



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE	May 14, 2026	
START TIME	11:00 AM	ADJOURNMENT TIME: 1:04 PM
LOCATION	510 South Vermont Ave., Terrace Level Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA 90020	
ATTACHMENTS	MEETING RECORDING LINK	AGENDA LINK

IN ATTENDANCE		ABSENT (E= Excused; U = Unexcused)	
COMMISSIONER NAME			
Kathleen Austria, Reba Stevens, Dr. Erica Holmes, Lawrence Schallert, Brittney Weissman, Stacy Dalglish, Susan Friedman, Alex Tsobanoudis, Bennett Root Jr., Deena Duncan, Andrew Roble, Yun Hee Anna Lee, Kanin Pruter, Alicia Mardini, and Kim Olsen		Tyler Cash (U), Victor Manalo (E), Bennet Root (E), and Brian Banks (U)	
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes		APPROVAL: Yes. Minutes were approved on June 11, 2026. Motion made by Commissioner Pruter. Seconded by Commissioner Root.	
ADJOURNED: 1:04 PM			

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS	DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES	FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	UPDATE ON FOLLOW-UP ITEMS
4. COMMISSIONERS' UPDATES AND CHAIR REPORT			



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	Discussion: • Commissioner Schallert collaborated on a project with the Action Alliance, MET, and the Empath Center, acknowledging the BHC's role in the effort. He also participated in a Suicide Prevention, Postvention, and Wellness Committee meeting and traveled to Alaska to work with Indigenous communities on mental health initiatives. • Commissioner Olsen reported working with an organization that supports individuals living in encampments who often experience mental health challenges. • Commissioner Austria conducted outreach activities and connected unhoused individuals to resources. She also inquired about the recently closed CMS facility. • Commissioner Weissman met with the former Chair of the Los Angeles County Hospital Commission regarding support provided to victims of the Eaton Fire. She is also conducting exit interviews with Hollywood 2.0 as she transitions into a new position. • Commissioner Tsobanoudis reported involvement with Hollywood 2.0 and hosted physicians who delivered presentations at his university. He also learned about SB 903 and its potential impact on		



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	psychiatry through the use of artificial intelligence. • Commissioner Lee attended the Multicultural Conference and the Better Together Conference. She participated in presentations, presented at a SALT 3 meeting and the Santa Clarita Suicide Prevention and Postvention Committee meeting, and continued working with Commissioner Dalgleish on the Nominations Committee. • Commissioner Duncan attended the Better Together Conference and is currently advocating for caregivers to promote sustainability and support. • Commissioner Pruter reported acclimating to his new position. He serves in leadership roles within several Democratic organizations and continues advocacy efforts focused on equitable treatment for the LGBTQ+ community. He noted that additional outreach will be needed to increase awareness of the Commission and its work. • Commissioner Friedman reported that members of the community she represents continue to express concerns regarding ICE activity. She also shared updates from the Behavioral Science Board and noted that current legislative efforts are focused on artificial intelligence. • Commissioner Stevens toured the Jacqueline Avant		



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	Children and Family Center and highlighted the services available there. She encouraged commissioners to visit the center. She also continues to identify public meetings where she can provide comments in support of behavioral health initiatives. ● Commissioner Mardini announced her retirement and expressed her commitment to continuing advocacy efforts on behalf of the community she represents. ● Commissioner Roble attended community meetings and events and completed training focused on person-centered language and appropriate terminology related to mental health. ● Commissioner Dalgleish provided updates from the Nominations Committee and encouraged attendance at an upcoming meeting hosted by LARCA and CALBHBC. She also continues advocacy efforts related to residential communities in Santa Monica.		
5. ACTION ITEM			
a. Approval of March 12 and April 09, 2026, minutes	March 12 and April 9 minutes were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Tsobanoudis.		
6. CONSENT AGENDA			



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a. DMH Constituent Follow-Up Report b. BHC Budget Report c. BHC Topics of Interest	Requests and Decisions: - Commissioner Austria requested a report on the County budget due to the close of the fiscal year. - Crystal stated that the next legislative report will include information regarding the Governor's proposed budget and that the topic could be added to the Topics of Interest list. - Commissioner Austria requested a detailed analysis of the ER measure. - Kenia stated that the item would be added to the Topics of Interest list and that Elan's availability would be confirmed for a future discussion. Consent agenda approved. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Austria.	Kenia to add the Commissioner Austria's request to the Topics of Interest list.	
7. WRITTEN REPORTS AND UPDATES			
a. DMH and DPH-SAPC Director Reports	Discussion: Commissioner Weissman stated appreciation of combining the directors' reports into one.		
b. DMH and DPH-SAPC Legislative Reports	Discussion: - Commissioner Weissman requested that SAPC and DMH identify measures being tracked by both departments. - Crystal stated that integrated legislative reports will begin at the next meeting.	Kenia to share an analysis of the ER measure with the commission.	



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	• Commissioner Weissman asked why SAPC included a measure related to student mental health while DMH did not. • Elan stated that the County supports the ER measure and demonstrated its support by placing the measure on the June ballot. Revenue generated by the measure would be deposited into the County's General Fund, with allocation decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. A spending plan has been developed outlining intended uses of the revenue. • Elan further noted that the spending plan does not guarantee funding for DMH. However, funding remains allocated for mild-to-moderate mental health services, which may help reduce the number of individuals progressing to serious mental illness. • Commissioner Austria asked whether polling data exists regarding the measure and whether budget restructuring efforts have been considered to prevent service reductions. • Elan stated he did not have information regarding polling but noted that the Board could revise the spending plan if necessary. • Elan also reported that both DPH and DHS anticipate significant budget reductions as a result of HR 1.		



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	- Commissioner Tsobanoudis requested additional information regarding funding for acute and emergency care services. - Elan stated he was uncertain whether the spending plan specified funding allocations at that level of detail. - Commissioner Schallert noted that the measure would replace an existing revenue source with what he described as a regressive tax. Requests and Decisions: - Commissioner Austria requested an analysis of the measure.		
c. BHSA Update	No discussion was held.		
d. Stakeholder Group (e.g., SALTs, UsCCs) Reports	Discussion: - The Latino UsCC shared updates regarding successes, challenges, and recommendations. SALT 4 Co-Chairs discussed employment, housing, and driver's license-related challenges. They expressed interest in hosting a recruitment event at Los Angeles Community College and advocated for increased peer specialist opportunities. SALT 2 Co-Chairs reported adjusting their meeting schedule following changes to the BHC meeting		



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	calendar. They provided updates regarding presentations, transportation challenges, a new adult residential care facility, and incoming co-chairs who will begin service in June. ● SALT 7 reported on a May 5 community event that promoted local resources and services. Items A-D were approved. Motion made Commissioner Tsobanoudis. Seconded by Commissioner Pruter.		
8. STAFF PRESENTATIONS			
a. Portrait of Los Angeles 2026 – Presented by Measure of America	Discussion: ● Commissioner Austria stated that questions submitted in advance received only limited responses. ● Commissioner Austria asked what policies and programs have been developed in response to the data findings. ● Kalene stated that her organization sponsored the project and emphasized the importance of maintaining a behavioral health focus. She noted that she has personally used the data to help identify communities where community school funding should be prioritized. ● Commissioner Austria recommended creating a task force to ensure the data informs meaningful policy and programmatic changes.	● BHSa staff to provide a follow-up to Commissioner Austria on how the Portrait of LA data will be used.	



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	- Commissioner Stevens noted that presentation slides should have been distributed. - Commissioner Stevens asked how data were collected within Black communities and emphasized the importance of focusing County resources on communities experiencing inequities. - Commissioner Pruter asked about the limited representation of LGBTQ+ populations within the data and inquired about ways the Commission could support improved data collection. - The presenter responded that the Commission could support efforts to collect and utilize disaggregated data. Requests and Decisions: - Commissioner Austria requested a follow-up on how the Portrait of LA data will be used.		
9. BHC Discussion			
a. Prioritizing Goals/Issues to Advise DMH/DPH-SAPC/BOS • Chair Suggested goals/issues to prioritize 1. Transition to BHSA - Loss of Prevention Funding 2. Homelessness and Housing	Item 9a was moved to the next meeting on 6/11/2026.		



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3. Integration of a care system			
b. Executive Committee Officer Elections FY 2026-27 • April: Candidates List	Discussion: • Commissioner Dagleish presented the list of candidates and noted that commissioners may continue to self-nominate or nominate others. • She announced that elections will take place in June.		
b. PUBLIC COMMENT			
<i>General Comments</i>	Ricardo Kim, Esiquio Reyes, Tristen people addressed the Commission by phone, in-person, and with emailed communication. See pages 11-16 for public comment document.		



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Commissioners by Supervisorial District

District	1 st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
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	VACANT
	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
The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting. PLEASE NOTE: 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.				
Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	In Person	General	Good afternoon first vice chair and members of the Behavioral Health Commission welcome new members as well, give you introduction next month



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				not introduction a gratitude and a thank you and a welcome. This is a public comment is based on a public comment I made on April 23rd in the executive committee meeting. And so, this is I'm just going back to when we started about the brighter together and I heard some great great things amazing thank you for bringing it back. And I was able to attend and I'm just wondering how many others could have benefited from being able to attend by having scholarships available for clients, consumers, loved one's caregivers and if I run out of time you can cut me off. I'm a caregiver, I have a loved one that has SMI, co-occurring with stimulant use restorative. By being able to go to this conference I learned this person is treatment my loved one is treatment resistant, because two decades ago the public health system overmedicated, a lot going on, this person didn't know about the self-advocate so there was a lot of trauma. And so, this person is conically homeless right now. And if we're taking any doors the right door approach, what I learned at this conference as a



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				family member, was invaluable. And I was able to attend because I had to I had connections and I was fortunate to do this work. And everyone else who could have learned for their loved one. I learned things such as dialectical behavioral therapy, which over the course of the many years that I loved and cared for this person, after the trials and errors I ended up doing, I didn't know what I was doing, and then I actually ended up asking a question at the forum during the brighter together conference of where I could get information or manuals and that was provided that. I also learned about contingency management and this is something when I want back to my loved one and they were interested and something is clicking, we're planting seeds and they might be able to come back through some door to get treatment or help, who's been treatment resistant is SMI co-occurring, is chronically homeless and meets the definition of gravely disabled right now on these treats.
Public Comment	Esiquio Reyes	In Person	General	My name is Ezekiel Reyes, based off of what I've been going through a lot of the programs that DMH offers, a key component is the job readiness again. I can't



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				state this enough. A lot of people fail to realize that certificates are a big must these days. And I understand that there's not really a need, people can make up that there's not a real need for it, but it gives the individual that requires a certificate a robustness of instead of the hundredth applicant they're the top 10, so there's a difference in that. And again, because there's nothing is guaranteed, like the job connection is missing that key component. So, many of the counselors and caseworkers within those programs I talked to, all stated the same thing, like they can find people jobs but the vast majority of the people that they do come into contact to help are falling through, because they don't end up getting any of these requirements, they fail to get the driver's license because there's because of the lack of the ride to be able to do so, they fail because of the certificates or they don't look good, yes the county can help them get a job, and it looks good on the behalf but it's not a guarantee and if it's a job they don't really want they're not really going to stay there for a long time. So, let's not make this something where they're helped for right now for



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				a short term and then in the long term they fall back into the same situation, it needs to something that we help, and it helps long term. Not just now and then check mark they're good, move on. And the thing about the food, if we can actually make the food concept on the writing change to "Hot meals" because if writing is supposed to be gold standard food is a need. Food is not candy bars, cold meals consistent, food it needs to be a hot meal to bring a positivity in that person's life even if it's for an hour. That will change a person's perspective long term. Thank you.
Public Comment	Tristen/Painted Brain	By Phone	General	Oh, I just wanted to say I'm from [Indiscernible] and I want to let the commission know the public importance to an organization, the importance of [Indiscernible] pressure off of our system and make it more equitable and connected to everyone so folks don't fall into psychiatric emergency. We're comprised almost completely of peers, because of lived experience and it makes a very big difference [Indiscernible] and how it is completed. And yes.



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				I want to do those two things [Indiscernible] and but also, one way is [Indiscernible] to become self-sufficient the service contracts and other, you know, programs within the departments. Thanks.

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