



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Behavioral Health Commission Meeting

January 23, 2025 @ 11am

(IN PERSON AND BY PHONE) TRANSCRIPT AND EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

Commissioners by Supervisorial District

District	1 st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
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

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
The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting. Emailed communication is attached separately.				
Public Comment	Dr. Lisa Pine	In person	General	<p>Good morning. I'm Dr. Lisa pine per listen, CEO of Parents Anonymous Inc in Los Angeles County. I would like to speak to you today given the fire crisis and mental health crisis we're having even five years through COVID that we operate the only -- and I'll repeat -- the only California parent youth help line in the state. Our calls have gone up 60% from Southern California just in the last week. You can imagine we've gone up to the evacuation centers and been turned away to offer people services.</p> <p>And you know as a non-profit, many people who are Black and Brown and of color don't trust the government. So, they're looking for support in the middle of the night, etcetera. We've victims from every single fire in the county. We need resources and need DMH to organize with us because we're in the community, trusted by the community and need to be a solid partner. But we know bureaucracies move very slowly but we're in a crisis. We're appealing to you all to provide funding. We also run support groups, we're in the federal clearing house. You can go to our website. I was on KFI. We do a lot of outreach in the community to people. But people at the evacuation centers are being told nobody</p>

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				can come in here because the Red Cross is controlling that. I understand that because there's outbreaks of different viruses and these are controlled settings. But how are we going to deal and support the short-term as well as long-term mental health challenges we face? We want to partner with you. Call me any time. Thank you.
Public Comment	Jim "The Hat"	In person	General	<p>>> (Indiscernible) since the fires we've been worked around the clock to help people with homes. In the area in north Hollywood, we housed four families out of 11. (Indiscernible). Helped people come to terms with the loss. And the sources have been turning people away.</p> <p>And this is the thing where we appreciate you can help a systematic arrangement to help people and find clothing, find water, find baby diapers, find the adult diapers, find the food.</p> <p>Oh, what am I talking about? YMCA had this available. 433 South Vermont. In locations. And their e-mail is CindyOlivia@YMCALA.org.</p> <p>CindyOlivia@YMCALA.org.</p> <p>That's where they have systematic arrangement helping people -- and help with supplies needed. Also, at the Red Cross as briefly mentioned but they've been turning people away. And that takes away the hope. Department of Mental Health motto, recovery -- how we go? Recovery -- help me out here.</p> <p>It's that hope part.</p> <p>Very good. We need to put into it. And be able to do that at JW.org. We came out with the magazine for disasters two years ago so we can help that systematic arrangement of hope. I will share this with a few commissioners. If you can share that. How to teach hope in situations of disaster. And being able to do this.</p> <p>Why I say this hope, being able to recover from cancer, dying from cancer and remission again.</p>

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Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Good morning, everybody. Happy New Year. And we are all here gathered to do the best we can with Department of Mental Health. So, thank you.</p> <p>I'm Yvonne Sandoval. In the great Service Area seven. So, I will read to you what has been written.</p> <p>So, Service Area seven, the PRC, which is the Peer Resource Center, continues to lead the way in its effort to provide support for fathers and recently has started working on bridging the gap between fathers and mothers to ensure children have a healthy home.</p> <p>Today, you see I have one minute and 25 seconds. And you know, I just want to -- there is great change right now. Last year it was Prop one winning. We know there will be changes with that.</p> <p>Now we have a new President. There will be more changes with that. And what I have been saying all along is that we need to make sure that we are good. We have to feed ourselves, drink the water, make sure that we find a way of balancing ourselves because if we can't -- we've got to do I, me, and then we can do we. And so, I just want to end with that.</p> <p>And if for this year, find something new that you can incorporate for your healthy lifestyle and to continue flourishing like the way we can. So, thank you. Thank you very much.</p>
Public Comment	Sydney	In person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Continuation with areas Service Area seven.</p> <p>And first of all, I wanted to show you my T shirt.</p> <p>Hoodie. I'm sorry.</p> <p>>> Pick up your hood so we can see. Oh, look at that. Go Service Area seven. Wonderful.</p> <p>>> Okay. So, what we're what I'm going to announce here is we're having excuse me. We're having on behalf of our facilitator, Erika coral, we're having administrative clergy breakfasts. And the engagement is for community launching programs based on the</p>

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				<p>needs of the community which encourage participation from all denominations. I didn't say that right. But of faith. And explore the connection between mental health and spirituality. There's things I can't pronounce very well.</p> <p>But anyways, we were just at a last week, the 21st no. It wasn't the 21st. It was last Wednesday. And we were at a clergy at the Hindu temple, which was very enlightening and very nice.</p> <p>And on the 21st, we were at the lunar Chinese good year, which is at the Norwalk center. And we also had yesterday with had the Mayan, the soul event at the Los Angeles library where there was also sound bowls and nice breakfast. And we had a panel of about four different people from the different communities which were the mostly, it was religion, which was really nice. Religion and there was some one of the psychiatrists also. Very enlightening for everybody. And there was also massages to help heal. And also, the sound bowls.</p> <p>And that's pretty much it for area seven.</p>
Public Comment	Monet Dell	By Phone	General	<p>Good morning. Hi. My name is Monet program officer at the California community foundation. I wanted to make a quick comment and share CCS is making multiple rounds of mental health grants to support those affected by the wildfires. I wanted to add CCF is committed to recovery and rebuilding and we welcome direct coordination from leadership and other organizations in the room or online who would like more information.</p> <p>And the primary contact for the wildfire recovery fund is Dr. Rose Veniegas. Her e mail is RVENIEGAS@calfund.org. RVENIEGAS@calfund.org. Thank you very much.</p>
Public Comment	Bernadette	In Person	General/Support item 5-8	<p>When I was 12, I was diagnosed with mental health disabilities and had thought offense taking my open life at 15 was my first attempt of over 20 attempts. June of 2015 was get well day to live. Several</p>

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				decades inpatient outpatient. To be a better person. I (Indistinct) my mental health and unfortunately in September last year I came back I made myself (Indistinct) and I came from homelessness. So, anything that helps prevent suicide please support that because I am scared and had truly scared and still (Indistinct) and I am an advocate and found add organization license nonprofit with California for social justice and my children were abducted in 2021. Filed add probate matter. (Indistinct) all three simultaneously mental health sustained until (Indistinct) social services to get a subsidy and I yet to obtain anything and nonetheless I am advocacy has taken guardianship about us to a national level now. Recognize this month as guardianship abuse for this month and it is now a national interest. So, I have a lot of good to do and very aware of my mental health and betterment and only I can be responsible for mental health and the support that anybody can provide .
Public Comment	Anonymous	In person	CPT/Community Planning	I participate in the CPT and community planning and I want to recognize what commissioner Stevens said. Didn't feel like an engaging process and even though we have work groups that did things we never saw the impact of that. Not only did we not know who was voting or not and we encourage them that they move the meeting around the County like you move the meeting around the County. And schedule the meeting at 9 or 930 to bring parents there and dropping kids off at school means they are not coming and it is an all-day haul and you need to look at the process in terms of what is the goal for getting community involvement in the budget and donations and I think it is great that there is new BHSA money and how it is going to go around and we asked one question that was never answered how much of the plan that the board approved for two years of those billions of dollars went back to the County agencies and not to community based organizations? Talking about again about the talk about it is not just parents anonymous who

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				wants to help. Hundreds of LE, and community partners who want to be a part of this and just having one person or 2 people at a, at the sites right now where the fires are is not enough and we were turned away after we came with ten people because red cross had to control the settings and having coordination about all of that and the LA times does an article every year about the MHSA money not spent in the County and last time I looked was \$1.6 billion and as commissioners I think you have to take responsibility to help direct the department and get out of the bureaucracy so the money b can be released to evidence based services at the community level at all different languages and usual partners and not just organization that are an around for a long time.
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In person	General	I am looking forward to doing what you are going to do to bring it and the maybe we could have access to being able the to (Indistinct) very critical p thing and thank you for doing the work that you do. Thank you very much.

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