's happening as a patient I have seen, and I</p>

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				have my share of experiences we really need patients advocates for medical illness for physical illness and patient advocates for mental illness. I'm sorry. Advocates which are in place for agencies are not really standing up for patients. That needs to be looked carefully. We need states ombudsman which is neutral agents from DMH we need patient advocates in hospitals different than the (indiscernible). Probate hearing is handled in the psych wards of patient right (indiscernible) and the patient advocate who goes in the room and talks to the patient about is a consumer affair. That's a really serious conflict of interest. This is what I have put in the calculator on February 22nd, '24 that I provided to the commissioners. I really think it's time to look into all this stuff because especially with the minorities we been (indiscernible) because of our color of skin, this, and that. You as Commissioners if you really care about mental illness this needs to be addressed. It shouldn't be put off any longer. Thank you.

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