



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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	May 8, 2025		
<b>START TIME</b>	11:00 AM	<b>ADJOURNMENT TIME:</b> 1:36 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="#">UNOFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT TRANSCRIPT PART 1</a> <a href="#">UNOFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT TRANSCRIPT PART 2</a> <a href="#">PUBLIC COMMENT DOCUMENT</a>	<a href="#">AGENDA LINK</a>

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>ABSENT</b> (E= Excused; U = Unexcused)
<b>COMMISSIONER NAME</b>	
Kathleen Austria, Reba Stevens, Thomas Roache, Michael Molina, Dr. Erica Holmes, Victor Manalo, Bennett Root Jr., and Lawrence Schallert	Imelda Padilla-Frausto (U), Tyler Cash (U), Jaqueline Sandoval (U), Marilyn Sanabria (U), Susan Friedman (E), Brittney Weissman (E), and Stacy Dalgleish (E)
<b>QUORUM PRESENT:</b> Yes	<b>APPROVAL:</b> YES. Motion made by Commissioner Dalgleish. Seconded by Commissioner Roche. Minutes approved on 7/10/25.
<b>ADJOURNED:</b> 1:36 PM	

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP ITEMS</b>
<b>3. PUBLIC COMMENT –</b>		
<i>Stakeholder Group Reports</i>	<b>Stakeholder groups in attendance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALT 4</li> <li>• SALT 7</li> <li>• SALT 6</li> </ul>	



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	<p><b>Stakeholder reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SALT 4</b> shared a list of events and invited the commission and public to join. They emphasized the importance of offering hot meals to the homeless and recommended job support for individuals who have recently obtained housing, as they often face difficulties covering basic expenses. See attached transcript or recording for details</li> <li>• <b>SALT 7</b> updated on previous events and shared plans for upcoming activities.</li> <li>• <b>SALT 6</b> suggested that warm meals be served at future public events.</li> </ul>	
<i>General Comments</i>	<p>Mark, Charles Wade and Dr. Esroruleh Mohammad addressed the Commission by phone, in-person, and with emailed communication. There were 4 public comments made anonymously. <b>See attached public comment document.</b></p>	
<b>4. CONSENT AGENDA</b>		
<p>a. Approval of the minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. March 13, 2025, meeting</li> <li>b. April 10, 2025, meeting</li> </ol>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Stevens expressed concern that the meeting minutes were too vague and did not reflect the contributions or involvement of Service Area Leadership Teams (SALTs) and Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC).</li> <li>• It was emphasized that participation is a requirement of the SALTs and UsCCs, as outlined in DMH Bylaws and accountability is needed.</li> <li>• Commissioner Schallert noted a scheduling conflict with SALT 2 meetings, which may impact their attendance.</li> <li>• Commissioner Stevens motioned to add a category in future minutes that documents which SALTs and UsCCs were in attendance or submitted reports.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion was approved by roll call.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future minutes to include a section identifying which SALT/UsCC groups were present or submitted reports.</li> </ul>



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b. <a href="#">DMH Constituent Follow-Up Report</a> c. <a href="#">BH Commission Budget Report</a>	Consent agenda approved. Motion made by Commissioner Manalo. Seconded by Commissioner Schallert.	
<b>5. STANDING ITEMS</b>		
a. <a href="#">DMH Director Updates – Kalene Gilbert, LSW</a>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Updates on Mental Health Month- Take Action News:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Service Area had an event in collaboration with community colleges which successfully included youth.</li> <li>• The county-wide event will take place at Gloria Molina Park on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expenditure report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an interim report, there will be a report with more details provided by the end of the year. The report reflects the year-to-date expenditure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Process for Applying for Funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Schallert asked whether all spending must go through SALTs and BHSA. Staff clarified that SALT budgets are specific, but other entities, like UsCCs also have funds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consultants and Honorariums</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honorarium spending parameters range to up to \$1,499 depending on experience.</li> <li>• Consultants are people with lived experience, hired instructors for activities such as art or maternal yoga, and people who speak about the impact of community events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Varied Spending Patterns by Service Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service areas have different expenses due to collaboration with other service areas, community needs, and collaboration with local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kalene to provide a written report on CAF for the next Regular Meeting.</li> <li>• Kalene to provide a detailed report on how each service area spent their funds.</li> </ul>



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	<p>organizations.</p> <p><b>Unclear Messages to the Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Stevens asked for clarity on how the funding can be used by the community.</li> <li>• She also pointed out the misleading messaging about food being advertised for an event on a flyer which can lead to community disappointment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Client Activity Fund (CAF) Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAF currently has 56 participants, 29 active participants and 27 active co-chairs.</li> <li>• Budget was \$102,000 and expenditures collectively have been \$55,000.</li> <li>• New community members are being invited as a result of being in collaboration with SAPC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests and Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Molina requested a categorized pie chart highlighting how each service area spent their funds.</li> <li>• Commissioner Stevens requests a detailed report on how Service Area 6 is spending their funds.</li> <li>• Commissioner Stevens requested more clarity on CAF requirements, such as who can participate and when new participants can apply.</li> <li>• Chair Molina requested a written CAF report for the next Regular Meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p>b. <a href="#">DPH-SAPC Director Updates - Value-Based Care: Treatment – Dr. Gary Tsai, SAPC Director</a></p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Value-Based Reform Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Root expressed concern regarding moving towards a value-based-model. He requested a presentation from the SAPC team to define the goals and values that are being used to guide the system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAPC team to report on defining the values and goals that are guiding the</li> </ul>



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	<p>reform.</p> <p><b>Concern for Equity and Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Austria pointed out that current systems often fail to serve diverse populations and raised concern about fee-for-service potentially incentivizing unnecessary treatment for patients.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response:</b> Fee for service is the starting point; the end goal is an outcomes-based and value-based system.</p> <p><b>Fraud Safeguards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Roche raised concern for fraud prevention. <b>Response:</b> MediCal systems have increased their safeguards to prevent fraud and the SAPC team is continuously working on updating safeguards. However, SAPC is staying mindful about the number of safeguards because they do not want to introduce barriers to access to care.</li> </ul> <p><b>DMH-BHSA and DPH-SAPC Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Stevens questioned how SAPC and BHSA are collaborating to provide well rounded treatment to individuals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Metrics for Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One key metric used for measuring success is the number of unique clients served, with a focus on increasing that number over time.</li> <li>Another metric is treatment retention, regardless of the level of care provided.</li> <li>A third metric is access to medications for addiction treatment and timely access to related services.</li> <li>These outcome-focused metrics support the restructuring of the system using evidence-based data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests and Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Stevens requested a cheat sheet of acronyms and a list of upcoming meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>systems reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAPC to distribute a list of topics for future Director Updates.</li> <li>SAPC to provide a cheat sheet of SAPC related acronyms.</li> <li>SAPC to add an ending slide explaining how the information presented pertains to the BHC.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Molina requested an additional slide after every future presentation explaining how the information the information presented pertains to the BHC.</li> </ul>	
<p>c. DMH/DPH SAPC          MHSA/BHSA Updates -          Kalene Gilbert and          Katherine Li</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Planning and Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Process Management Team (PMT), made up from leadership from the Departments of Public Health - Substance Abuse Prevention &amp; Control and Mental Health, continue to meet weekly to plan for and implement the Community Planning Process and develop the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP).</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming Community Input Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May and June, meetings will focus on needs and present various types of behavioral health data to prepare the community for focused workgroup discussions.</li> </ul> <p><b>New BHSA Program Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In April, the state released a set of program rules called modules. These can be found here: <a href="https://policy-manual.mes.dhcs.ca.gov/">https://policy-manual.mes.dhcs.ca.gov/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>DHCS Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In April, DHCS released their draft policy module outlining the development of the Integrated Plan and the template for the plan and budget.</li> <li>The template is very specific and requires a large amount of data. Because of this, there may be less flexibility for deciding which programs get included.</li> <li>However - the template puts an emphasis on disparities based on statewide behavioral health goals, which is where community voices will be needed.</li> <li>The PMT is reviewing this information to help guide the planning and</li> </ul>	



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	<p style="text-align: center;">make sure the community is involved.</p> <p><b>Pending Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance from BHOATR on what outcomes and data will need to be tracked next year.</li> <li>• Guidance from CDPH regarding state directed, population-based prevention.</li> </ul>	
<p>d. <a href="#">DMH Legislative Update – Elan Shultz, Chief of Policy &amp; Strategy</a></p>	<p><a href="#">DMH Legislative Report for the Behavioral Health Commission</a></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state is requesting data that is inaccessible by the entire county. For example, the state asked how many contracted providers have contracts with the managed care plans in the county. The county can ask but there is no legal obligation that requires them to answer.</li> <li>• The potential impact of Federal Medicaid cuts is not known yet due to the uncertainty with the new Federal Administration.</li> </ul> <p><b>AB 416 Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB 416 allows ER physicians to be added to the list of clinicians who can place someone in an involuntary hold. Currently, LA County has a pilot project where designated ER physicians are allowed to place someone on hold.</li> <li>• Commissioner Schallert expressed concern that granting this power may decrease the patient’s trust in the physicians. <b>Response:</b> The Bill allows for involuntary placements, but it is not mandated. Additionally, the pilot program is limited and there are currently no plans for expansion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests and Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Austria requested a copy of SB 367.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elan to share a copy of SB 367 with the Commission.</li> </ul>
<p>e. <a href="#">DPH-SAPC Legislative Update – Michelle Gibson,</a></p>	<p><a href="#">DPH-SAPC Legislative Report for the Behavioral Health Commission</a></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p>	



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<a href="#">SAPC Deputy Director</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AB 1037:</b> Supports modernizing SUD treatment language, harm reduction access, and Naloxone regulation.</li> <li>• <b>AB 309:</b> Allows people to obtain clean needles without a prescription to reduce the spread of diseases.</li> <li>• <b>AB 396:</b> Could make it harder for people to obtain clean needles unless they return used ones. There are concerns that this might hurt public health efforts.</li> <li>• <b>AB 255:</b> Would fund recovery residences aligned with national standards to support those who wish to recover from substance use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests and Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Stevens expressed a need for more time to be allocated to legislation education and clarity on how to advocate effectively. Commissioner Molina agreed.</li> </ul>	
<b>6. NEW BUSINESS</b>		
a. <a href="#">Presentation by Post-Traumatic Hood Disorders Program: Check the Rhyme, Jasier Franklin</a>	<p><b>Due to the loss of quorum, the commission could not proceed with the remaining agenda items. Items 6a through 8f are carried to 6/12.</b></p>	
<b>8. UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
a. Process and Selection of Three BHC At-Large-Members – Received 12 applications, no under-25 applications. Continuing to advertise.		
b. 2025 Executive Committee Officer Elections		



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c. <a href="#">CARE Court Feedback Report to BOS</a> – Submitted to DMH for inclusion in full report to BOS. CARE Court team will share a report draft.		
d. <a href="#">BHC MHSA Annual Updates FY2025-26- Recommendations Letter was submitted on 4/24 to DMH and BOS.</a>	<a href="#">LACDMH Response to BH Commission 2025</a>	
e. BHC Sponsored - DMH-BHSA and DPH-SAPC Town Hall – June 18, 2025, 5pm to 7pm, at Ramona Hall Community Center, 4580 North Figueroa St., Los Angeles, 90065		
f. BHC 2025 Retreat – September 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at DMH HQ, 510 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, 90020		