



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

March 13, 2025, Behavioral Health Commission Meeting  
(IN PERSON AND BY PHONE) UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

**Commissioners by Supervisorial District**

District	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Supervisor	<b>Hilda L. Solis</b>	<b>Holly J. Mitchell</b>	<b>Lindsey P. Horvath</b>	<b>Janice Hahn</b>	<b>Kathryn Barger</b>
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	<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	Catherine Clay	In person	General	<p>Good morning. I'm Catherine Clay, community health worker at service area 4PRC.</p> <p>I had appeared last month in front of this body asking for support as I am advocating on behalf of a couple of the Consumers from the PRC. As the County, I don't know, I haven't been to these meetings in a while. The county used to have a rule "no wrongdoer." I feel the PRC is a wrong doer for those who are unhoused. We don't have someone at the CES or HMIS, any of those things. As we do, as I do the referrals to -- I forgot what the thing is but, because the unhoused sit in our office all day they can't get no representatives because they are unhoused and they can't keep cell phones or any of that.</p> <p>I have taken them out to homeless rep days and loss of representatives and computers are down. And we have constituents and Consumers in our lobby and have been for months and years and these are directly operating Consumers and not getting any resources we are watching them diminish in front of our eyes and losing hope and I am losing hope for these individuals also.</p> <p>Last month one of the Commissioners said they were going to</p>

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				reach out and work with the constituents but there was never follow up to give hope. So, I ask the constituents to come up with me today and their hope is gone and there isn't any faith in any kind of housing or any kind of plan. These are directly operated Consumers. I'm asking to give homes to those walking through the door in service area PRC in area four.
Public Comment	John	In person	General	<p>My shout out to Catherine, unwavering for unhoused population and our community health workers and Peer advocates do so much and thank you for coming here to the meeting and advocating for the folks.</p> <p>I work downstairs in the same program as a licensed clinical social worker. I would like to make an announcement. I'm putting together a special event on this floor on April 10th. I have a couple of people who run a very popular and important website and Instagram account called, Up Worthy and they collect stories from around the country, around the world of extraordinary people doing positive things for the community and for other people. And so, they are going to be, they also have a New York Times bestselling book out, collecting those stories called "good people" and I heard about them on Larry Mantel's LAS radio station where they are interviewed. I'm fortunate here to speak and have a conversation here. I just wanted to let everybody know about that. I've got flyers and I'll pass it out to everybody here.</p> <p>April 10th Thursday at 1:00 o'clock and please spread the word and invite all of you guys. Their message is particularly important given all the governmental chaos going on. And I think a lot of people are being stressed and feeling kind of depressed about what's going on here and this will hopefully be a good dose of positive and keep their witty spirits up and hope.</p> <p>Also just want to invite everybody to drop by the Peer Resource Center. We're on the first floor of this building. We're a drop in</p>

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				<p>center and everybody is welcome and we have groups, classes, and resources.</p> <p>We also advocate for our visitors and things. So, thank you for the time. And I'll just quickly pass some of these, this flyer out.</p>
Public Comment	Igor Corbet	In person	General	<p>Good morning. My name is Igor Corbet, I'm the CEO of a new nonprofit called [name] arts and we just started last June 2024 and just became a 501(c)(3) last March 4th. I'm coming here today because we are enhancing access to well-being resources, also with mental health resources for the community of Los Angeles through theatrical productions. We're bringing people together around a play and with partners at the end of the play we give them access to resources with round tables.</p> <p>And I'm here today because we are just starting, but I'm looking for resources and grants and I'm starting to approach agencies such as yours so I was wondering if you had any guidance. Because there's a lot of different branches, different agencies. And I'm kind of finding my ways. I'm right now working with neighborhood council of Westlake Park but I'm moving forward for what's next.</p>
Public Comment	Ezekiel Reyes	In person	General	<p>: Good morning. This is just Ezekial Reyes and not the Co-Chair. Because I personally talk to the hundreds of homeless over the years, I found a need for questions to be added to question packets being used. The first question: How often does that person eat. Where is the food acquired? How is the food acquired and how far does one have to acquire said food. Differentiating between individuals developing drug addiction. Speed up the mind process and this process needs to be slowed down as much as possible so that the minds of said individuals dealing with said transition do so without being completely damaged. Food is mental health. Without proper nutrition, it's not only your body that declines. It's your state of mind as well. You give up and you become more aggressive and jump to things around thinking it through.</p>

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				<p>I take the time to urge this Board that when the transition to Behavioral Health comes into play that you all put food as a vital need for everything moving forward. Hot meals need to be highlighted italicized and bold in all documents moving forward because it is something that affects persons three times a day.</p> <p>Hunger hits them three times a day and it's speeding up their process to developing Mental Health Problems or they are caving and relapsing again, thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Catherine Clay on Behalf of Jennifer Wright	In person	General	<p>Good morning. Once again, I'm Catherine Clay and this is Jennifer Wright and we are both clients of the directly operating women's well-being that used to be a trauma informed center for women that identify with court or trauma issues.</p> <p>I'm here also advocating. I'm currently in the last cohort for sister mobilizing for mental health, a project of the California Black women's health project. It is a statewide movement that trains Black women to become mental health community advocates. It is for communities where Black women live, work, and play to our sisters suffering in silence. I'm asking that we are able to look at even though this program is targeting towards Black women, I have talked to my colleagues, both Latina and API, specifically the Korean community, to be able to look at how these topics I am being currently trained on, how it can be diverse into other cultures.</p> <p>I'm asking that Jennifer has the opportunity and those other 500 women that were formerly offered women's integration to be able to have the opportunity to look in, get trained, as to how do we form sister circles without being in mental health clinics. Sister circles can be held anywhere in the community, parks, churches. Looking at innovation creation and how to look at gender specific</p>

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				needs and especially for us, for the trauma informed community. Once again, I rise up this training because we are from the community where there are still a hundred unidentified women that are survivors of the grand sweeper and we are from the community where there is two sex trafficking's. The western corridor and also the Figueroa corridor and these community services will help us heal as women and not just Black women. Thank you.
Public Comment	Sydney	In person	Stakeholder Report SA7	<p>Welcome. Today I just want to say it's the month of March. So happy St. Patrick's Day. Also, today we're having Norwalk Park which it got changed to FCC and Huntington Park we're having a men's mental health. It's supposed to be a picnic today. Other fund-raisers that there is, there is one at Shakey's in Burl Heights 2023 east Caesar Chavez. We have men's mental health on June 7th at South Gate Park.</p> <p>I also wanted to mention that what Mr. Sigel talked about earlier, the hot meals being highlighted. That's pretty much it. Have a nice Thanksgiving -- Thanksgiving. St. Patrick's.</p>
Public Comment	Yvonne	In person	Stakeholder Report SA7	<p>Good morning, everybody. I'm Yvonne from South 7 and I have a couple of announcements. Like Sydney mentioned, they are having like a men's gathering and because of the rain they changed it to Norwalk to the PRC there in Huntington Park where it's located.</p> <p>NAMI will be having their walk on May 10th and usually I would participate but it looks like we're going to also have something on that day. Because I walked it before. It's awesome and a lot of good energy, lot of good stuff. And, of course, they are raising money. Because you know that NAMI and anybody that's new online watching us here, they have classes for the public and definitely I have been, I have been educated by those classes. I go oh, I see myself in here too. They have a Peer to Peer. They have</p>

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				<p>Family to Family.</p> <p>And it has been instrumental in allowing myself to help myself and family and Members. Anybody. So that date is May 10th at 9:00 a.m. and it will be held at LA state park a little underneath Chinatown in City of Los Angeles.</p> <p>And because of that, they will be also having a Taco Night in Carson. Diana's Mexican restaurant in the evening 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This is be held on the eighth of April.</p> <p>It's kind of exciting. It's not just paying for your plate and stuff like that. They will be having raffle tickets and you get prizes and it was three raffles and I remember receiving a free tee shirt that night because I went. So, there's that.</p> <p>The wall Las Memoria's will be presented, it's called, united for solutions. I want to go to this. I better register early. Conference on the opioid and meth crisis. This will be held March 26th. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. I think this is on a weekend and this will be held at the California endowment on Alameda Street and it will have enough spaces so register early. I should register early and it might be full and I might be stuck outside and I don't want to be stuck outside. This is great.</p>
Public Comment	Pastor E	In person	Stakeholder Report	<p>Good morning, everyone. I'm Pastor E with Co-Chair Salt 6 and it's a pleasure to be here this morning. Our new Co-Chair is on his way. Lee MolleTte.</p> <p>One great thing is membership for Salt Six leadership team is growing. The room is becoming full and we're getting a lot of participation from all of our constituents in our neighborhoods and seeing great growth in that area. One thing that's a big plus is that more people are suggesting our Peer Resource Center are used and I think it's useful in people's lives. It's hidden in the community. We know they are there but they don't know they can get to them. That's one good thing I would just like to shout about, the Peer</p>

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				<p>Resource Center in our service area. In the Wilmington area.</p> <p>Good report for Black history movement we did a celebration at Jessie Owen's Park and we serviced about 150 people and we partnered with Time Done which does expungements with people. We were able to do 50 successful free live scans that resulted in 45 expungements all right in the system and already going forward. We see that this is a big help because being previously incarcerated and having those type of things on your back is mental health. It's a lot of stress and a lot of things. You can't get better jobs and can't get credit and buy hopes. SB37 passed in 2022 that's in effect now is a big help to start people's lives over. So that was very successful.</p> <p>We're now in the planning for our take action mental health month for May 5th. We'll be at Southwest college. We have a lot of activations going on right now that we're still in the planning process but I think that to be a very explosive and entertaining for the community to now really see that mental health is fun, mental health is everything. I know for me, just dealing with life in general, every day is some kind of stress, some kind of trigger that can take a person off to the next level. But to have the resources and people to support us in our SALT area and growing a bigger SALT with all SALTs is a useful tool. We're doing a better job and getting the increase with what we have been doing and getting people in the community to come forward.</p>
Public Comment	Justin Franklin	In person	General	<p>Hello, everybody. Greetings. My name is Justin Franklin. I erected an organization about a year and a half go called, Post Traumatic Hood Disorders because we deal with hood traumas. It doesn't get categorized as traumas but it is. Any time you see drug prostitution or drive bys is trauma. I am the first client. I learned about it by sitting in counseling and I put my story on the table and I thought that's not supposed to be a real thing. How did I survive that?</p> <p>I started an organization called, Post Traumatic Hood Disorders</p>

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				<p>and have been blessed with the count to get a couple of locations. Ladera park and we host a meeting every month. We bring food, organic food that they can eat and we have good conversations that are based around hood based traumas and how to heal them.</p> <p>That's every month. And then we have another program for the children, to give them a chance also. For the children music is a big thing and music neurologically keeps the trauma going. If you don't know what you're listening to, you don't know why it's keeping you going in your life and you're in the rat race. We have a program called "check the rhyme" we're going to be starting up in May. Eight -- program for kids moving to the next phase of their life and do better than what we were able to do. We're here to front present what we do to help get support for what we do. Thank you for your time.</p>
Public Comment	Andria McFerson	By phone	Stakeholder report	<p>We definitely had a great month in SALT5 last month. We did a lot of outreach and it was amazing. The reference that the prior speaker spoke about, cents having music within outreach, that was great. And we actually accomplished that with our last two events. One was in Santa Monica and one was in Culver city. We had the opportunity to have other organizations come and give necessary information and to better the inner communication between all organizations giving services to the community. So, it was great and we have two amazing Chairs.</p> <p>And they make sure that we do outreach on a regular basis to have that Aye. To Aye., Peer on Peer contact. And I feel that's the reason why we're all here. So, thank you so very much for giving me the opportunity to speak and SALT5 will continue giving back to the community. Thank you so much.</p>
Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	By phone	General	<p>Okay hi. Good morning. My name is Ricardo Kin in Service Area 4. I want to thank everyone speaking out and participating today. It's wonderful to see the love and the care that we have for each</p>

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				<p>other and for people that we know, ourselves, our family Members and those going through it out there. I just wanted to say that really quickly and to everybody in the room and listening, please come to the MHSA Community Planning Team Stakeholder meetings, you'll find that online.</p> <p>We need just as much participation from everybody. So here is my Public Comment. On February 28th, 2025, during the MHSA Community Planning Team Stakeholder virtual meeting, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health briefly discussed the approximately \$729 million of unspent funds. 95 million of which will be placed in a specific account for ten years and used for Workforce Education and Training. DMH affirmed this and accrues interest and approved on first in first out basis. Waiting for information on if the interest is going to stay and what specific account or redistributed.</p> <p>My questions are this and I think today it makes a lot of sense. First so first in first out. My understanding of that is there are people on the list waiting for scholarships and fellowships in graduate school or needing funding for their licensing. There's already a list of people waiting on this funding. My questions are these. What percent and how much money exactly will be used for our Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health community health workers who are also lived experience Peers. How can Department of Mental Health better support our lived experience Peers, community health workers, in their careers and promotion opportunities. What is the training curriculum for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health community health workers. And how do they access if interested in case management. What credentials do our lived experience Peers community health works need to access the CES or HMIS to better serve clients that they are outreaching to on the streets, at community events, or at the Peer</p>

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				<p>Resource Center.</p> <p>I also want to say that this \$95 million, why is this not being open to the community-based organizations, nonprofits? A few of them have spoken this morning who are in the room. If they need training on how to write grants for their organization to do this work for us, to train Peers. We can access this \$95 million. I understand that licensed clinicians and psychiatrists and everybody who needs funding for education and training, I mean, but, if we don't create a funding stream to help our Peers and our community-based organizations get some of this money and train and how they can better serve us out here on the streets and in our neighborhoods, then we need to find a way how to access that.</p>
Public Comment	Charles Wade	By phone	General	<p>Good morning. I'm Charles Way from Service Area 6. I just want to thank you all for having this meeting and I just want to give a shout out to Catherine Clay for her dedication in the community. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Wendy Cabil	By phone	Stakeholder Report CC unit	<p>This is Wendy Cabelle. Cultural competency committee in Antelope Valley. I just want to start with a praise report because of my health issues that I've been dealing with, having had a medical adjustable bed removed from my home when think hospice care program had terminated.</p> <p>And it's been difficult. I'm not on the end of care but I was part of the palliative care for pain management. A shout out for the Chair and lift and I'm grateful and that has arrived and it is in place. I appreciate the partnership.</p> <p>Moving on in my Co-Chair position, I would like to address the competent culture and having participated with the CPT meeting, I'm still concerned, even with the new crew and I understand we have a new MHSA administration unit. They were learning and I appreciate all of their efforts; however, I'm still seeing a pattern here where information is given to us, pretty much near the end at times</p>

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				<p>and decisions are needing to be now and particularly in a 30 day Public Comment period, it's not much time to process the information and to weigh in in the process to the point that we're now given this information. Particularly what comes to the OC merger and the clubhouse model impacting the PRCs. I'm wondering if the approximate. Are. C Staff with lived experience had the opportunity to weigh in on this decision at all.</p> <p>Others have shared their concerns that it's not fair for us to be pushed to the gun at the last-minute to get approval or not when there's not much time to continue to deliberate. We know deadlines are hard.</p> <p>So, moving forward, we need better communication engagement in the planning process with enough time geared to us to really get involved in the beginning.</p> <p>Also moving forward as the Co-Chair for the Cultural Competency, I want to congratulate us for continuing to make progress as we're continuing to be innovative in our efforts in meeting the needs of the community. This year we provided an assessment survey to see how culturally responsive we are or not and determine gaps and how to meet the needs of our community. I hope our community will continue to push forward in that area and I also like how we're engaging community with allowing space for Providers to share about their organizations.</p> <p>We're also partnering up with U.C.C. presentation yesterday. With the Liaison Rico Matsuda. I'm thankful for the partnership and I hope the other UCs will join in in the conversation and bring their gifts and talents to this, their presentations in our space as well.</p>
Public Comment	Irene Ratliff	In Person	Item Specific/MHSA Update	<p>My name is Irene rat live. I was looking at the update. There should be information where someone is able to link up to these different services. If the package was dropped and they're saying we'll contact the Department of Mental Health in general and then if</p>

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				we're asking about any of these programs listed here, there's no website, there's no e mail, there's no telephone number for these specific items that are being highlighted. So that's my comment. It needs to be how are we able to contact those specific groups or efforts? Thank you.
Public Comment	Anonymous	In person	Item Specific/Input sessions	I just want to know when we will find out maybe I'm interested in knowing the schedule for and the places where the input sessions are going to be held in terms of public planning process.
Public Comment	Andrea McFerson	By phone	Item specific/MHSA bill	Yes. This is Andrea from SALT 5. I think clarification of the bill in Sacramento for unfunded mandates was great. Thank you for clearing that up because we had absolutely no idea about that. And that was a great clarification. The homeless issue that LA County residents suffer from will not just leave. Without the services that she spoke about as well. So, I thought that was great. I think it would be better if staff actually had empathy training. And that would be a mandate in order to receive certification in order to help the unhoused. Also, I believe facilities and organizations should directly work with the county in order to provide services to the unhoused and they need to receive empathy training, mandated in order to receive their certification as well. So, we need to work directly with the unhoused and different categories and have those Q&As but with specific categories. It should be categorized because domestic violence victims don't like to talk directly to people who may not be trained to speak to domestic violence victims. Also, seniors and people with mental disabilities. They need to be they need to work with people directly that know how to work with

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				them also. Someone that's trained psychologically in order to do so. And then also you have people with mental illnesses and different things like that. So, they need a more welcoming maybe even musical experience in order to receive necessary information from them in order to get statistics in order to have a better system. So, need to be able to have a better system to house the unhoused. But we have to know how.
Public Comment	Mark Kamatz	By phone	General	Okay. Peer support training will be on March 19th and April 3rd March 19th at 9:00 a.m. eastern time. So 6:00 here. Thursday, April 3, 1:00 p.m. here. And Thursday, April 17th would be at 11:00. (Indiscernible). Peer appreciation week. There's legislation regarding (indiscernible) peer support network has openings for jobs for people who are coordinators to be coordinators working in different areas. Also, the Hacienda hope has openings. And then I've got more. California Cal Voices, they have a thing going on. I think that's April 10th. March 18th is rehabilitation disability rights. That's going to be a webinar. No. I think in person. May 5th will be mental health
Public Comment	Wendy Cabil	By Phone	Item Specific/MHSA Report	Thank you. This is (indiscernible). I'm appreciative of the thorough presentation. The company culture needing to be transformed. Clients and consumers, providers, family members were not aware particularly of the details of the programs and services being offered.

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Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	By Phone	Item Specific/all presentations	<p>I'm going to keep this short because it's a long day. This is Ricardo from service area four. I'd like to thank you for the presentations today. Thank Department of Mental Health and Ms. Kalene for her presentation today. Ms. Kathryn clay and everybody, all the community health workers and all the Peer Resource Centers. Thank you, Wendy, for your comments earlier.</p> <p>Just really briefly. This is what I want to say. On March 11th, the community planning process went through a lively debate discussion to census building and a vote that had some issues. And I just look forward with Kalene and her team and at the next CPT meeting to kind of discuss. And I just want to say thank you because I know we're all doing the best we can. Thank you all very much to everybody. Thank you.</p>

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