



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION
February 13, 2025, Behavioral Health Commission 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	<p>Good morning, commissioners. Beautiful day outside, isn't it? Yes, it is. We're all here.</p> <p>Just saying that, it's a matter of correct thinking. How can we avoid negative thinking? I'd gone to the grocery store this morning. The eggs, \$11 for a dozen. And while we were rushing like we was Black Friday to (indiscernible) the eggs are there. The spirit of negative thinking is starting to spread because fires, one place after another, now we've got mud slides coming in.</p> <p>How can we help people to avoid negative thinking?</p> <p>In fact, since we're talking about eggs, is there really a shortage? If we look at it correctly, and learn how to think, throw a little milk in one of your eggs, then you've got two. Is there really a shortage of that food? No.</p> <p>And this is not just coming from well, this is from JWORG. How to avoid negative thinking. Like the people who felt they have lost a home. I was on the street for seven years. When I start to look forward, during that time I wasn't in the same house I was when I was 15 years old or 20 years old. Neither the car, neither the</p>

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				clothes. But when I look forward, I was able to see the blessings that were coming. So, looking forward how to help us to help positive thinking. In the funds that we don't have anybody who's a speaker no funds for that. We need some practical guidelines to have speakers to give us practical answers to avoid negative thinking. So, we can have healthy mental neighborhoods.
Public Comment	Catherine Clay	In person	Stakeholder Report/PRC	Good morning, commissioners. I'm Catherine CLAI I'm from service area four PRC downstairs. I want to be able to say, Brittney, it was absolutely amazing to see you at homeless connect day two months ago. We took the PRC roughly around ten constituents to be able to connect with housing resources that were offered. Just a little bit of history. The PRC has no computers. We're just there to be able to accompany and give resources to the community so we don't have access to CES, or anything like that. But we notice there's a group of people that do come to the PRC every day. What I have found is no matter how many LA hop referrals I do, because the people are sited inside of the PRC, LASA does not come inside to engage those people. So today so that day the constituents we had were super excited. LASA told them about this new opportunity of tiny homes. But their computers were down and weren't able to do CES. The constituents gave them my number and I gave my cards but there was no follow ups. The gentleman here is Mr. Utley. We asked for support, how to help him get his birth certificate so he could get a California ID so he can start preparing to get document ready. However, we notice when someone lifted up Mr. Utley that he has a CES score of a four. Last time anyone has done any case notes for him was in 2021. And so, he is a directly operated consumer. We're here today to ask is there any way for this body to recommend for someone from LASA to periodically drop

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				into the PRC weekly to be able to assist? And if there's someone that could help Mr. Utley with getting on that list for a tiny home, updating his CES because I don't want to feel like I'm feeling the PRC is a wrong doer when we operate off the no wrong doer policy. So, I'm asking this body if someone can absolutely help Mr. Utley in getting an update. Thank you.
Public Comment	Anonymous	In Person	General	<p>So, I'm here as you know you're presenting on MHSA funding and planning and the three year planning. I'm currently receiving an amazing mental health peer support training from California Black women for wellness project. This is their last year of funding. Ironically, I get to be the last cohort and one of the representatives that was picked for LA County. There's 25 from Riverside County and there's 25 women from Oakland.</p> <p>And I just want to say. This is something amazing, Kathleen Austria and Reba Stevens know me. I'm from the trauma informed. I'm still a current consumer from the department receiving directly operated services from my trauma informed community.</p> <p>And so, to be able to say this is a part of a sisterhood that is something that in our culture we never get to hear about. To be able to give a support of holistic training and how do we heal from our cultural history without medications, without therapy and to be in a supportive environment?</p> <p>So, as we think about women's reintegration has changed. Oh, well, you're women's wellness, this, that. We're going to mix the jail population. Now there's men there. Then the program was moved to the mental health community. So, there's really no holistic mental health support. There's really nothing targeting for Black women to continue their wellness journey on the west side of Los Angeles.</p> <p>And so, I'm just asking as when funding and the three year plan is talked about, to really think about how is this affecting the women of</p>

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				South Central LA that are trauma informed? Because there still is over a hundred unidentified women that are survivors of the grim sleeper. When we talk about sex trafficking from the Western corridor and Figueroa corridor. This is a community that is suffering. To be able to think about how do we help heal? I believe thinking about funding or looking at programs is a good opportunity. Thank you.
Public Comment	Ricardo	In Person	General	My name is Ricardo. I want to add to what Catherine is saying. I have lived experience and I'm currently chronically homeless and I visit the Peer Resource Center. And I think we need to do a better job in supporting community health workers and peers down there. If it's more training they need, if they need access to CES or some kind of way to get into the HAMIS so they can help us better. There's a lot of people that go to the Peer Resource Center that are regulars. I think supporting our community health workers in the training and tools and ways you can access systems to get us whatever we need quicker instead of waiting I think that's a way to honor the work that they do for us. So just wanted to thank you, Catherine, and everyone downstairs and all the community health workers and all the Peer Resource Centers. But just want to add that. Thank you.
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In Person	Stakeholder Report/SA7	Good morning, everybody. Happy Valentine's Day. This is also Black History Month. Bless you. I will mention when we'll be having a Black history event from SALT 7. But what I first want to mention is well, everything is so important. I'm sorry. Okay. So, we'll be having this is in June. June 7th. It will be the first Saturday of the month. Our big, large men's annual health awareness community and family fun day. It was fabulous last year and the year before. Huge park. Lots of people. It was 2,000. This

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				<p>year what I understand I'm so excited. I know I'm not going to be able to get all the booths but I'm going to do my best. They're going to have even more booths, more vendors. What these two folks finished mentioning, I'm a proponent and believer of the holistic approach. It does help. It does enhance. And when you really pay attention and if you work you've got to work on it. It is a great supplement to either your medications or maybe if you're not doing medicine. That we'll also have in a holistic area. That's for June. We will be celebrating at our PRC at Huntington Park. PRC stands for Peer Resource Center for Black History Month. It will be held on Friday, February 28th. The last Friday. From 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. believe me, there's always food with us. That will be happening then.</p> <p>They will also be having I just found out. It's a parent's event for May 3rd. This will be from the 25th from 12:00 to 3:00. Champions of change, integrating and supporting pregnant people. They said that's the correct wording. Targeting people who might be homeless being that they're pregnant. So that's what's happening. May 3rd.</p> <p>Now, tomorrow so nobody can forget. It's actually tomorrow, our SALT 7 meeting there in Whittier. I have the address. It is a hybrid. We do continue to show up in person. And I'll give the address. It is 14181 Telegraph Road, Whittier, 90604. And it's called the liberty community plaza. It's a beautiful building. We've been there quite enough times and I know my time is up. But maybe one more thing.</p> <p>It looks like I've covered. But if you ever want if you miss what I'm saying, you can go on Facebook and log on to capital LACDMH. And then the word area seven on Facebook and you'll see a lot of the notices.</p>

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				So, want to thank you for this opportunity to speak as a co-chair for area seven.
Public Comment	Ezekiel	In Person	Stakeholder Report/SA4	Good morning. My name is Ezekiel, service area four. We have an event on the 27th, Black History Month event from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. it's going to be at the downtown mental health clinic. So yes. We plan to try to host a lot more events this year in order to acquire more people to come and start to participate. That way there's a more robust information that we bring to the table for you guys. So, we hope that you all like the commissioner's part of each service area can actually try to do stuff with us a lot more often. Maybe not a whole bunch but at least once or twice a year. Something like that. So that way we as co-chairs get to know y' all more and then the community gets to know y' all more as well. So, looking forward to that. Thank you very much.
Public Comment	Sydney	In Person	Stakeholder Report/SA7	Good morning. Service Area seven. And I just wanted to well, it is Black History Month. But one of the most important things for me is that this is American heart month also. Running until the 28th. On the 7th it was to wear red. I've had three heart attacks so this is something dear to my heart. And along with that I wanted to bring up the that on April 30th they're going to have a round table in the Artesia library. It will be the last one of the year until July, the new fiscal year. And they're not sure yet about what the time will be. But they have a lot of guests coming. Also, oh, she already mentioned about the June 7th. But anyways, I want to say tomorrow our meeting is at liberty community plaza. It is beautiful for anyone who can come. Or online. That's about it. Thank you.
Public Comment	Charles Wade	By Phone	General	Hello. I'm Charles Wade. I'm from Service Area six. I want to say thank you for having this meeting. I want to mention I was trying to

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				<p>get a printout last week. And after being on the phone for an hour, I went to the Social Security building and after waiting there, there were several people there that were told they have to call the same number. And then when you call the number, they found out that they have to make an appointment just to get a printout. So, there were people getting frustrated. And were escorted out by security at the Social Security. And I just thought there was no support system there for someone with mental health. Because it's very difficult. They said it's a new policy at Social Security. So, I just thought there was no support system for someone with mental health being escorted out. And I know that I tried to get on the phone for an hour or more. And sometimes when they answer, it just hangs up. But then to be told you have to make an appointment just to get a printout.</p> <p>So, I just wanted to mention that. It's making us I don't know what's going on with the Social Security office but it's making it very difficult for people with mental health. And not only for people with mental health but people in general. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Mark	By Phone	Item Specific Public Comment	<p>I would like to applaud the idea of having the clubhouses and having the and we have some (inaudible) we have some real concerns with regard to the Mental Health Services Act, and the fact that it might turn out take out the crisis programs and these peer support programs.</p> <p>I'm glad that the Department of Mental Health is starting to get the clubhouses going and thereby putting them back into that process. So, I'm hoping that that will take place.</p> <p>I applaud the idea of using the Fountain House model. I heard about them about 1968.</p>

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