



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

MHSA ANNUAL UPDATES FY2025-26 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE	April 10, 2025		
START TIME	11:00 a.m.	ADJOURNMENT TIME: 1:54 PM	
LOCATION	510 South Vermont Ave., Terrace Level Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA 90020		
ATTACHMENTS	MEETING RECORDING LINK	NON-VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION	AGENDA LINK

IN ATTENDANCE		ABSENT
COMMISSIONER NAME		
Kathleen Austria, Reba Stevens, Thomas Roache, Michael Molina, Dr. Erica Holmes, Victor Manalo, Lawrence Schallert, Brittney Weissman, Stacy Dalgleish, Tyler Cash, and Susan Friedman		Imelda Padilla-Frausto, Bennett Root Jr., Jaqueline Sandoval, and Marilyn Sanabria
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes	APPROVAL: Yes. Motion made by Commissioner Manalo. Seconded by Commissioner Schallert. Minutes approved on 5/8/25.	
ADJOURNED: 1:54 PM		

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS	DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES	FOLLOW-UP ITEMS
3. NEW BUSINESS		
a. 2025-2026 Upcoming Board Election Process – Ratification of Nomination Committee Appointment. Committee Members: Commissioners Molina	Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The volunteers for the Nominations Committee, made up of Commissioner Molina and Commissioner Weissman, was presented to the BHC for ratification. Commissioner Stevens requested the current Chair to encourage the entire Commission to participate. 	



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and Weissman	The Nominations Committee was ratified. Motion made by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Stevens.	
4. STANDING ITEMS		
a. Department of Public Health (DPH) Substance Abuse and Prevention Control (SAPC) Updates – Dr. Gary Tsai, SAPC Director	<p>Discussion and requests:</p> <p>Evaluation of Prevention Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Roache raised questions about how SAPC distinguishes its program success from national trends, especially in relation to fentanyl use. • SAPC clarified that evaluation is conducted by both contracted providers and an internal data evaluation team. • SAPC acknowledges there are challenges in linking behavioral outcomes to media exposure, more detailed evaluation metrics will be shared later. <p>Media Campaign Strategy and Its Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Friedman asked about the media campaign contractor and campaign effectiveness. • SAPC uses a vendor called “Rescue” to conduct media campaigns, primarily on social media, billboards, buses, and Metro locations. • SAPC clarified that the campaign is targeted not only at users but also the public to spread awareness about tools like Naloxone. • Commissioner Friedman requested evaluation data. <p>Methamphetamine Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Weissman asked about interventions regarding methamphetamine use. • SAPC confirmed methamphetamine is a priority and has its own prevention and treatment collaboration group. SAPC continues to coordinate with stakeholders and prevention providers. <p>Naloxone Access, Cost, and Distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAPC to report back on additional evaluation methods, media campaign metrics, and how SAPC’s evaluation team differentiated local vs national success. • SAPC to consider expanding distribution to rideshare service workers and report back on the decision. • SAPC to report on how programs maintain cultural competence in their curricula. • SAPC to report on the involvement of the coalitions on each SPA and explore how they can be better involved.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Dagleish asked about the accessibility and pricing of Naloxone.• Naloxone is available over the counter and distributed through harm reduction providers, treatment centers, and public health programs.• Commissioner Dagleish suggested distributing kits to rideshare drivers.• SAPC will consider expanding distribution to groups like Uber and Lyft. <p>Education Programs and Cultural Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Austria asked about educational program’s location, content, and cultural appropriateness.• SAPC shared that 35 agencies run programs often located in schools or youth-centered settings and are based on evidence-based practices. They also review the curricula and work plans.• SAPC will share a list of educational providers and confirm how cultural competency is applied in their curricula. <p>Coalition Engagement and Data Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Stevens asked about the role of community coalitions in media campaigns, unmet needs in specific SPAs, and social norms data.• Commissioner Stevens requested the data should be reviewed one SPA at a time and advocated for no-cost harm reduction tools if lives are at stake. <p>Engaging with Local Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Molina asked how commissioners could connect local organizations with SAPC efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAPC to share the link and information on the referral and partnership process for local organizations recommended by commissioners.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SAPC will provide the referral or partnership process for local organizations and the link.	
b. DMH - Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Updates FY 2025-26 – Kalene Gilbert, LCSW	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Unspent Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Concern was expressed regarding the substantial amount of unspent MHSA funds. The community is experiencing a critical crisis in mental health and homelessness, making it essential that available funds are spent efficiently and urgently.Commissioners requested a clear explanation of the sources of the unspent funds and barriers preventing their timely deployment.A recommendation was made to consider directing some of these funds to legal entities and community-based organizations (CBOs) that are often more agile and closer to the affected populations. <p>Low Program Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is concern that participation in major programs such as FSP (Full-Service Partnership) appears low relative to the size and need of the County population.Commissioners requested data-informed analysis on why overall participation is low, including accessibility, outreach, referral pathways, and public awareness. <p>Language and Framing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Several Commissioners emphasized the importance of shifting language from “homeless” to “unhoused” to reflect dignity and avoid dehumanization.There is a broader call for culturally competent and inclusive language across all DMH communications and program materials. <p>Engagement with Cities and Local Stakeholders</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many Commissioners underscored the disconnect between County-level planning and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County, particularly those struggling to manage unhoused populations in their neighborhoods.• The Commission strongly encourages intentional engagement with city LA City officials, city council, and local homelessness initiatives as stakeholders move forward. <p>Stakeholder Involvement and Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns were raised about the lack of community engagement in this year’s hearing, including the absence of written public comment.• Commissioners noted that Service Area Leadership Teams (SALTs) and UsCCs groups are required to report to the Commission and should be actively presenting updates to maintain transparency and community voice.• Barriers to spending local stakeholder engagement funds (especially in under-resourced SAs) were also highlighted as urgent issues requiring administrative relief and support. <p>Capital Facilities and Technology Funding Limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The restriction that capital funds may only be used for County-owned properties was identified as a barrier to innovation and partnerships.• Commissioners suggest the Board explore policy or legislative changes that allow legal entities and CBOs to access these funds under proper oversight. <p>Data Transparency and Disaggregation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future presentations should include general population numbers to contextualize racial and ethnic disparities.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioners called for clearer tracking of unmet needs and demographic breakdowns to identify gaps and guide investments.• 8. Surveys and Community Input• The number of completed community surveys was deemed disappointingly low.• Recommendations included increased outreach, multilingual accessibility, and longer timelines for survey collection to truly reflect community voices. <p>Interdepartmental Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is support for DMH to further integrate efforts with the new County Homelessness Department and the developing standard of care framework from the L.A. County Homeless Initiative.• Supervisor-led entities such as <u>Executive Committee for Regional Homeless Alignment</u> (ECRHA) and the Leadership Table for Regional Homeless Alignment (LTRHA) should be used to facilitate cross-sector alignment.	
6. BHC RESPONSE TO MHSA ANNUAL UPDATES FY 2025-26		



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	<p>Discussion summary on item 4b (above) includes concerns/responses Commissioners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioners will draft the letter recommendations to MHSAs Annual updates FY2025-2026.• Chair Molina asked Commissioners to send their recommendations to Kenia via email by April 10, 2025