



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

## BHSA INTEGRATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

|                     |                                                                              |                                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>MEETING DATE</b> | April 9, 2026                                                                |                                  |
| <b>START TIME</b>   | 10:00 AM                                                                     | <b>ADJOURNMENT TIME:</b> 2:00 PM |
| <b>LOCATION</b>     | 510 South Vermont Ave., Terrace Level Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA 90020 |                                  |
| <b>ATTACHMENTS</b>  | <a href="#">MEETING RECORDING LINK</a>                                       | <a href="#">AGENDA LINK</a>      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                           |  |
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| IN ATTENDANCE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | ABSENT (E= Excused; U = Unexcused)                                                                                        |  |
| COMMISSIONER NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |                                                                                                                           |  |
| Kathleen Austria, Reba Stevens, Dr. Brian Banks, Dr. Erica Holmes, Victor Manalo, Lawrence Schallert, Brittney Weissman, Stacy Dalglish, Tyler Cash, Susan Friedman, Bennett Root Jr., Deena Duncan, Andrew Roble, Yun Hee Anna Lee, Kanin Pruter, Alicia Mardini, and Kim Olsen |  | Alex Tsobanoudis (E)                                                                                                      |  |
| QUORUM PRESENT: Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  | APPROVAL: Yes. Minutes approved on 5/14/2026. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Tsobanoudis. |  |
| ADJOURNED: 2:00 PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                                                                                                                           |  |

### MEETING MINUTES

| <b>AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS</b>          | <b>DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES</b>                                                                                                                          | <b>FOLLOW-UP ITEMS</b> | <b>UPDATE ON FOLLOW-UP ITEMS</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>4. ACTION ITEM</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                               |                        |                                  |
| a. Nominations Committee Ratification | <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The volunteers for the Nominations Committee, made up of Commissioner Lee and Commissioner</li></ul> |                        |                                  |



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| AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS                                                                                                   | DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | FOLLOW-UP ITEMS                                                                                                      | UPDATE ON FOLLOW-UP ITEMS                                                                                                     |
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|                                                                                                                         | Dalglish, were presented for ratification.<br><b>The Nominations Committee was ratified. Motion made by Commissioner Pruter. Seconded by Commissioner Friedman.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>5. BHSA IP PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA</b>                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                               |
| a. Welcome Remarks (DMH and DPH-SAPC Directors, and Commission Chair)                                                   | <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks were given.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                               |
| b. Staff Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BHSA IP Presentation and Commissioners’ Q&amp;A</li> </ul> | <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Austria expressed concern regarding the expansion of acute in-person services while facilities are being closed, noting that the issue may fall under the Department of Health Services (DHS). Dr. Wong stated she would attempt to gather additional information, emphasizing the importance of interdepartmental collaboration. Commissioner Austria also asked what the County is doing to ensure career growth ladders are established for staff.</li> <li>Commissioner Pruter asked whether there is a guarantee that transitioning youth will receive the services they need. Dr. Wong acknowledged the existing service gap and stated that efforts are underway to address it through data collection, competency development, and staff training. Dr. Tsai added that DPH is also engaging in conversations regarding LGBTQ+ populations and anticipated impacts of the current federal administration.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to provide the Commission with a copy of the ASAM standards.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenia is following up with SAPC to get a copy to share with the commission.</li> </ul> |



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|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Schallert asked whether licensed residential care can be funded through Enhanced Residential Care funds. Maria explained that when an individual enters a residential care program through the Enriched Residential Care Program, the Enhanced Services Rate is added when additional services are needed.</li><li>• He also asked whether the department has discussed FSP ICM with the state due to concerns about inpatient services. Dr. Wong stated that FSP ICM is a state-defined practice and, while it is a current focus, no additional funding is attached.</li><li>• Additionally, Commissioner Schallert raised concerns about employee retention and suggested that higher pay, rather than promotions alone, may better retain strong workers. Dr. Wong stated she is advocating for this approach.</li><li>• Commissioner Friedman asked Dr. Funk whether services are currently being provided at St. Vincent’s Hospital following its reopening. Dr. Funk stated the facility will become a mental health campus.</li><li>• She also asked whether funding allocated to SAPC is sufficient to serve approximately 250,000 individuals. Dr. Tsai explained that the estimated 250,000 individuals represent the full continuum of services and acknowledged that not enough individuals with substance use needs are currently being served. He stated that this is being addressed through the Reaching the 95% Initiative.</li></ul> |                 |                           |



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|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Stevens asked whether the County has received feedback from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) regarding the BHSA Integrated Plan (IP). Kalene reported that the state provided feedback indicating that SUD funding appears low compared to need and emphasized that BHSA funding represents a transformation of existing resources rather than new funding.</li><li>• Commissioner Stevens also asked about the 2% of the budget allocated to SAPC. Dr. Tsai stated that while overall substance uses funding remains low, Los Angeles County has opportunities to allocate additional resources, and BHSA is not the only funding stream for SUD services.</li><li>• She further asked about participants nearing the end of time-limited subsidies and what plans are in place to support them, while also acknowledging the mental strain caused by uncertainty. Dr. Funk recognized that fear of losing housing can negatively affect mental health and stated that the original funding came from COVID-19 emergency resources, which may now expire by December 2026. She shared that the department is collecting data to determine next steps and is addressing concerns related to lost housing vouchers.</li><li>• Commissioner Dagleish asked several questions regarding:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Peer certification and the renewal process</li><li>○ The closure of UCLA Resnick beds and its community impact</li></ul></li></ul> |                 |                           |



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|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How outcomes will be tracked</li><li>○ Data related to Black men, men ages 28–40, and older adult women, who may be disproportionately impacted by suicidal ideation, loneliness, and substance use</li><li>○ Concerns regarding the notion that individuals must “hit rock bottom” before receiving care</li><li>○ How much Los Angeles County contributes to County programs.</li><li>● Commissioner Weissman asked how BHSA will minimize unspent funds, what safeguards currently exist, and what will be done differently. Kalene stated that the current budget is a starting point and adjustments will be made as program needs become clearer. Dr. Wong explained that unspent funds allow flexibility to allocate resources where most needed, and Sarah added that DMH is implementing a data-driven budgeting initiative with reevaluation at each budget phase.</li><li>● Commissioner Lee emphasized the importance of ensuring that the first point of contact for patients is a trained staff member to improve engagement and retention in services.</li><li>● Commissioner Duncan shared a recent patient experience in which a placement facility refused intake on a Friday. She expressed hope that SAPC–DMH integration will help prevent such barriers in the future.</li><li>● Commissioner Roble asked how BHSA will measure</li></ul> |                 |                           |



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|                       | <p>success within the first 1–2 years. Kalene stated that the state has required metrics and that BHSA will also track local outcomes, including quality of care, service improvement, reduced incarceration, and housing outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He also asked whether there will be funding for underserved and non-English-speaking communities.</li><li>• He further asked what services are available for individuals ages 18–25. Staff clarified that Transition Age Youth (TAY) services cover ages 15–25 and include therapy, case management, medication support, rehabilitation, and group therapy.</li><li>• Lastly, he asked whether protections are in place to prevent layoffs or service disruptions during the transition. Dr. Wong stated that DMH remains financially stable due to revenue-generating services and that no layoffs or curtailments are expected.</li><li>• Commissioner Holmes asked whether there are plans to create pathways, funding streams, technical assistance, or partnership models to allow grassroots organizations and smaller community-based organizations (CBOs) to participate in service delivery. Dr. Wong acknowledged that bureaucracy has been a barrier and stated that the department has attempted multiple solutions, including an academy model, technical assistance, and encouraging smaller organizations to form umbrella organizations.</li><li>• Commissioner Mardini noted that there are hundreds of</li></ul> |                 |                           |



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|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|                                                | <p>Community Health Centers that DPH could collaborate with and asked what will happen to individuals who lose UIS Medi-Cal coverage while in treatment. SAPC staff stated they will continue covering services for the UIS population and are interested in collaborating with and potentially contracting with Community Health Centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Banks reflected Dr. Tsai’s comment that there should be less focus on the system and more focus on the client, while noting that a well-structured system is necessary to ensure desired outcomes.</li></ul> <p><b>Requests and Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Austria requested that the Commission receive a copy of the ASAM standards.</li></ul> |                 |                           |
| c. Public Comment                              | <b>Please see pages 8-21 for public comment.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                 |                           |
| d. BHC Discussion<br>• BHSA IP Recommendations | <b>See item 3B for BHC recommendations.</b><br><b>Note:</b> BHSA Administration reminded the Commission that the formal recommendation letter is due on April 20, 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |                           |



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**Commissioners by Supervisorial District**

| District      | 1 <sup>st</sup>      | 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup>    |                  |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Supervisor    | Hilda L. Solis       | Holly J. Mitchell | Lindsey P. Horvath | Janice Hahn     | Kathryn Barger     | Members at Large |
| Commissioners | Susan Friedman       | Kathleen Austria  | Stacy Dalglish     | Victor Manalo   | Lawrence Schallert | Alex Tsobanoudis |
|               | Bennett W. Root, Jr. | Reba Stevens      | Kanin Pruter       | Deena Duncan    | Brittney Weissman  | Guadalupe Orozco |
|               | Alicia Mardini       | Erica Holmes      | Kim Olsen          | Andrew Roble    | Yun Hee Ann lee    | Brian Banks      |

**L.A. County Board of Supervisors Member: Supervisor Kathryn Barger**

| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p>The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> The text below has been retrieved from the non-verbatim transcript produced by our live captioning service. For the emailed communication, we have copied the text from the email received and pasted it on to this document.</p> |                |                                                                             |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Public Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Ricardo Pulido | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 8                                               | <p>Thank you, mayor, I appreciate that very much and to our honorable commissioners and to all of our staff especially our stakeholders out here today and people online. My name is Ricardo am Polito. I'm a grass roots family peer advocate. I'm also a SALT chair just so you know. I have a 10-point plan I did share it with the mayor and a few of the other commissioners. My issues are as follows and I would like to be quick. Number one, the immigration and law enforcement peer work OJT which is on the job training where we talked about it briefly and I believe because of the fear that's out there right now for the immigrants, we need to be cognizant. So like the rest of the doctors here on the panel, we need to address that and work on it. From the law enforcement side, we do have our advocacy groups and a lot of the nonprofits, we need to address that with care and</p> |



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|----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |             |                                                                             |                                                              | making sure we talk it up. Secondly, the BHS staff vacancies as you already heard Dr. Wong talk about it and Dr. Tsai, we need to make sure we get our peers who are in full recovery into the workforce and by that I mean the peer specialists that are out there that are ready to work and need jobs, let them get out there and build that out. 30 unhoused beds. We have on page 26, and all my stuff will be sent online, and I went through that whole draft and it's a lot but last night I really cranked it up. Page 26, number four, 10-point plan. Medical quality improvement plan, there's an issue there we should address. DMH page 20, the clubhouse, what is a work order day, what does that mean and we're looking forward to that with the PRCs. Dr. Wong knows what we've been talking about for SALT 8 for ages.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Public Comment | Jean Harris | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 1                                               | Jean Harris here representing service area 1. I have not traversed down to downtown LA in a long time. I used to attend meetings regularly, but LA County has eight service areas. The antelope valley region service area 1, half a million people. So if we have 10 million, that's 5% of the population. I don't think we get representation. Does everybody know where the Antelope Valley is? It is part of LA County, by the way. So I need to get equity for access to mental health and substance use disorder services all across the county. The cost-of-living increases have led to greater socio-economic needs in service area 1. The cost of living is a little bit lower up in the high desert where temperatures can range from 20° to 120°. That impacts our unhoused individuals greatly. I have seen many people freeze on the sidewalk. I have also lost people to heat. We need an increase in quality of care of course everywhere. I just want to make sure that service area 1 gets a piece of the pie and that's |



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|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                  |                                                                             |                                                              | why I've always been coming here to try to represent the needs of service area 1 as well as the rest of the county. We have a lot of children in foster care in service area 1, a lot. We need better oversight and accountability for contract providers, secret shoppers without retribution. Utilize more peer support specialists, better community engagement because I don't feel like our feedback gets valued.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Public Comment | Ismael Maldonado | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Hello, My name is Ismael Maldonado. I was former Co-Chair of Salt 2. Now I am a disability rights advocate for people with disabilities. My comment is: how will SAPC help The Regional Center clients in the process of getting drug addiction services and being able to understand them?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Public Comment | Barbara Wilson   | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Barbara. I am speaking as a private citizen and community advocate for my neighborhood. Santa Clarita valley. We have parents that have adult children that have serious mental illness that are living daily in a state of domestic violence. I want to hear what will be done for access. We need access to beds on a crisis basis. Not over the hill.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Public Comment | Emilio Rodriguez | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Good afternoon. I would like to thank every one of you. This is a cry for help. I am a father. To be honest, you are encouraging. All I hear is you help people. You give housing. Voluntary. You give money. Not everywhere. The money is used for drugs. Not everyone uses of course. I speak for my son. He is mentally ill. Bipolar. Now, he uses drugs. He gets money and food stamps. I would like to know, is there a legal department that can help me? My son is 21 years old. He said something else. I would like to see if you have a legal department. Going to the care court. They give you a booklet. That help is outdated. |



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| Public Comment | Yvonne Sandoval | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 7                                               | Good morning afternoon. I am Yvonne with salt seven. I appreciate all those who continue to come and represent themselves. We will have our mental health events in May. I came from one in April. It was just utterly fabulous. They gave them the microphone. It is a key. You see all the fun stuff and don't get to really hear what services each table is providing or can provide.                                                                                       |
| Public Comment | Sydney Tabizon  | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 7                                               | Hello. I remain seated. The big event we have going on is our June 13th. Men's mental health. Wellness and family fun. The 4th year that we are having it. Try to come out everyone. One more time, I would like to mention, tomorrow we have our salt seven meeting at the department of public health. 7643 painter avenue in Whittier. Have a great day.                                                                                                                     |
| Public Comment | Meagan Heuchan  | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Good morning. I am Meagan and I speak from lived experience. Today I am here to present a program that reduces staff load and stabilizes housing. Our model is showing results. Helping participants adjust their mind set to a new language of life and stability. Tier one over sees the program. Two employs new participants. Instills structure and builds pride. They clean streets. Tier three tracks all work in Realtime. Giving them measurable proof of performance. |
| Public Comment | Paul Stansburry | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 8                                               | Service area eight. Thank you. I am concerned about B the federal impact. The block grants. Release of the budget plan. What is happening with the federal impact?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Public Comment | John Halowitz   | In person                                                                   | General/SALT 2                                               | I am john, salt two. Consumer, caregiver, spouse, advocate. Lots of hats. I was concerned when I saw family services and support. My kids are grown. We went through FSP wrap around services when they were young. There is a gap. First of all, families are like echo chambers. It goes on and on. It still goes on. We are not                                                                                                                                              |



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|                |                    |                                                                             |                                                              | <p>well. Part of the problem is the gap between DMH services and insurance people and families, some will have insurance, some won't. That creates unevenness. They rely on private insurance to do what it doesn't do well.</p> <p>It leaves it up to the family. It is difficult. Follow through isn't really there. Graduate from full-service partnership. That is it. Despite further hospitalizations. Only got into it because one of my children was in residential.</p> <p>Once that stopped happening, there was a little FSP. That is it.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Public Comment | Dr. Vaughn Simmons | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | <p>Good afternoon. I am Dr. Simmons. I had a few comments regarding attachment D for the budget. There is no primary prevention services for mental health for adults and older adults. I was curious and concerned. Both primary prevention and early intervention are very important. I wanted to comment regarding the allocation of funds. I understand the importance of substance use disorder. I see that there is a significant amount of funding there. I am curious how that came to be. There is a significant need in our community for mental health services. There seems to be emphasis on evidence-based practices.</p> <p>I think it is important to have a balanced approach. Evidence-based practices are great. Community defined gives us incite, a voice. Some of the cultural wisdom. They offer the opportunity for health equity and culturally relevant interventions. Especially for underserved communities. For allotment for mental health, I wanted to mention that resource allocation should reflect the population needs as well.</p> <p>Should be congruence to reflect equity in terms of access. Thank you so much.</p> |
| Public         | Norit Admasu       | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | I am with Nomi urban LA. I am a member of the community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



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| Comment        |                |                                                                             |                                                              | <p>planning team. I have gratitude for everyone for being here. I wanted to comment on the community engagement project that under pins the community input that goes into the integrated plan. I wanted to share something that may not be clear to everyone. There were some very huge differences in the way that the community engagement process happened this year.</p> <p>I have been a member for two years. Last year, it was with the knowing that a lot of the community engagement went very specifically, we did consensus building. A lot was reflected to the plan. This year is very different. A lot comes from the state. I felt community input got lost. I know DMH had a lot to adjust to. I think we lost the specificity and our attention got focused on different things. A lot of meetings got cancelled. Today is the first time a lot of members are meeting. We didn't have them in March or April. People could of learned more and gave input. This is not a grievance. It is an invitation. It wasn't in the planning.</p> |
| Public Comment | Charles Porter | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | <p>Good afternoon. Charles with social model recovery systems. I participated in the community planning team meetings. I want to make a few comments. Social models are pioneers. Our prevention works is the compliment to that. Going upstream to the environmental factors. Community context. Homelessness is grounded in poverty. Lack of housing access and institutional racism.</p> <p>It includes community mobilization to promote land use and enhance community spaces and resources. It requires community building and creative partnerships to address powers and center culturally congruent wellness practices.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



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|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |               |                                                                             |                                                              | <p>It requires sustained community connections and integrated leadership roles. Addressing root causes is essential to eliminate disparities. I want to highlight. I don't think prevention has gotten its fair share.</p> <p>We saw prevention moved to the state level, we know that is not the answer. If that is the future, we want to make sure prevention gives us the share of resources. The language is promising but also unclear how resources would be able to compliment local efforts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Public Comment | Ezekiel Reyes | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | <p>I am Ezekeil. Out shining the housing first approach. You would be surprised how many of those lazy need the opportunity. Talking to many of those utilizing the HUD emergency voucher have been saying they will be kicked out by the end of the year. Wrap around is a great resource. The timing seems not to be connected to the human aspect. It is there. It disappears. It is not enough time. Many of the homeless just recently housed still sleep on the floor. They haven't moved on from being homeless. It is a state of mind. The individual grows into as they are deciding whether or not they need to run away because they are the black sheep of the family or running out of friends to couch surf with. That is the state of mind that you need to go after. Not just the housing aspect.</p> <p>The robustness needs to be something that outshines. Most just need the work. Those housed have many bills over \$1,000. They are going into debt by being in permanent housing. Job factor is a big must. That is the future step. I talk about hot meals. That is as well. Thank you.</p> |
| Public Comment | Reg Clarkinia | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | <p>I am a mental health advocate. To serve the community, DMH providers must be informed how to collect SOJI data. This will</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



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

| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|                |                   |                                                                             |                                                              | help identify need. It will provide the most effective care for LGBTQ people in LA County. Thanks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Public Comment | Mark Karmatz      | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | This is Mark with peer support network. There is a bill called 2632 dealing with people in solitary confinements in jail. Damaging effects that can affect by being in solitary confinement. Yesterday, the national coalition of mental health recovery, headed by DAN FISHER, is urging for training for self-advocacy. Legislatures to deal with rights, trauma informed (inaudible) revitalization. Similar programs. I will include intentional peer support on that one. |
| Public Comment | Claudia Hathcock  | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Hi. I am Claudia and I have a question about the early intervention services. A lot of young people we serve who qualify wouldn't necessarily participate. I understand there is an allocation toward outreach. How much would be allocated toward outreach? I think a lot of young people are comfortable at that level. I cannot stress the importance of the outreach prevention services. That is where we can connect and get them ready for early intervention.          |
| Public Comment | Ricardo Kim       | In person                                                                   | General                                                      | Just looking at questions about the community services support dollars. Workforce education and training. The numbers, something in the midyear adjustment of 63.691 million for fiscal year 25/26. How much was spent on peer training? I want to go back to what was said about the need for clinicians in substance use disorder fields. DMH could learn something. We can hire within. I want to say thank you very much.                                                  |
| Public Comment | Pastor Joshua Nah | Teams/Online                                                                | General                                                      | He has two questions. Thank you for presentations. Here are my two questions. Number one. How do you plan to inform and communicate service changes resulting from the BHSA to family                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



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|                |              |                                                                             |                                                              | members? Number two, how do you plan to collaborate with family members to ensure their loved ones receive the appropriate services in a timely manner? Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Public Comment | Emily        | By phone                                                                    | General                                                      | <p>Can you hear me? I used to be the lady in green. I worked for California mental health movement. I did two PSAs for the county of mental health. One in English and one in Chinese in 2014. I am a resident of the San Gabriel Valley since 1988. I have attended the salt 3 meetings for a long time. I was part of the cap one team. The first Asian board member for the national coalition for mental health recovery. I was 5150ed on July of 2023. There was no response team available that came to my rescue.</p> <p>I have such a big heart for individuals who are victims of ice. There is no due process. I was chunked into the hospital mistreated. Disrespected. I cannot unsee what I saw for those 50 hours. To see how a person is treated is horrible. I have gone to the Board of Supervisors to tell my story. They said go through someone else. I got charged over three grand. A 5150 caused by 988. Over three grand. That didn't help.</p> <p>I consider the system ridiculous. This could happen to anyone else. Where is the list of response teams that exist so we don't have to call 911.</p> |
| Public Comment | Isais Pulido | By phone                                                                    | General                                                      | <p>Good morning. Champion for mental health. Community leader. Public servant. Thank you for allowing me to speak on the draft of the integrated plan. I want to recognize the commitment. I believe the plan is continuing to progress I am here to emphasize the voice that must be at the center of the next phase. There is still critical challenges in LA County.</p> <p>To my individuals living with serious mental illness. Many</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



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|                |                  |                                                                             |                                                              | families are navigating this system. They are feeling fragmented to access these resources. As you move forward with your plan, I respectfully urge the commission to prioritize funding for organizations and expansion for first models with stronger prevention and early intervention strategies.<br>There are metrics and accountability programs to create at the county level. How will they ensure funding and decisions are tied to measurable outcomes. Let us ensure the plan reflects the voices most impacted. Mental health is a foundation of public safety, family stability, and community well-being. God bless you all.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Public Comment | Dara Weinger     | By phone                                                                    | General                                                      | Please go ahead. Good afternoon. I am a senior manager at corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As we prepare for work requirements. Many of you are familiar with it through Cal works. It has demonstrated what is possible when services are fully integrated with behavioral health care. Currently, [Reading], are leading administration randomized trial. As part of this effort, they are on the way servicing participants in support of housing and rapid rehousing. While findings won't be published for two years, we are seeing deeper connections.<br>It is important that work requirements are functioned at recovery support. That is where they present a real opportunity. Intentionally including support of housing. That helps the health care coverage. You BHSA to make that real. |
| Public Comment | Laprinicia Cesar | By phone                                                                    | General                                                      | Hi, I am Laprinicia. Is there a place where the homeless can go before they go to the shelters and transitional housing? That is all.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



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| <b>Emailed Public Comment Correspondence</b> |              |                                                                             |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Public Comment                               | Dara Weinger | E-Mail                                                                      | General                                                      | <p>Good afternoon Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>My name is Dara Weinger, Senior Manager at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, or CSH.</p> <p>I’m here today to urge the Commission to highlight the role that BHSA and BH CONNECT supported Individual Placement and Support (IPS) employment services can play in the homeless services system, particularly for people in supportive housing and rapid rehousing, as we prepare for HR1 Medi-Cal community engagement and work requirements.</p> <p>Many of you are familiar with the success of IPS through CalWORKs, and the exceptional leadership of Edward Armstrong, which has demonstrated what’s possible when employment services are fully integrated with behavioral health care—even for individuals with the highest levels of need.</p> <p>Currently, CSH, USC, and Westat are leading an SSA funded randomized controlled trial testing IPS with people experiencing homelessness. As part of this effort, IPS pilots are underway at People Assisting the Homeless and at the Downtown Women’s Center, serving participants in supportive housing and rapid rehousing. While findings will not be published for another two years, we’re already seeing strong engagement in employment and education, increased stability, and deeper connections to care.</p> <p>As HR1 moves forward, it’s critical that work requirements are not destabilizing, but instead function as recovery oriented supports. This is where BHSA and BH CONNECT funding present a real opportunity. By leveraging these investments, LA</p> |



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|                |               |                                                                             |                                                              | <p>County can lead California in scaling IPS beyond pilots—intentionally including supportive housing and rapid rehousing participants, especially those receiving FSP and ACT or FACT services, while helping maintain continuity of health care coverage.</p> <p>Employment and education are not just economic outcomes—they are evidence based interventions. When work becomes a prescription for stability, housing retention improves, health outcomes improve, and systems work better together.</p> <p>My request today is simple: build on what’s already working, expand IPS for supportive housing and rapid rehousing populations, and use BHSA and BH CONNECT funds to make that vision real. When systems align around evidence and dignity, everyone wins.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and leadership.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or wish for further engagement.</p> <p>Sincerely,<br/>Dara Weinger</p> |
| Public Comment | Jasmine Salas | E-mail                                                                      | General                                                      | <p>Dear Members of the LA County Behavioral Health Commission,</p> <p>My name is Jasmine Salas, RN, and I am the Founder and Project Director of Salud Wellness LLC, a nurse-led, bilingual community wellness organization based in South Los Angeles. Our work is rooted in the communities you serve — South LA, East LA, South Central, and unincorporated LA County — where we provide health education, mental health navigation, and culturally responsive programming for Latinx and underserved</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



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|          |      |                                                                             |                                                              | <p>residents.</p> <p>I am submitting this comment in support of the BHSA Integrated Plan and to elevate the voices of the communities we work alongside every day.</p> <p>We know that mental health does not exist in a vacuum. For the families we serve, access to care is shaped by language, trust, proximity, and lived experience. Latinx community members in South and East LA continue to face significant barriers — including limited Spanish-language services, cultural stigma, and a shortage of providers who reflect and understand their backgrounds. Any integrated plan that aims to be truly effective must center community-based organizations as essential infrastructure, not afterthoughts.</p> <p>At Salud Wellness, we are already doing this work — meeting people where they are, in the language they speak, through trusted community channels. On May 23, 2026, we will host the Wellness Mercado Grande: East LA Community Wellness Festival at East Los Angeles College (ELAC), a free bilingual community event funded through the CalMHSA Take Action Grant. This event is designed to reduce stigma, connect residents to mental health resources, and demonstrate what culturally grounded wellness looks like in practice.</p> <p>We respectfully urge the Commission to ensure the BHSA Integrated Plan:</p> |



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|          |      |                                                                             |                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prioritizes funding pathways for small, community-based, and culturally specific organizations — particularly those led by people of color serving high-need populations.</li><li>• Includes robust outreach and engagement strategies in Spanish and other threshold languages.</li><li>• Creates accessible contracting and partnership opportunities for nurse-led and community wellness organizations like ours that are doing prevention and early intervention work.</li></ul> <p>We are proud to be part of this ecosystem of care and are eager to collaborate with DMH and the Commission to expand what's possible for our communities. We welcome any opportunity to connect further.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, your advocacy, and your commitment to behavioral health equity in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Warmly,</p> <p>Jasmine Salas, RN (She, Her, Ella)<br/>Founder   Salud Wellness LLC<br/>Nurse-Led Community Wellness &amp; Public Health Programming<br/><a href="https://saludwellnesscollective.com/">https://saludwellnesscollective.com/</a></p> |