



LA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION (BHC)
 “Advocacy, Accountability, and Oversight in Action”
 Victor Manalo, Chair, Presiding

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE	01/08/2026		
START TIME	11:00 AM	ADJOURNMENT TIME: 2:00 PM	
LOCATION	510 South Vermont Ave., Terrace Level Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA 90020		
ATTACHMENTS	MEETING RECORDING LINK	PUBLIC COMMENT DOCUMENT	AGENDA LINK

IN ATTENDANCE	ABSENT (E= Excused; U = Unexcused)
COMMISSIONER NAME	
Kathleen Austria, Reba Stevens, Thomas Roache, Dr. Erica Holmes, Victor Manalo, Lawrence Schallert, Brittney Weissman, Stacy Dalglish, Susan Friedman, Alex Tsobanoudis, Guadalupe Orozco, Bennett Root Jr., Deena Duncan, Andrew Roble, and Yun Hee Anna Lee	Imelda Padilla-Frausto (U) and Tyler Cash (U)
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes	APPROVAL: Minutes approved on 2/12/26. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.
ADJOURNED: 2:00 PM	

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS	DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES	FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	UPDATE ON FOLLOW-UP ITEMS
4. COMMISSIONERS AND CHAIR REPORTS/UPDATES			
	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Lee reported participating in holiday gift drives and celebrations. She assisted a family by connecting them to resources and plans to attend the SALT 3 meeting in January. 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Weissman shared that she is assessing the potential impacts of proposed local, state, and federal budgets on issues related to homelessness.• Commissioner Austria reported that she was out of town but reviewed all meeting materials. She continues to refer individuals to appropriate services and, when appropriate, provides individual counseling.• Commissioner Schallert reported that he serves as Chair of the Suicide Prevention, Postvention, and Wellness Committee, which recently connected with the Child and Family Center. He noted that SALT 2 meetings have moved to Wednesdays. He also stated that a Substance Abuse Subcommittee has been established and that SAPC will attend the next meeting. Additionally, he met with an administrator from the Ascend Program, which oversees multiple group homes in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys serving individuals with co-occurring disorders. He also assisted in connecting a colleague’s niece to local mental health resources. He further reported serving as Co-Chair of the Human Trafficking Committee, which will conduct outreach and training with hairstyling professionals on February 11, and shared that he serves as a consultant to the Native Alaskan community and will participate in an upcoming public health summit.		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Roache reported meeting for the first time with a mental health deputy and expressed interest in continuing meetings with additional deputies. He also shared that he is seeking clarification regarding the implications following the departure of the Director of the Southern California VA Health Care System.• Commissioner Holmes reported returning from a two-week vacation and resuming meetings, including participation in a county department meeting regarding implementation of the new Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership Department.• Commissioner Dagleish reported meeting with her Supervisor to discuss the impacts of the transition to BHSa, including considerations of what may be gained and lost. She attended meetings in Service Area 5, noting ongoing service challenges despite the area being relatively affluent. She also shared advocacy efforts related to affordable housing in her neighborhood and reported attending holiday toy drives and events hosted by elected officials.• Commissioner Friedman reported contacting the head of the Transition Age Youth (TAY) department and shared plans to meet at the end of January. She also plans to attend a CARE Court town hall later in January. Additionally, she expressed concern regarding potentially misleading advertising by		



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	<p>BetterHelp and suggested the Commission explore this issue, noting that fear related to ICE activity in her community may increase vulnerability to such advertising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Stevens reported partnering with a faith-based organization to distribute backpacks containing food, blankets, and hygiene items to over 500 individuals experiencing homelessness. She shared that she is a member of the CLC and expressed concern about proposed federal reductions to homelessness funding. She also plans to attend the Homeless Deputy Meeting in support of Supervisor Barger’s motion.• Commissioner Tsobanoudis shared that he is familiarizing himself with the Commission’s responsibilities by reviewing prior materials. He also reported providing mental health-focused care during his clinical rotations and collaborating with Kaiser Permanente to assess and forecast pediatric and TAY psychiatric hospitalizations.• Commissioner Root expressed concern regarding the instability communities are experiencing and shared that he has been working closely with his Supervisor and staff to maximize impact during the coming year.• Commissioner Duncan reported efforts to utilize available office space and is considering whether to develop substance use or mental health services for		



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	<p>Transition Age Youth. She also shared that she is conducting outreach at homeless shelters to build rapport and connect individuals to services and is educating staff on available resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Manalo reported attending the following meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 12/16/25: Meeting with MALAMA – Doula-Led Enhanced Care Management for Mothers (Egypt Evans and Amy Wang)○ 12/17/25: Meeting with Dr. Lisa Wong○ 12/23/25: Meeting with LGBTQ+ Commission Executive Director Sunitha Menon and Chairperson Sydney Rogers○ 1/6/26: Meeting with Melissa Martin-Mollard, Assistant Deputy Director, Research, Evaluation, and Programs, and Andrea Anderson, Chief of Communications, California State Commission for Behavioral Health• Commissioner Orozco reported hosting graduation ceremonies for students in the juvenile system. She noted that due to a decrease in the student population, the celebrations are being moved to a smaller venue, allowing available funds to support more robust graduation events		
5. ACTION ITEM			



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a. Approval of December 11, 2025, minutes	Minutes were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Dalgleish. Seconded by Commissioner Root.		
6. CONSENT AGENDA			
a. DMH Constituent Follow-Up Report b. DPH-SAPC Legislative Update Report d. BHC Budget Report	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Austria pulled item E, BHC Topics of Interest. • Commissioner Holmes pulled item C, DMH Legislative Report. Items A, B, and D were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Dalgleish. Seconded by Commissioner Tsobanoudis.		
c. DMH Legislative Update Report	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Holmes inquired about a pilot program involving a local 988 alternative, including the designation of Line 3 for LGBTQ+ youth, and asked about plans to ensure sustainability beyond the pilot phase. • Commissioner Holmes also asked how the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) NOFO injunction, while providing temporary relief, is being addressed through partnerships between the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and housing organizations to promote long-term stability. • Commissioner Dalgleish requested clarification regarding SB 16, noting that DMH’s position appeared 		



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	<p>to change between the March and June versions without documented concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Stevens asked how ongoing funding uncertainty is affecting DMH, particularly with respect to housing and the Continuum of Care. • Commissioner Stevens further emphasized the importance of DMH acknowledging and addressing the impacts of funding uncertainty on the public. <p>Item C was approved. Motion made by Commissioner Dagleish. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.</p>		
<p>e. BHC Topics of Interest</p>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Austria asked how items on the Topics of Interest List will be prioritized and scheduled for placement on future agendas. • She also expressed interest in prioritizing collaboration with the Substance Abuse Commission. • Additionally, she requested reports from the Department of Health Services and the Department of Homeless Services and Housing by March. • She further inquired about how local organizations can access County funding. • Commissioner Stevens requested the addition of a topic related to funding opportunities for faith-based organizations. <p>Item E was approved. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenia to request reports from the DHS and DSHS. • Kenia to add Commissioner Austria’s and Commissioner Steven’s proposed topics to the Topics of Interest list. • DMH staff to provide call data report to Commissioner Tsobanoudis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report request is pending • Topics have been added
9. WRITTEN REPORTS AND UPDATES			



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a. DMH Director Report b. SAPC Director Report c. BHSA Updates (DMH and SAPC Combined) d. Stakeholder Group (e.g., SALTs, UsCCs) Reports	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Item A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Weissman asked about the declining numbers through the years 2023-24 to 2024-25 and questioned how the number decreased if the fires should have increased the number of people. Commissioner Friedman asked if a statement can be released sharing any DMH resources available to the public during a crisis. <p>Requests and Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Tsobanoudis requested the call data to be split weekly and an aggregate of year to year. <p>All items were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Dagleish. Seconded by Commissioner Weissman.</p>		
10. BHC DISCUSSION			
a. Prioritizing Goals/Issues to Advise DMH/DPH-SAPC/BOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Suggested goals/issues to prioritize <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to BHSA – Loss of Prevention Funding Homelessness Integration of an integrated care system 	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item has been moved to the next BHC Regular Meeting on 2/12/2026. 		



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11. STAFF PRESENTATIONS			
a. Briefing on the BHSA Integrated Plan	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Weissman requested additional clarification on the “how” related to template sections 2, 6, and 7. • She noted that the Integrated Plan appears to be presented in a side-by-side format based on its layout and asked how other counties are approaching integration to demonstrate collaborative work across systems. • Commissioner Austria stated that the law enforcement component is missing, noting that law enforcement responds to a significant portion of emergencies. • Commissioner Stevens encouraged BHSA to make bold decisions grounded in their own values and expertise. She expressed interest in seeing resources allocated based on need rather than population size. • She also requested more information on how housing supports sobriety, including examples of where this type of housing currently exists. • Additionally, Commissioner Stevens encouraged BHSA and SAPC staff to engage directly with communities to learn about approaches being implemented by local organizations. <p>Requests and Decisions</p>	BHSA/SAPC staff follow ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide additional clarification on how template sections 2, 6, and 7 will be implemented. • share examples of how other counties demonstrate integrated planning, including best practices. • address the law enforcement role in emergency response within the plan. • BHSA to provide information on housing models that support sobriety, including where such 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Weissman requested information on the total funding allocated to the Behavioral Health Department, with a clear distinction between departments presented as sub-line items. • Commissioner Austria requested that SAPC staff include responses that were not incorporated into the presentation materials. 	<p>housing currently exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHSA to provide the total Behavioral Health Department budget, clearly broken down by department in sub-line items. • SAPC Staff to include previously omitted responses that were not reflected in the presentation materials. 	
7. PUBLIC COMMENT			
<i>Stakeholder Group Reports</i>	<p>Stakeholder groups in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALT 4 • SALT 7 <p>Stakeholder reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SALT 4 The report will be shared with the BHC. • SALT 7 Reported on their past and future events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenia to email Pastor Nah’s public comment to the Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment was shared with the commission.



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<i>General Comments</i>	Irene Ratlif, Ditty Tinson, Von Simmons, Mohammad K, Wendy Cabil, and one anonymous person addressed the Commission by phone, in-person, and with emailed communication. See attached public comment document.		
8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS			
<i>a. CARE Court Stakeholder Feedback Town Hall – 1/26/26, 5:30pm at Ramona Hall Community Center</i>	No discussion was held.		