

STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORT TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION (BHC)

First District DMH SA 3 & 4	Second District DMH SA 5, 6, & 8	Third District DMH SA 2 & 5	Fourth District DMH SA 7 & 8	Fifth District DMH SA 1 & 3
Susan Friedman Bennett W. Root, Jr. Alicia Maldini	Kathleen Austria Erica Holmes Reba Stevens	Stacy Dalgleish Kim Olsen Kanin Pruter	Deena Duncan Victor Manalo Andrew Roble	Yun Hee Anna Larry Schallert Brittney Weissman

Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	May 14, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	Black and African Heritage UsCC
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Romalis Taylor & Sade Richardson, BAH UsCC Co-Chairs
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	
Date Submitted to BHC:	5/1/26

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

The BAH UsCC community also participated in outreach activities, mental health education, strengthened partnerships and collaborations, and took advantage of opportunities to provide feedback to DMH. Capacity Building Project vendors continued toward completing the three remaining projects.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

Members continue to report significant hurdles in accessing mental health support, specifically regarding the lack of culturally competent providers, high costs of care, and ongoing housing and food insecurity. Workplace discrimination and employment instability are being identified as primary drivers of declining mental well-being within the BAH UsCC community. During a recent SALT 1 meeting, a lack of cultural sensitivity and poor communication led to a community member feeling dismissed when a request for Black History Month programming was redirected without sufficient dialogue or transparency. This created an environment that felt exclusionary rather than collaborative, leaving the member feeling that their contributions were undervalued.

Recommendations to address these concerns include implementing mandatory inclusive leadership training for all meeting facilitators to improve responsiveness and ensure they can navigate sensitive cultural inquiries with empathy and clarity. This is essential for allowing community members to feel truly heard. We also suggest establishing and sharing clear lead times for event planning so members understand the "why" behind deadlines, preventing the appearance of arbitrary dismissal. It is also recommended that the Department creates a formal plan for recognizing Black History Month and other heritage/cultural milestones. These events should be treated as a core part of our community's well-being and the Department's mission rather than extra or optional activities that can be easily set aside.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

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The BHC can best support the BAH community by with continued, visible efforts to prevent and address discrimination and hate crimes that impact our safety and peace of mind. Supporting the BAH community also means expanding access to stable housing and providing clear, regular updates on what is being done in response to the concerns we raise. The BAH UsCC community also asks for policy guidance and resources that reflect the needs of our community and advocacy that ensures our voices are actually making a difference.

The primary focus of our May meeting will be securing the future leadership of our group by identifying nominees for the BAH UsCC Co-Chair position.

The primary focus of our May meeting will be securing the future leadership of our group by identifying nominees for the BAH UsCC Co-Chair position. We discuss the changes to the stakeholder engagement process, specifically how we continue our work now that standard capacity-building projects have shifted. Finally, we will review current Capacity Building Project (CBP) updates and announcements to ensure our community stays informed on the progress of the final BAH UsCC CBPs.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

The BAH UsCC community would like the BHC to know that we are very concerned about how no longer funding Capacity Building Projects will impact our advocacy around the mental health needs of the BAH community.

Reviewed by (Commissioner Name):	
Action taken:	
Date:	

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	May 14, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	LGBTQIA2S UsCC
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Reg Clarkinia, LGBTQIA2S UsCC Co-Chairs
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	
Date Submitted to BHC:	5/1/26

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

The LGBTQIA2S UsCC had meaningful discussions about the biggest challenges facing our community, specifically housing and employment. We have started identifying possible ways for community members to connect with resources in these areas. We believe that when people have a stable place to live and a fair chance to work, the whole community thrives.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

While the housing crisis affects everyone, it is specifically harmful to the LGBTQIA2S community, which experiences higher rates of housing insecurity and homelessness. When forced into group housing or shelters due to a lack of options, our community members often face harassment and discrimination. In many cases, LGBTQIA2S community members feel it is safer to remain unhoused than live with discrimination and harassment (whether their biological family home or group housing that does not ensure safety for LGBTQIA2S).

We believe that the county should explicitly reserve and expand permanent supportive housing (PSH) capacity for LGBTQ+ residents with SMI, delivered by LGBTQ-competent providers and anchored in Housing First principles, because we already know PSH works for SMI and we already know LGBTQ people face higher housing risk and lack culturally competent mental health care.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

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The BHC can support our efforts by providing a clear update on current County initiatives aimed at increasing affordable housing specifically for LGBTQIA2S community members with mental health concerns.

We are looking for transparency regarding the commission's specific goals and the 'success numbers' they expect to see by 2027 to ensure LGBTQIA2S community members with SMI have access to safe, affordable housing. It is imperative that we understand the Commission's roadmap so we can better align our community's needs with the County's planned outcomes and ensure no one is left behind in these initiatives.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

Our next meeting will focus on two key areas: the upcoming LGBTQIA2S UsCC co-chair elections and a specialized housing panel. This panel is designed to provide members with a safe space to ask questions and access resources tailored to our community's needs. We aim to help our members navigate the rapidly changing housing landscape in LA County, ensuring they understand what is currently available and how to connect with inclusive supportive services.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

We want to reiterate that affordable, safe housing remains the top priority for our community. Beyond housing, we want to emphasize that LGBTQIA2S mental health and wellness depend on accurate data. We are asking for a commitment to ensure all providers are fully trained in—and diligently practicing—consistent SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) data collection. This visibility is essential for us to receive the care and resources we deserve. We appreciate the BHC's ongoing support and partnership in this work.

Reviewed by (Commissioner Name):	
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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	April 16, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 1
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Monica Olsen, Co-Chair
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	Fifth District
Date Submitted to BHC:	May 1, 2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

SALT1 successfully allocated and utilized our 2025/2026 budget!

Yun Hee Anna was able to join our April meeting remotely! Thank you, Anna, for telling us about Social Model Recovery Systems, the work you're doing in Service Areas 3 and 4, and your lived experience--we are so inspired by your story.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

In partnering with community agencies to support local events, we have run into some challenges with ensuring all DMH guidelines--explicit and implicit--are met. To improve our process moving forward, we are continuing to add to our informational flyers to clearly outline all restrictions and expectations.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

We would love to have our 2026/2027 budget as well as spending guidelines and co-chair requirements at your earliest convenience so we can plan and promote accordingly.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

We hope to hold elections for our 2026-2028 co-chairs and clearly explain how to partner with SALT1 to support community events in 2026/2027.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

We would like more insight on the kinds of decisions you would like our SALT to inform. We are happy to participate at the highest level possible, as it is important to us to ensure the best possible outcomes for our community in and around the Antelope Valley as well as to collaborate with other SALTs to strengthen our county as a whole.

We would also like to continue to elevate the importance of Certified Peer Support Specialists and would like to see an increase in their implementation in supporting Behavioral Health recovery throughout Los Angeles County.

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Alicia Maldini	Reba Stevens	Kanin Pruter	Andrew Roble	Brittney Weissman

Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	04/15/2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 2 Meeting
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Barbara B Wilson, SALT 2 Co-Chair
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	Supvisor Districts 3, 5
Date Submitted to BHC:	May 14, 2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

We have now successfully elected a second Co-Chair, and announced "Rules of Engagement" for upcoming elections for new Co-Chairs to be held in June meeting.

We also had a robust presentation by members of the Family Violence team from the District Attorney's office. In addition to information, members of the audience asked many questions and got answers. This presentation was very topical since many parents are Older Adults who are co-habituating with their adult loved one and had questions about how to address their fears without causing their loved one to go to jail or to become homeless.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

We continue to experience challenges in 4 main areas:

- 1) Access to housing where both medications and drug testing can be administered that will accept low-income
- 2) Challenges in recruitment of potential Co-Chair (scheduling issues especially)
- 3) Fear of loss of apartment vouchers for stakeholders, especially for clients who no longer have Active cases with DMH.
- 4) Families continue to feel marginalized in trying to obtain services for their adult children who have psychosis. Neither CARE Court, AOT, or other programs seem to provide the level of services and support that they feel are needed in order to keep their loved one housed and mentally stable. Also they express a feeling that there is a continued lack of communication between the various programs within the department as well as between the various county departments (e.g. public health, mental health, ODR, local addiction services, etc)

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

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1)The commission needs to continue to review housing programs and how they intersect with adults 26-59 as well as the TAY population.

Aging parents are often living in a state of domestic violence and/or intimidation from their loved one because they see no alternative to maintaining that arrangement or having their loved one "go homeless". There needs to be a door #3

2)The commission needs to review the county policy that encourages clients to transfer their mental health services to local community providers, and then "punishes" those clients if they need access to various programs/protections because they no longer have an open case.

3)The commission needs to review the role of the Family committee that was established several years ago. Is it still active?

4)The commission could study the needs of adults with co-occurring disorders vs the needs of adults who have no SUD history to determine whether and how there should be guidelines created for the protection of one or another group.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

Our May meeting will focus on the process of electing 2 Co-Chairs for the SALT

What else do you want the BHC to know?

We have a licensed ARF in Santa Clarita that apparently is fully operational. No one seems to know what population they are serving, protocols for referrals for placements/access to local families etc. More will be revealed I'm sure.

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	5-14-26
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT3
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Jaime Renteria, MPA SALT3 Liaison
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	Districts 1 & 5
Date Submitted to BHC:	5-6-26

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

SALT3 hosted its monthly public Virtual Meeting on April 9th, 2026 from 2-4 pm and was attended by 48 stakeholders. Anna Lee from Social Model Recovery conducted a PowerPoint presentation on their programs and services. DMH Chief of Psychology Dr. Jorge Partida Del Toro shared a powerful presentation with the membership on ancient remedies and treatments. On April 18th, SALT3 was one of the proud supporters of Pacific Clinic's 17th Annual SGV Youth Summit and provided lunch for over 200 middle school attendees. A brief announcement regarding SALT3 membership was made and an information table was established at the event.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

Challenge: The SALT3 membership has expressed a strong interest in receiving a special presentation on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on mental health. The SALT3 Planning Committee is having a difficult time recruiting an expert guest speaker who can address this issue.

Recommendation: Utilize SALT3 funds to compensate the invited guest speaker.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

The BHC can support the SALT3 by recommending potential guest speakers/experts who can address the issue of AI and its impact on mental health, pros and cons.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the BHC commissioners could support the local effort to reduce stigma by attending local SGV events and celebrations. The City of Baldwin Park is hosting its annual May is Mental Health Awareness Month event on May 16th at Ramona Park and on May 28th, the Take Action event is scheduled to occur at Pasadena Community College from 10 am till 2 pm.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

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Next SALT3 Virtual Meeting: May14th, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

SA3 DC Dr. Majors will provide an update on the DMH followed by updates from the SALT3 Planning Committee, Health Neighborhood and the Faith-Based Advocacy Council Liaison. An update on the Behavioral Health Services Act will also be provided.

Intake Coordinator Victor Gutierrez from Bridges, will conduct a power point presentation on their programs and services. Eileen Fernandez, Director of Fernandez Family Services, will conduct a special presentation on their Creators Road Studios program which incorporates art & film for young adults. Lastly, May is API Heritage Month and Jessica Lan, LMFT from Lan Family Therapy, will inform the membership about the current status of the API community and mental health.

The Planning Committee will inform the membership on upcoming events financially supported by SALT3. The meeting will conclude with community announcements & chat room networking.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

With a dedicated staff, hard work and proper planning, the SALT3 planning committee was able to spend the maximum amount of their SALT3 budget allocation of \$50,000 and currently has a remaining balance of only \$315.00. A total of fourteen community events were financially supported by the SALT3 this past fiscal year and approximately outreached to over 5,000 local residents. SALT3 will be financially supporting the Take Action event on 5-28-26 at Pasadena City College and will establish an information booth to promote mental health awareness and membership in the SALT3.

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	Thursday, April 16, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 4
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Esiquio Reyes, co-chair
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	First District
Date Submitted to BHC:	05/01/2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

Summarizing the great meeting, SALT 4 had on April 16th, a training presentation, that helped give a prospective many were unaware of. Acquisitive Knowledge about, "Know the 5 Signs".. lead by a organization called Painted Brain.. it was great as the presenter. Painted Brain also want on to explain how to acquire certificates extremely needed for all wanting to work in fields such as Mental Health etc.

The DMH update was done by SALT's 4, Service Area Chief Evelio Franco, giving a reminder to the community about upcoming events and meetings.. On 04/17 SALT joined the Illuminate the Darkness hosted by the Hollywood Mental Health Clinic.

SALT 4 is working with LACC another great year to host the Take Action event.. Wednesday, 05/13...

Due to the upcoming huge event SALT 4 helps host on 05/13 SALT 4 will be dark for May... we hope to get more people involved..

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

From my opinion "Homelessness is not started because it can be seen on the streets". its mostly again, the small stuff along the way.. like the last friend contemplating what actions they should take, in the world they call their own.. its the child often told they are worthless.. at some point living outside is safer, through the eyes too often let down .. this gives understanding to why many don't initially want to move indoors or trust is so low.. Another is the extreme need to change all policy wording the says "Food" renamed Hot Food..(Hot Meals).. whatever.. this will help many. because it will give a stronger focus on getting hot meals out more routinely. I myself still take homeless people out to Denny's for a hot meal... their speaking in real time changes to the positive times before the hardship.. All in the community need to start steps for Job Readiness... there is a strong push for job connection, Yes its needed, but often, many lack the credentials needed especially those

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getting off the streets.. problems clients face now.. being the increasing need for certificates for a growing number of companies and organizations... Certificates for construction, community services, sales, the food industry, all for no guarantee other than they have a higher chance for opportunity.. The other has to do with acquiring a Drive License, while many can pass the written part of the test.. or have help from DMH, to pay for the \$46 for the Licenses fee its all for not they cant do anything about the final test the driving part, being no vehicle to use for the test..

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

I know my outlook is not "certified but it does have 27 years experience dealing with, living as, and helping the homeless in the areas i found myself at.. the hands in the mud approach..

I would like DMH to stay 10 steps ahead.. thus my reiteration, the need for services to equally focus on "Job Readiness".. Reality for most is that in which is "Nothing in life is Guaranteed". But preparations for community members for their chosen field, can can help, even if their application only goes up a few percentages...

The need for policy wording that changes "Food" to Hot Meals.. there is already scientific evidence that shows there is a huge difference between a cold meal eaten for a month vs a Hot Meal. Hot Meals need to get out to the homeless routinely, not every so often, or as a good gesture but as a means that shows they the way.. that way being positive thoughts.. is the start..

DMH needs to bring as many organization that help people acquire certificates of all kinds, not just social services...

And the need to help those without the connections and friendships needed to take the Drivers part of the drivers licenses test..

with these we will start taking steps ahead of the game... given how many have no clue... we need more flyers to draw more community members.. many these days have become more of visual learners, drawn in by the new thing... increasing the colors schemes used for flyers, coupled with different designs would attract more of the community.. like make different ones that represent the communities in SALT 4.. but give them out to everyone not just the community it correlates with... so all in the services area can learn of the different communities right next door..

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

a push for Job Readiness... we will work on expanding and explaining the need for Readiness..

What else do you want the BHC to know?

BHC is doing a great job... thank you... ill leave with words of wisdom... when helping the homeless... "Be Ready to Fight, and Never Give Up"...

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	4/28/26 Virtual
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT5
Prepared by (Name and Role):	SALT 5 Co-chairs Yolanda & Penny and DMH support staff
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	Districts 2 & 3
Date Submitted to BHC:	5/5/2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

Successfully planned and executed our April monthly SALT 5 meeting with the below presentations:

- Care Court, Dr. Tara Hyde and Dr. Sarah Church-Williams
- DMH Therapeutic Transport, Jenna Rosenthal Esporas, LCSW

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

This meeting went well. The following are the ongoing challenges for SALT 5:

*Recommendations for improvements: More time is needed to plan, implement and execute our programming.

We will try to accomplish this by laying out an annual plan by fiscal year. This will help us pick our presenter & event themes and put a spending plan together to successfully engage a diverse community audience and provide resources / linkage to services.

We have been having good attendance but we have been encouraging regular attendance. We started calling members who have missed our meetings to check in with them. It is difficult to identify members that meet the criteria to become a co-chair.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

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Provide one pager with BHC updates that could be provided to the SALT5 community. Perhaps co-chairs or BHC representative could report on upcoming presentations/agenda items that might interest SALT members to attend BHC meetings.

This request has been made for the past three month, can we expect a follow up?

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

SALT 5 will continue to include presentations by service area behavioral health providers.

*Alcott Center

*Potentially IHOP Housing Program

Activities organized through SALT 5 in May include Dia de las Madres celebrations at the Parish Halls of St. Clement Church on May 5th and St. Anne Church on May 6th. May 14th Take Action Santa Monica College and Culver City Teen Center Mental Health Week. Cal-Mesa Grantees updates. Programs include interactive educational activities, meals / refreshments and art activities / Healing Through Sound.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

We would like to provide updates regarding the impact on the mental health and substance abuse systems with the implementation of LA County's BHSA Integrated Plan. BHSA staff present at meetings are encouraged and helpful. A written summary with periodic updates that could be incorporated in SALT agendas would be helpful.

Reviewed by (Commissioner Name):	
Action taken:	
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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	Thursday, May 14, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 6
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Pastor Edward Hamilton (Chair), Kisha Thompson (Liaison)
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	Second District
Date Submitted to BHC:	April 30, 2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

It's been wonderful to see our in-person SALT6 meetings grow and our continued and new collaborations come to life. A great recent example was our support of the Positive Results Center's 10th Annual Prom Dress/Tux Giveaway on April 25th. It was a fantastic day. Our vendor, Monserrat Villalobos, hosted a bracelet-making table, and our own SA6 Admin Team shared some positivity with an Affirmation Box activation.

Also, we are happy to share that the SALT has truly had a seat at the table in planning this year's 'Take Action' event. Having our voice heard in this way was a major goal for us.

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

We're waiting on news about the upcoming fiscal year and monitoring for any funding changes that could affect the SALTs.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

We would be honored to have commissioners attend our upcoming community events. This provides a valuable opportunity to witness the discussions from our meetings translated into tangible community action and impact as well as see our growth.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

We look forward to having Chair Manalo attend our upcoming meeting.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

Nothing

Reviewed by (Commissioner Name):

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, Vacant

Meeting Date:	April 10, 2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 7
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Sydney Tabizon and Yvonne Sandoval
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	4
Date Submitted to BHC:	

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

The Service Area will be closing out the fiscal year by celebrating and hosting the following events: May 5, 2026-The Take Action Resource Fair taking place at Rio Hondo College from 11am-4pm
May 16, 2026-Saturday Midday Matinee-taking place in the city of Huntington Park in collaboration with the LDS Church and the Latino Theater Group -, Generaciones en Accion(Generations in Action. A live performance, "Si Ries, Gozas", "If you Laugh you Rejoice"
May 30, 2026-Unity in Motion in the City of Paramount in collaboration with Service Area 6
June 4, 2026-PRC in collaboration with LGBTQ Resource Center in Whittier-community resource fair June 13,2026- 4th Annual June is Men's Health and Family Fun Day

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

Service Area 7 continues to promote mental health services and the importance of attending the SALT 7 meetings and any other collaborative meeting hosted by the service area. The service area strives to continue outreach throughout the cities within the boundaries, understanding that challenges will always be present. We would like to hear the voices and concerns of those we serve; however their involvement has always been difficult. The only way to improve on this persistent issue is through continued promotion and outreach but staffing can pose a barrier.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

Would like our BHC to promote our SALT at the various community meetings they attend and to attend the SALT and provide updates that we may not yet be privy too.

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What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?
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Moving forward and adapting to changes once transition to BHSA happens in July.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

Nothing to at this time.

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Members at Large: Brian Banks, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Vacant

Meeting Date:	04/03/2026
Stakeholder Group Name:	SALT 8
Prepared by (Name and Role):	Ann Lee, SALT 8 Liaison
Select Your Group's District (If Applicable):	SUP 2, 4 (MAINLY 4)
Date Submitted to BHC:	04/28/2026

Summarize your group's accomplishments and successes you would like to share with the BHC:

SALT 8 held a virtual meeting on 4/3/26 with 43 participants. Participants were encouraged to attend the BHSA public hearing at the BHC mtg on 4/9/26. The main agenda item focused on presenting the discussion feedback from the 2/6/26 SALT 8 meeting. Discussed upcoming SALT 8 events:

- 1) May 1, 2026, 9:30AM-1:00PM - SALT 8 Mental Health Awareness Month Resource Meeting (Approved) at the LACDMH SA 8 Administration, 2600 Redondo Ave, 6th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90806
- 2) May 12, 2026, 11AM-2PM – Take Action for Mental Health Service Area 8 Event at Long Beach City College (Liberal Arts Campus)
- 3) June 5, 2026, 10AM-12PM – SALT 8 Meeting and Breakfast Social (in-person with option to watch/listen online or by phone) at the LACDMH SA 8 Administration, 2600 Redondo Ave, 6th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90806

Please identify any challenges you experienced and offer recommendations for improvement:

- 1) We received input regarding a challenge with accessibility to the community for individuals who need to have a personal aid/health care worker accompany them and provide assistance due to a disability that may not be always be visible (e.g., seizures/neurological condition, sensory, visual, etc) in order to access community resources and events (e.g., sporting events or concerts). Loud events may trigger seizures. Admission to events that require a separate reservation or ticket for the caretaker make participation inaccessible since the aid/worker is not allowed admission without a ticket. People with disabilities need access to entertainment, arts, music, recreation, and sports for mental health well-being.
- 2) Input received that community needs more education and guidance for families as well as

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neighbors how to support individuals that appear to need mental health supports so that it does not escalate into an emergency situation. We encouraged participants to take a MHFA class that are being offered in SA 8. Recommend more departmental promotion of MHFA so family members are aware of this educational resource.

How can the BHC provide support to your efforts?

-Raise awareness regarding supports and services needed (e.g., admission for health aids/workers; transportation) for individuals with mental health needs and other disabilities in order to have desired access to the community, socialization, and community inclusion. Some resources are not available and not reimbursable through insurance.

-Promote MHFA trainings. Share any efforts by DMH to provide MHFA trainings.

What are the topics of interest in your group's next meeting?

We will be holding the annual SALT 8 Mental Health Awareness Month meeting on 5/1/26. This meeting will focus on resources. Office of Immigrant Affairs will provide a presentation of their services and we will spotlight a community agency, Latinos in Action, that supports immigrants. This meeting will include resource tables with 12 agencies.

What else do you want the BHC to know?

Per the discussion feedback received on 2/6/26, SALT participants expressed that it is important that every person should be able to access the support they need.

These are the top concerns of our SALT 8:

-Healthcare access uncertainty

-Language & cultural barriers

-Trust in systems

-Support for caregivers

-Navigation challenges

-Policy clarity needs

-Special concerns for these groups: 2) individuals experiencing homelessness and housing gaps for all of the above concerns and 2) Transition aged youth and young adult (especially those with foster care history and experiencing homelessness)

Reviewed by (Commissioner Name):	
Action taken:	
Date:	

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