

LA County Behavioral Health Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 24th, 2025

[11:40 am PST]

>> ALEX: Good morning, Ms. Kenia Fuentes.

Good morning, Samantha. Can you hear me?

>> Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear me?

>> ALEX: I can hear you loud and clear.

>> All right. Can you let me in on the Korean line?

>> ALEX: Absolutely. Let me log in now.

>> Okay, perfect. Thank you

>> Thank you. Good morning, this is Korean interpreter. Korean interpreter is here, thank you.

>> ALEX: Thank you.

>> Thank you, Alex.

>> ALEX: You're welcome.

>> TOM: My name's Tom, and I will be assisting you on the call today. We are connected.

>> KENIA FUENTES: You sound loud and clear, Alex.

>> ALEX: Thank you.

>> KENIA FUENTES: If you give me a second, I'll give you instructions right now, AT&T.

>> TOM: Perfect. Is this Kenia?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yes, it is.

>> TOM: Hi, Kenia. It's Tom.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Hi. Yeah, I'll do the introductions and I'll do everything else we'll queue you in when we're ready to bring in the people that are listening to us through the sound on -- in the line. So if you can open the line maybe five minutes before 12, so that they can start hearing what's going on in the room?

>> ALEX: Sure, I will do that. Are you going to have a Q & A again, or no?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yeah. So I'll do the introductions; then we will do roll call and then the Chair will -- we'll go to the room first and then we'll go to those listening on the phone. During this meeting, the executive committee meeting, we have only one public comment. Once that ends anyone on the line will be just listening.

>> TOM: Just right off the bat, if I remember correctly, okay.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Right, right.

>> TOM: No introduction, no nothing. Thanks, Kenia.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yes, and I'll ask you to give

instructions how to queue up on how to be put through.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Perfect. And you'll call them up by line number.

>> That's what I thought; it was anonymous. I appreciate you. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

[12:00 pm PST]

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>> KENIA FUENTES: Keith, can you hear me?

>> KEITH: Yes, I hear you. Thank you so much, appreciate it.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Thank you. Four minutes.

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>> KENIA FUENTES: Okay, everyone. Welcome to the LA County Behavioral Health Commission meeting. This is our executive committee meeting. I will start with a visual introduction of myself. I have dark brown curly hair, brown eyes, brown skin. I am wearing a multi-colored sweater top that has

purples, blues, white, black pants, black shoes.

Welcome, all. Please make sure if you have a cellular device, a mobile device, a laptop, please make sure these are placed on silent. Please state your name before speaking. Please use the microphone so that everyone that is listening on the phone and to our livestream can actually hear and know who's speaking. Thank you. Chair?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Kenia. This is Victor Manalo, Chair of the Behavioral Health Commission. This is our executive committee meeting. So I call this meeting to order. And I would like to ask Kenia for a roll call, please.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Sure. Commissioner Dalglish?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: Here, present.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Commissioner Friedman?

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Present.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Chair Manalo?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Present.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Commissioner Stevens?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Present.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Commissioner Weissman?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Present.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Wonderful, everyone's here.

Everyone's present. All right. Public comment, item number 3, this is the opportunity for members of the public to provide any general comments. So if you are here to make a public comment, please come forward.

>> EZEKIEL: Hi, I'm Ezekiel, software cochair. We are hosting -- or we are piggybacking off of a Korean event that's happening on Saturday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m., held at 200 13 South Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. We are hoping to see around 200 young people there.

We've already been told that they have already signed up almost 100 families to visit, to stop by. So it should be pretty good. We're looking into seeing how many more events we can, you know, get involved with throughout our community.

As of right now, this is the community for the Korean -- we have a Hispanic Heritage Month coming up, so we're trying to figure out what we'll do for that.

Now, for the public comment, for my public comment, homelessness, those experiencing homelessness, there's transition phases like most of the people that we see like sleeping out on the

street.

That's the ending phase, like the people that don't care about how they look, how they smell, how they connect in front of you. That's the ending phase.

We need not only to help those people, definitely, for sure, but we need to also help the individuals that are transitioning into that phase by way of helping them with food, by way of helping them with storing their items. That way, they don't have to consistently think negatively, pushing them further into a more destructive phase in the process.

So thank you very much.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you very much for your comment, Ezekiel. Is there anyone else wishing to make a public comment here in the room at this time? Please come forward.

>> BRIAN HEYMAN: Good morning.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Morning.

>> BRIAN HEYMAN: Or afternoon now, I guess it is.

>> CHAIR MANALO: It is afternoon, yes.

>> BRIAN HEYMAN: My name is Brian Heyman. I live in the City of Downey, and this is my first

opportunity to attend the Behavioral Health Commission.

I'm very active in the active military and veteran space when it comes to mental health, trying to help our active military and veterans and their families in mental health issues, not so much in crisis, thank goodness, they're not all in crisis.

But we are facing a crisis of suicide among veterans. Some estimate the number to be 22 a day; I don't know how many it is, but one is way too many. But I want to commend this body, the full Commission especially for all the work it's doing with the Department of Veterans, the Department of Mental Health of course, and Military and Veterans Affairs in helping veterans with many things besides just mental health.

And it's taking a partnership; the VA in partnering with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Mental Health has been very successful in helping veterans get off the street.

The gentleman that spoke before me mentioned the end stage of homelessness. We have way too many veterans who are in the end stage of

homelessness, and many more of them dealing with challenging housing issues further up the street.

So whatever this body can do going forward to help with the homeless veterans and especially those struggling with suicide ideation, it would be greatly appreciated. And that's all the comments I have. Best of luck to you all, thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you very much, Brian, for coming. Yes, Commissioner?

>> This gentleman is one of the people who is on tap for becoming a Commissioner; is that correct?

>> BRIAN HEYMAN: I'm being considered, yes, ma'am.

>> Being considered, okay, thank you. Just, thank you so much. I think we can't respond directly to public comment, but I do want to -- I'm sure there are, including myself, members on this Commission including the executive committee that would love to connect with you after the meeting.

So if you're able to stick around, that would be great.

>> BRIAN HEYMAN: I would love to. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, thank you. Anyone else in the room wishing to make a public comment at this time? Yes? Thank you, Daniel.

>> RICARDO: Morning, Chair, Members of the Commission. My name is Ricardo, an LA County stakeholder. There's a correction on the minutes for the regular that I'll bring up during the next regular meeting. I just wanted to say, um, that, you know, I'm grateful for the Department of Mental Health and SAPC, the Department of Public Health for what they're doing in terms of our BHSA CCP meetings.

They are trying to engage and increase the membership. My concern is and our concern is that mental health, community health workers are not once again being ignored of their vital role in this process. So they are not being -- there's been no invitation.

I just recently just before this meeting had a conversation with a community health worker who has not received an invitation to be a CPT member. And there has been no effort to outreach to all our mental health community health workers across all eight service areas, and they need to be at the BHSA

meetings.

And if they are scheduled to work, it would be nice that they get paid to go to these meetings.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you so much, Ricardo, for your comment, appreciate it. Anyone else wishing to make a public comment at this time from in the room?

Yes, please come forward. Do we have people online as well or on the phones? All right, public comment.

>> IRENE RATLIFF: Good afternoon, this is Irene Ratliff.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Good afternoon.

>> IRENE RATLIFF: You know, I was pondering, like what am I going to say? There's just so much to say. A year ago I came and I remember wearing my happy birthday glasses. It is my birthday coming up again.

And I think that my commitment to try to explain my anger at what I'm experiencing has not been met through the department like that, honestly. And I know that some of the conversations like when I touch bases, for an example, with sexual assault, when I reached out

to the underserved cultural community, which we have here with DMH, the LGBTQ community, the Black and African USCC, it has not been -- it has not been something forthcoming at, say, in being resourceful for my cry.

Now, I kind of dabbled a little bit into the general community. And I guess the activism that I was looking for was not created, right?

And I know that I had mentioned a lot of other different things that occurred to me, not only for myself, but then yet here it is, looking at the larger picture as some of the conversations, listening in regards to the general population starting with our kids, our youth, looking at re-entry.

And then when I look at myself, an educated woman, caught up, I end up reaching out --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Excuse me, ma'am. Would you mind wrapping up your comments, please? Your time is just about up. Thank you so much.

>> IRENE RATLIFF: Yes. Regarding monetary support, it's one thing to talk about event planning, but you're just now talking about livelihood and said -- unfortunately, I thought

that there was an emergency, which it was.

And to look at now something that is homeless and to look at veterans and yet here it is, a conversation that I'm speaking of in regards to the brigade, you know. There's just so much work.

And I don't think that, here it is, one individual's cry is sufficient. However, it only requires one person to open and knock on doors. Thank you. Irene Ratliff, Street Company.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Irene. We'll make sure that we connect you and get you connected to the assistance and the help that you need. We'll make sure we do that. Thank you.

Anyone else in the room wishing to speak, public comment? No one? Okay.

>> KENIA FUENTES: AT&T, do we have anyone waiting? Can you give instructions to queue up? AT&T, can you hear me?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. Sounds like we're going to have to reconnect with the AT&T operator.

>> KENIA FUENTES: AT&T, I think someone muted you. If you can unmute yourself?

AT&T, I may need you to come back into the meeting. I see that you're muted, but I am not able

to unmute you. You have to do that yourself.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. I apologize for the technical difficulties we're having. For those of you that are on the telephone, we will try to rectify that as soon as possible and get back to you for any public comments that you might have.

>> AT&T OPERATOR: I unmuted myself. Can you hear me now?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Great, thank you so much, yeah. I think someone by mistake muted you, so thank you. Go ahead and give instructions.

>> AT&T OPERATOR: Yeah, all right, thank you. I was hearing you, um, I could hear everything. All right, ladies and gentlemen on the phone lines, if you wish to make a public comment today, please press 1 followed by zero. And AT&T will quickly give you your line number and place you back in queue. And we'll begin today with line eight. Please go ahead. Line eight, you're open.

>> DR. MOHAMMED: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Dr. Mohammed. I'm a psychologist that's currently on involuntary medical leave from LA County DMH. (Indiscernible) -- pipeline prevention (indiscernible). These frameworks

were developed over a decade of clinical assistance service and introduced to the Commission and other County bodies beginning in April of 2025.

There is fragmentation, administrative burden and failed oversight, these cycles of preventable harm, especially among (indiscernible) caregivers and disabled professionals.

Since then, County leaders have begun implementing strategy, language, infrastructure, even entire (indiscernible). These are the frameworks I submitted. (Indiscernible) in a participation. What does it say about our system when frameworks built to prevent harm are (indiscernible)?

>> CHAIR MANALO: I'm very sorry, Dr. Mohammed. But I think you need to call back in on another line because we're getting a lot of static here. And it's very difficult for us to hear your particular comment. We can read but sometimes, you know, it doesn't come out correctly the way you're speaking it.

So if you wouldn't mind -- yeah, you could also e-mail it in as well. I know you've e-mailed us before at the Commission. But you could also call

back in if you want to give your full comment through the phone. Thank you so much. Anyone else on the line?

>> AT&T OPERATOR: One followed by zero if you wish to make public comment, one followed by zero. And nobody else is queuing up at this time.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay, thank you. AT&T operator, will you know if Dr. Mohammed calls back in to give his public comment?

>> AT&T OPERATOR: Let me see if he dropped or -- yes, he -- he is still connected. So --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yeah.

>> AT&T OPERATOR: I heard the static as well.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Oh, you could hear it as well? All right.

>> AT&T OPERATOR: Yeah, I could.

>> CHAIR MANALO: All right. Well, we'll just take it from here and see if he drops off and tries to come back in. If you can identify that it's him coming back, then we'll be happy to take his public comment at that time.

>> AT&T OPERATOR: I will let you know if he re-queues up.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you so much. All right.

And so that is the public comment period. Thank you so much, everyone, that came to give public comments.

And now we move on to the consent agenda. We have three items: Approval of minutes for May 22nd, 2025; DMH Updates; and the BHC budget report. We have a first and a second, okay. Yeah?

>> Can we say who did first and second?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Absolutely, Commissioner Dalglish, and Commissioner Friedman seconds.

Okay, we have a first and second. Any discussion?

All right. Seeing none, if there are no objections, that will be the order. And the Consent Agenda has been approved.

Now we move on to new business, Item 5, the BHC Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.

>> You don't have a printout of that, yeah.

>> KENIA FUENTES: This is Kenia. That's your annual report that you, as executive committee, need to draft. And we have a rough draft that we'll send to the executive, new executive committee for consideration in finalizing details, and then it can be submitted to the board. So we'll e-mail that to the full committee.

>> CHAIR MANALO: So that's just giving us a heads up that this is coming down the pike. And when is this due? It's been due, okay.

Well, I think because we were -- we had voted for a new executive committee, it kind of got placed on the shelf until the new -- until we all came together and were voted in. So now is the time for us to act. And I have a couple of questions here from my Commissioners. Commissioner Dalglish?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: Stacy Dalglish. You said you have a rough draft. And I'm assuming that rough draft was created in conference with the previous executive committee, since it is for the fiscal year ending prior to when we were -- we took our positions; is that correct?

>> KENIA FUENTES: This is Kenia. So during the last executive committee meeting, I was asked to do a rough draft that just included the Commission information, member, just general details. And then the executive committee would give their input on gaps, anything they wanted to include on that annual report to report to the board.

So that part, that component of that report is what the executive committee needs to come up with

as to what they feel needs to be reported to the board.

So what I have, what I call a rough draft is just general information that will make up that report, nothing of the essence of the report.

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: Right, I understand. So we probably should do the first draft then in conjunction with the previous leadership, right, because it was during their year? And then we can approve or ask for additional information, Chair?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yes. I think we can have some discussion about how we want to put that report together. So Commissioner Friedman and then Commissioner Weissman.

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: I was under the impression that the letter that we're supposed to be sending to the Board of Supervisors has to do with the Behavioral Health Act. If that's not true, what happened to that letter?

>> KENIA FUENTES: So this is Kenia. So that's completely separate. That's your recommendation, a separate recommendation letter -- just your annual report where you report to the Board of Supervisors your activities, anything that you

want to highlight to the Board of Supervisors that you've done, any accomplishments, anything that you maybe intend to do the following year.

So it's just your annual reporting to the Board of Supervisors as to essentially what you've done.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Kenia. Commissioner Weissman?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Thank you. I think we should just own this and take care of it ourselves. I think it does take one of us to sit down and review last year's agendas perhaps, or even the minutes. But really, it just takes some dedicated time which the former executive committee did not devote.

And consulting them would be okay, but we really are -- half of them between Commissioner Manalo and myself. So we can move this forward.

I think if I had the time, I would do it; and if no one else will step up, I will do it. But it's really just reviewing past works. This is some place that's really just providing the content to DMH and suggesting to them what we're interested in highlighting from the past year.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Commissioner.

Please use the mic so that we can hear you.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: I just want to recommend that, you know, being that we are behind the ball a bit for -- I don't even know if we did one last year -- that perhaps we could create a template that collects information, specific information that would go into the next year's annual report.

And then that way we've -- already have, you know, gathered critical information. But I would only ask that this particular report uplifts anything that we've accomplished. And then perhaps that's a discussion that we can have as well. Thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Absolutely. Commissioner Weissman, I -- I kind of heard a veiled offer there, but I just want to make sure that none of my other commissioners would like to --

>> Commissioner Manalo, if we want we can dedicate three minutes to brainstorming all of the concepts that you'd like, to make it straightforward and simple. Commissioner Dalglish has her hand up.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yes, Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: I think that's a great idea. I mean, just in visiting other commissions around the state, they usually put something on the

agenda to go over it and things that they would like to see. And I would be fine with that. That would be a great idea. Thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: I like the idea. I'm not sure if I'm ready to do that now. I'd like to perhaps get the draft from Kenia, and then you and I can do some brainstorming and then we can bring it back to the next executive committee meeting and we can review. And then all of us can have some input on that. Is that --

>> Yeah, just send the draft out to everybody.

>> KENIA FUENTES: The item -- the item is very overdue. There hasn't been a report published for two years now. It's been due and it's on a rolling basis. As soon as we can get it together, that would be great.

>> Excuse me. Will we be including the last two years then in this report?

>> I don't think so. We can if we'd like.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Sounds good. I cannot show my face until Supervisor Hahn -- until this is done, so we're all under the fire here. Okay, thank you very much.

So we will -- Kenia will put this on the next

executive committee agenda. And Commissioner Weissman and I will go over the draft and we'll go back and forth, and you know, do some brainstorming. And then we'll bring it back. Okay?

Very good. Thank you so much. Thank you, Commissioners. Item 5(b), recording of meeting attendance minutes versus the Board of Supervisors. This is an issue, just an informational issue but obviously we want to -- we want to get some of your feedback and reactions to this because I know there -- it hasn't been clearly stated.

But I get -- and I guess what's happened is that there's been some discussion, or there's been some understanding amongst Commissioners that there are excused absences; and that Commissioners will let Kenia or Chair know ahead of time that they will not be able to make it to a Commission meeting; and are expecting to be excused from that meeting.

However, the Board of Supervisors doesn't want to know -- the only thing that the Board of Supervisors wants to know is whether you are there or you are not there. Yeah, there are no excuses.

[Laughter]

>> CHAIR MANALO: No, that's a good way of putting it, Commissioner. There are no excuses for the Board of Supervisors. So Kenia and I discussed and brought up some alternatives of how that could be done.

And one of the things that we thought was record -- that for our purposes of the Commission, we could record it. And maybe you can help me, Kenia, with a little more information here on how we, what we decided to move forward?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yeah. So historically, this discussion happened during the last regular meeting; it was brought up to my attention that this had been a practice. And so I conferred with Commission Services to see how they do their own meetings that they coordinate. And I was -- it was shared with me that obviously, as you mentioned, for the Board of Supervisors and the dashboard that's online, there's only two options.

Someone mentioned that there may have been options prior to me coming onboard. The options that we currently have is attended or absent, right. The only one that has an alternate is

Supervisor Barger. For her, we can put alternate attended.

And so what they suggested and what they shared that they do is that, on the minute-recording, we can put a notation that that the Commissioner was absent, an excused absence.

So in parenthesis we would put, you know, an E right next to it, just noting that that Commissioner had the respect for the Commission and the public that they would not -- they had something else that came up and could not attend the meeting and had acknowledged that they would be absent. That's all that means.

But the purpose of having this discussion is I would like the executive committee to give us their, um, per se, the approval that this is how they would like and accept for their attendance to be recorded in the minutes.

We don't have an option with the board. So for the minutes if this is acceptable, if this will suffice, when an absence occurs and, you know, it's noted in that sense, then it's acceptable. And it's all what this discussion is for, really.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Kenia. So in the

minutes that we have here, the May 22nd, is this what we're -- is this what you and I discussed in terms of how we might record this on our minutes?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yeah.

>> CHAIR MANALO: So Commissioners, if you look at the May 22nd executive meeting minutes in your packet, you'll see that in the second section there, it says "in attendance." And then towards the right you see absent, E, excused, and U for unexcused.

So when your name is listed, if you're in attendance, obviously you're on the left side under "in attendance." and on the right side if you're not here, you will have either an E or a U next to your name.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: But what difference does it make?

>> CHAIR MANALO: I don't know. It was brought up by previous Commissioners that this was something that they felt needed to be -- they needed to be recognized for being excused or having an excuse for an absence.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: So if you don't mind?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Not at all.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: I'm more interested in who's attending and where, you know --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Right. Well, that doesn't change with this.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: No, I get it. I get it. But the bottom line is I would hope that our focus would be more on those who aren't regularly attending, and understanding why, even if it's not something that's public, why they're not attending. And how do we -- how do we have them removed if, by chance, they're unable to participate?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Absolutely.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: So I don't care about this.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay, that's fine. And I'm glad you don't. But I'm also glad that you're thinking about how do we get to the underlying answers of the questions of participation because we've been talking about that a lot.

And so I think certainly in our retreat, hopefully that will be something that we'll be talking about.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: One last thing.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yes?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: More about how many times do we have to attend? So I know that the Commission by law has to happen or meet nine times out of the 12-month period. So then what is, you know, how many absences can a Commissioner have?

>> CHAIR MANALO: I think we already know that, right, Kenia?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Your bylaw states three absences per calendar year.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Three absences per calendar year. Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Friedman?

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: I think we should decide right now about people who decide to go virtual, because first of all, with the state, you cannot do that. That is unacceptable, which is kind of amazing, considering the cost of the state; it costs the state a lot more money to go to meetings than to have you do it from your house on a computer.

And I think we should decide that right now. Unless somebody has COVID or something like that, because it would be dangerous to come to the meeting, but if they feel, oh, I think I'll just

go online and do it --

>> KENIA FUENTES: The Brown Act does not allow for anyone to just attend virtually. If a Commissioner attends that way, they would be attending as members of the public and acknowledged as such. They would not be attending in their capacity as Commissioners.

>> CHAIR MANALO: And they would be absent for that meeting. Yes, thank you.

>> They have to have COVID, or they have to --

>> KENIA FUENTES: They have to have just cause or an emergency. In that printout that I gave you, that's all defined as to what that means. It's the law, so --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you for the question, Commissioner. Yes, Commissioner Dalglish?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: First of all, I want to thank you for putting this together because I was the person who was upset about the way I was designated. And also, including the reasons that are acceptable; I appreciate that too.

I guess the definition of just cause, to be clear, there's a difference. And I'm not giving a suggestion on this -- I'm just asking that you

consider it -- there's a difference between the time needed to alert the Commission on the absence versus the attending virtually.

So you might think about, if that's intentional or if you want to make those match.

Another point is that you mentioned under circumstances which is remote attendance circumstances, 3(a), just cause, a general description. And I appreciated you saying that.

And a general description, if you have any, you know, anything to add about that, I like the issue of it can only be 20 words, something like that.

>> KENIA FUENTES: So this is Kenia; I don't mean to interrupt. That's not me putting that together; that's from the Brown Act. So that's coming from that Brown Act directly. It's not something that I drafted. It's just a copy from the Brown Act as to what they define as --

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: Circumstances and just cause, right, I understood that. I'm just saying in terms of the two, right. So, and then you mentioned as soon as possible on one, and the other is at the earliest opportunity. And so if you could be -- give more clarity on if there is

a difference between those two, or if they are the same?

>> KENIA FUENTES: So for the just cause, you -- it's likely that you have the opportunity to let the Chair know because it could be childcare; it could be different reasons. For an emergency, you may not, right. That emergency could have happened an hour before the meeting. So you would be maybe making a phone call to the Chair Manalo, saying, I can't be there. I have an emergency.

>> Right.

>> KENIA FUENTES: That's where the definition of the time is; they're different.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Commissioner, I'm sorry to interrupt, but I think you can take some time to connect with Kenia after the meeting to get some details on that, if that's okay, so that we can move forward with our agenda. I appreciate it. Thank you so much. Is there a motion?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: I motion to approve the E and U.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay.

[Laughter]

>> CHAIR MANALO: So that would be the recording

of meeting attendance minutes versus -- minutes that we just talked about that we were going to approve, that we were going to identify unexcused and excused just for our minutes. All right. And there's a second from Commissioner Weissman. Any further discussion on this item?

Okay. Any objections? Okay. Without objections, then so ordered.

Next item, one of the two directives from Supervisor Hahn's improving CARE Court LA motion. And that has to do with the one direction -- one direction -- I saw them at the Rose Bowl. I know you were.

Yeah, I didn't go of my choice; I just want to let everybody know. I did not go of my choice. It's my, my kids couldn't go so I didn't want to give up the ticket. So I think I was the only male there. that wasn't so bad actually. No, I'm just kidding, sorry. Please don't put that in. I know, I know, strike that from the minutes.

Okay. Kenia, please save me; can you fill us in here on the CARE Court motion from Supervisor Hahn?

>> KENIA FUENTES: I'm going to let Crystal --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Crystal. Come out from behind the curtain.

>> CRYSTAL: Okay. So at the beginning of this month, the board approved a motion by Supervisors Hahn and Barger with directives towards the DMH to improve CARE Court in Los Angeles County.

And these directives were based on the feedback that was received during the town hall that the Commission (indiscernible) a while back. So there's a directive that's for DMH to work with all of the relative folks including the court and the attorneys and what have you to try to improve some of the issues that came forward, were brought forward by the public and the stakeholders.

But there's also two directives that involve the Behavioral Health Commission directly. And that one for DMH in partnership with the Commission to host another stakeholder forum meeting in six months. So that will place it in January, and then a year later thereafter.

And then we also are to give an update to the Behavioral Health Commission in your October full commission meeting.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay, thank you, Crystal. Yes,

Commissioner Stevens?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Does the forum have to be held in SD4 or SD5?

>> No, no. It's a town hall, so it can be --

>> CHAIR MANALO: It would be similar to the one we did before that was here that was hybrid, that former Chair Molina -- yeah, it was performed here at headquarters and also virtually.

Yeah. So it would be similar. We could do something like that as well. So we're looking at January?

>> CRYSTAL: Correct, yes.

>> CHAIR MANALO: So if any of my colleagues of that would be willing to commit to being here, because it depends on the date we choose because my daughter's getting married at the end of January. So I can't promise, depending on the date, that I could be here; although otherwise I would. Okay?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Just poll us.

>> I think that's a good idea. Location, time and date are important.

>> KENIA FUENTES: This is Kenia. So would you like me to just poll the executive committee, or do you want me to send this out to the full

Commission?

I believe it's -- it's the executive committee decision -- you know, the directive is just six months, but you get to decide what date that would be. So just the five of you?

>> CHAIR MANALO: What's the pleasure of the Committee?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: I would say try to get five.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay, all right. Then you poll us, the executive committee. And then if we have -- whoever's able to commit, we can start working on the date, which I know is the most important thing is getting the date.

So we need to have -- it will be great to have two, don't you think, Commissioners, at least two?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Yeah. I'd say we had the last one here on a Friday afternoon, and it was a nice, beautiful afternoon. And people still showed up, which was really a testament to their need to speak.

>> CHAIR MANALO: I meant two Commissioners; that's what I was talking about.

>> Oh, excuse me, minimum. Yes, that's great.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yeah, minimum. Great, so two out of five.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: I nominate you and Brittany.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Well, let's poll everyone and see what we can do. But thank you for nominating us, appreciate it, Commissioner. I know why you're on the executive committee. All right.

>> COMMISSIONER --: I can just tell you, coming from the west side on a Friday, that was not happening. Thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. Well, we're going to figure that out once we get the people together and we get a date, so not at all. All right. So is that everything you need on that, Crystal and Kenia?

Thank you. All right. Item 5(d,) which is discussing AOT and how the Commission will continue to be involved. And Kenia, can you give us a little background here so --

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yeah. This is Kenia. So AOT just needs to know if the Commission has the intention to continue to be involved as, you know, prior, the Commission has chaired these meetings.

They need to know if this will continue.

That was for Phase 1 of AOT, but that has changed. The direction and purpose of this group has changed, and that phase has concluded.

So is the Commission -- Kathleen Austria, who was chairing those meetings, had intended to retreat from it and no longer have the Commission chair those meetings and just require or request from this group to report to the Commission quarterly on, you know, status, update, whatever is going on with it, but no longer be at the forefront of it.

So it's the decision that needs to be made, which way -- what role the Commission's wanting to take with that, either continue to chair it or just take a step back, let the group do its thing and report back to the Commission on a quarterly basis, on a monthly basis.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Kenia. Yes, Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER --: I just need clarity on what our responsibility is according to anybody. Thank you very much. Commissioner Weissman?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: I think we're at a point

where we're reconsidering our responsibility. So it started here, and it was chaired by a Commissioner for the first several years of its kind of implementation at the County. And I was a part of that. And then when I was done, handed it to Harold Turner who took it for a couple of years perhaps, and he handed it to Kathleen Austria.

So it's been through iterations of chairing and department evolution. And that's what Kathleen has brought to us; now we get to decide. I think there's a write-up from Kathleen on where the program stands.

At our last full Commission meeting, Lindsey Boyd and another person were here at the very tail end of the meeting. But it's up to us.

>> So there's no statute requirement?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Absolutely not, no.

>> CHAIR MANALO: And Commissioner, since you've been involved with this for a while, what would you recommend? Do you think that we can continue to get quarterly reports from the AOT and just --

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: They are inconsistent about requesting reports. So for instance, if you consider our requests on adult residential

facilities and the board and care crisis, that was a standing item on the agenda for a while, and then we just let it taper off.

So that's a lighter touch which is an option for us. Chairing the subcommittee is much more of a heavier responsibility like the AOT, but carried a lot more consistency and weight to it. Really depends on which way we're interested in.

If the department is willing to staff it and continue the regular meetings on that cadence and simply receive the reports back, that sounds ideal. I just don't know the level of availability for them to do that.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. Any other comments or questions from Commissioners?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: So I'm assuming that the overriding group on this is this department versus public health or -- right, okay, thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: And Kenia, can you kind of address Commissioner Weissman's question about the ability of the department to continue to be involved with those meetings?

>> KENIA FUENTES: I would have to get an answer for that question and get their response. And then

maybe that's when a decision is made, whether, if that is the case that the department can continue to hold its own. And then, you know, maybe that quarterly report will suffice.

Or if there's a need to have the support from the Commission to continue to hold those meetings together, then I can get that response for you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Can we table this to October?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Thank you. That was going to be my suggestion, until you come back with some information for us. And I think this relates to the question you brought up, Commissioner, about participation from the Commission. I mean, you know, if no one's going to be willing to, you know, take a more regular part in helping to chair that Commission, then, you know, the point is moot.

So is there a second on that motion to table it?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: I'm happy to second. This is Commissioner Dalglish.

>> CHAIR MANALO: -- is Commissioner Stevens and second is Commissioner Dalglish. Any objections? Seeing none, so ordered.

Item (e), 5(e), discuss and review selection

of applications received from members at large.
Those have three positions, correct, Kenia?

And we have resumes as well as charts, tables of everybody that has applied and their resumes included. And we just got a resume today from someone who is from the 25 and under, which is great. We just got it, yeah, that one. We just got it, yeah, that one, yeah.

No, no, no, no saying of names at this point. Okay. So the question is to the Commission, how would you like to -- how do you suggest we move forward? Because we have to review these. We have to -- I'm sure you would like to because I would like to interview them, not all of them, but finalists, and then make recommendations to the full Commission to seat these hopefully three new members of the Commission.

So any suggestions? Yes, Commissioner Friedman and then Commissioner Dalglish.

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: I was under the impression that members of the Commission are chosen by the supervisors, not by us.

>> CHAIR MANALO: No, no. These are the three additional positions that came out as a result of

the BHSA, right. So they require three additional positions.

>> KENIA FUENTES: This is Kenia. So these are three members at large that the Board of Supervisors has directed the Commission to select and then appoint and then send back to the Board of Supervisors to be ratified. So they are different than the regular appointments for regular Commissioners, which the board does themselves.

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Does it matter? I mean, do we take into consideration dividing it between different supervisorial districts or --

>> KENIA FUENTES: No, you have categories. So your only requirement is that you sit someone from an education sector, someone that represents veterans or veterans advocates, and someone who is under 25 years of age, so that they represent that youth sector.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you for the question; that is, they are at large and therefore can represent any district. Thank you. Commissioner Dalglish?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: Thank you so much for

putting this together. It's a lot. I'm interested in knowing, especially since you mentioned that Eric -- that one person is 25 and under -- I'd like to know how old they are because I'd like to be considering if it's possible someone who is less than, you know, 24, 11 months, 31 days for this position since the intent is, right, to keep somebody who's young on the Commission.

And that brings me to the other issue of knowing -- because we really need to have a chart of who is represented by -- on our Commission. And also including the requirement -- and since there's now I think a new additional one that we're supposed to be considering, that would be including things like, you know, gender; education obviously is one of them from a local agency; a veteran or a veteran advocate obviously; but it also includes the others that are included in our USCCs mostly.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you, Commissioner. Yes, thank you. I agree with you, and that's a larger -- that's a different question than what we're considering here. And I would certainly love to have that discussion. I think it's necessary.

But the question here is how are we going to process these applications? Because Melissa, I know Melissa did a lot of work in putting this all together.

>> KENIA FUENTES: This is Kenia. So, but for this selection though, you have to remember that the directive is three members at large that have to fit into those three sectors. Your question with the age, my recommendation is you interview this one and only candidate that you have for that sector. So you know, that conversation can happen in private. That's just --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Well, okay. Okay.

Commissioner --

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: That's fine. I'm happy to take on anybody who is from the Supervisorial District of Lindsay Horvath, which would be District 3.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Commissioner Weissman?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Please come back to me.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. Commissioner Stevens? You made a side comment. I thought you should make that --

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Well, I just recommend

that, you know, we have the information. It's the information that needs to be reviewed. We could schedule a date to have a, the discussion around our -- or start having interviews, rather.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Would that be the executive committee as a whole, or are you suggesting an ad hoc sort of subcommittee or --

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Well, I would suggest an ad hoc. And I would also suggest that we -- I don't know if it's really a good idea to interview people that are from the district that you're representing. I don't know what that looks like. But I think --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Yes, Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Yes, thank you. Sorry for the delay here. So we have received quite a few applications from various members of the public over the past many months, and the seats are available today. So it's in our best interests to get them filled ASAP.

So I do have some recommendations. All of the applications are kind of bucketed into one folder under each content area. And then we all have access to all of the applications, one for

(indiscernible) and everybody else will have many more.

If we could review them on our own time? And then come back at the next executive committee and then move forward as maybe the top two as candidates for interviewing. And then elect or appoint just one or two of us to interview those candidates; and the results of those would be the recommendations of the executive committee to the full Commission?

>> Good idea.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay, all right. So Kenia, you had something?

>> KENIA FUENTES: Yeah, so this is Kenia. So the packets are clipped together per sector.

>> CHAIR MANALO: So we have them here physically. You were talking about electronically?

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: Electronically, yeah.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Commissioner Stevens?

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: Yeah, I just want to make sure that we're sure that when that window closes, that one can apply or --

>> CHAIR MANALO: It's already closed. But if you come across somebody that wants to, as we're going through this process -- because once we're done,

once we make the appointment, that's it. But in the meantime if you know somebody, especially someone that's youth because we only have one at this point, that would be great because I've had a difficult time accept -- you know, giving students money on campus, which I haven't resorted to that yet.

Not yet, but I'm about ready to, but somebody showed up so that's good. Commissioner Weissman? There is a motion from Commissioner Weissman and second from Commissioner Stevens. Any further discussion?

Commissioner Dalglish?

>> COMMISSIONER DALGLEISH: I think that's an excellent idea; thank you very much. And I do want to mention that in terms of applying for the Commission, that's always open for people to be applying. So there's not a cut-off date for that, thank you.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Right, yes, but for the at large, it's already closed. But I was going to suggest -- and I can't believe I'm suggesting this -- but should we have some type of criteria for us to rate people when we're reading through

their resumes?

Because, you know, we could all have five different ways of looking at, at different -- yeah.

>> COMMISSIONER WEISSMAN: That's a great question. I think because there is our first go at it, maybe without a rubric is absolutely -- actually best and maybe our conversation after we've all reviewed everyone maybe will help us at creating a rubric. We may have to take another stab at reviewing it against the rubric.

>> COMMISSIONER STEVENS: I agree because I would want to know that rubric. I would only suggest that we are reminded of what we're looking for, like a veteran, a youth, you know, that would help; and that way, highlight that.

>> KENIA FUENTES: Education, veteran, youth, that's the requirement that you have to fill.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Okay. So I'll say that, yes, we should -- we'll move forward with the -- we do have a motion on the table. So any further discussion on the motion to just read them through ourselves and then come back to the next executive committee meeting with our recommendations? And I'm also

open to having some discussion about a rubric and what's important and criteria, if it comes up as we're reading through.

Okay. Any objections to that motion? Okay. Hearing none, no objections, so ordered. Item (f,) discuss the 2025 annual retreat planning activities. And we are already planning with our consultants, who happen to be the same consultants we used last year.

And Kenia, can you give us just a kind of an overview of what we're planning to do over the next month?

>> KENIA FUENTES: So the consultant has been hired. It will be the same consultant that you had last year. Currently, the initial setup is for the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairs to meet with the consultant and have discussions as to what activities, what, how you want this retreat to be planned and coordinated, what content you would like to discuss; and then establish that agenda.

So that is structured the way that it's, the way that the executive committee would like to see it, what activities specifically for what you want to accomplish for that day.

>> CHAIR MANALO: Thank you. And we are going to be meeting the two, my two Vice-Presidents -- Vice-Chairs -- I'm not president, maybe they are Vice-Presidents; I don't know. They're pushing me around up here, I don't know.

[Laughter]

>> CHAIR MANALO: But my two Vice-Chairs will be included in planning specifically with the consultants as well, but two of us at a time. So yes, it will be online. Yes, it will be online. Okay, okay. Well, no. This is a separate meeting that we're having just with that.

But all the Commissioners, there is an e-mail that I'm ready to send out fairly soon. I have the email in my in-box. I'm ready to send it out to all the Commissioners, including the executive committee, to get their feedback from the consultants on specific questions that they have asked us to help them prepare for the retreat.

We already have the date; everything's all set. Any other -- yeah, so that's just an update. Yes, Commissioner?

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: I may be in the minority

saying this. And if we have these people there, that's fine. But first of all, I would also like to include Brittany and myself in talking to them because I, as the oldest member on this Commission, am very dissatisfied with what happened at last year's retreat. I think it was useless.

And I think if we're going to have a retreat that results in some meaningful direction for this Commission, that we have to be able to tell whoever is leading this exactly what we want. And I think exactly what we want is to let every Commissioner have a say, but every Commissioner should come to that meeting with an idea of something that they would like to accomplish.

Maybe it's something that they have to do as a Commissioner, the meetings they have to go, places they have to go, people they have to see, whatever it is, so that we accomplish something.

I'm curious what we're going to put down to the Board of Supervisors that we have accomplished in the last two years. The last thing that I think we accomplished with the Board and Care thing, which was done years ago by Carolyn Kelly when she was the Chair of the Commission --

>> CHAIR MANALO: Commissioner, thank you. I appreciate your frustration. You've shared it with me many times over the last couple of years. So I do appreciate it. And you are going to have the opportunity to give your feedback to the consultants.

My question to you is what's the best way for you to communicate with them? Because I'm going to send out an e-mail with a bunch of questions. And if the questions are not answered in that e-mail, is there a better way -- because I'm sure they would love to hear your input.

I shouldn't be speaking for them, but I'm sure as consultants they would be happy to hear your concerns.

>> COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN : But what is their role as consultants, and what is their job formally in life?

>> CHAIR MANALO: Well, they are consultants; that is their job.

[1:00 pm PST]