



PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION
December 11, 2025
Behavioral Health Commission Meeting

Commission Members		
District 1 – Supervisor Hilda L. Solis Susan Friedman Imelda Padilla-Frausto Bennett W. Root, Jr.	District 2 – Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell Kathleen Austria Erica Holmes Reba Stevens	District 3 - Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath Stacy Dagleish Thomas Roache Vacant
District 4 – Supervisor - Janice Hahn Victor Manalo Deena Duncan Andrew Roble	District 5 – Supervisor Kathryn Barger Lawrence Schallert Brittney Weissman Yun Hee Anna Lee	Members-At-Large Guadalupe Orozco Alex Tsobanoudis
L.A. County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Kathryn Barger		

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<p>The following individuals addressed the Commission either in person or by phone during this meeting.</p> <p>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.</p>				
	Maria Elena	In Person	Stakeholder Report/UsCC	Summarize your groups, accomplishments and successes you would like to share with BHC for the fiscal years 20252026. Claudia (Spanish Interpreter) 11 minutes 36 seconds The USCC subcommittees are scheduled to implement a total of 26, one time funded community defined capacity building projects. This project specifically target underserved cultural communities, including individuals with visible and invisible disabilities. Such as the deaf and hard of hearing community, black and African heritage populations. American Indian Alaska Native Communities, Asian Pacific

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				<p>Islanders, Eastern European and Middle Eastern groups, Latinos and LGBTQ individuals as of this month, we are pleased to report that 24 out of the 26 projects have been awarded. Additionally, we have engaged with the vendors to initiate. The implementation phase.</p> <p>Beginning in January 2026, we will provide the Commission with further information regarding this projects and their efforts to positively impact marginized communities. The USCC subcommittees seek to be actively involved in decisions initiatives that impact the well-being of our underserved populations in LA County, the BEHAV.</p> <p>Health Commission can support us by addressing systemic inequalities, providing intervention when assistant and developing constructive solutions to disrupt cycles of economic and social stagnation.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a need for increased access to professional development and training opportunities that include community health workers and paraprofessionals with pathways to certification, the underrepresented and underserved communities within LA County continue to face difficulties in having their voices heard and receiving adequate support.</p> <p>When seeking assistance for financial hardships and other mental health barriers that impact our communities, significant gaps exist in culturally competent and trauma informed care among mental health providers. Underscoring the necessity for increased accountability in addressing systemic inequities.</p>

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				We advocate for enhanced responsiveness to community concerns and the implementation of proactive measures. To ensure that all marginalized groups are heard, valued and respected. Thank you.
Public Comment	Yvonne Sandoval	In Person	Stakeholder Report/SALT7 co-chair	<p>Good morning, everyone.</p> <p>To those who are here in person and those online, it is the Christmas season, so I want to extend my warmest wishes for happy holidays. May whatever you are working on continue to be fulfilled.</p> <p>I have 2 minutes and 33 seconds, so I will begin.</p> <p>My name is Yvonne Sandoval—from SALT 7. To say my name correctly, it is pronounced Ee-von San-doh-val. I am wearing a plaid sweater with black/gray pants.</p> <p>We continue to have a robust calendar of events, which will be further discussed by my co-chair, Sydney Tabazon.</p> <p>We also participated in the recent CPT meeting for co-chairs, where we gathered information about what is being planned for the coming year. I was able to attend and chose to sit in on the Department of Mental Health, Child and Youth presentation. The TE Department has just been launched; I had not been part of that previously, so it was helpful to listen in.</p> <p>An important point they shared is that they are currently looking for a Community Health Worker. From what I understand, related classes may now be available at local junior colleges.</p> <p>Before my time is up, I want to provide two contact numbers: Mary Barrett Barasa – 213-276-5574 Ms. E. Reynoso – 213-507-</p>

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				<p>2214 Lastly, I want to share a brief personal experience. During this busy time of year, it's easy to overlook small moments where we can help others. I was leaving another event when a young man asked me for directions to Covina High School. I apologized because I didn't know exactly where it was. As I continued driving, I realized he may not have had a working phone, he only had a backpack. As I drove home, I noticed the high school on my route. I told myself I needed to go find him. I prayed, turned around, and rerouted myself, heading north—the opposite direction—to try to help him. It reminded me that it's always OK to pause and see if someone needs a helping hand. That is what I wanted to share.</p>
Public Comment	Sydney	In Person	Stakeholder Report/SALT7 co-chair	<p>Good morning, everyone. My name is Sydney, and I am with Area 7 Area Service. This past weekend, on December 6, we were at Los Tacos for from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It went very well, and we had a great outcome overall. I would also like to announce that on December 16, we will be hosting A Celebration Around the World at Southgate Park from 12:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. The event will be held in the back area of Southgate Park, which is a very nice space. Additionally, tomorrow, December 12, we will be having our SALT 7 meeting at the Department of Public Health – Whittier Wellness, located at 643 Painter Avenue. The meeting will begin at 11:50 a.m. Before I close, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. I would also like to remind everyone about 988, which is an</p>

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				important resource. If you need someone to talk to, need to vent, or are experiencing a difficult situation, please call 988 for support. Thank you very much.
Public Comment	Ricardo Kim	In Person	General	Good morning, Chair Alo, and members of the Mental Health Commission and Behavioral Health Commission. My name is Ricardo Kim, and I am a Los Angeles County stakeholder. I would like to welcome Commissioner Orozco and Commissioner Tsobanoudis to the Commission. I have several items to share, and I will keep this brief, especially following the USCC who just spoke. I truly appreciate their participation; however, the information provided felt somewhat generalized. What we would like to see moving forward are specific events and opportunities—such as podcasts, theatrical productions, campaigns, and other initiatives—that the USCCs are involved in so stakeholders can actively participate. There are movie screenings, films, books being written, comedy shows, spoken word events, and other creative efforts taking place. We would appreciate hearing about these opportunities, and I hope this level of detail can be shared in future meetings. Please continue attending the meetings. It is my understanding that the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) will be holding a two-day conference on March 17–18 at the Downtown InterContinental Hotel. The conference is titled “2026 Multicultural Mental Health Conference: Healing in the Land of Diversity—A Multicultural Approach to Mental Health.” I have several questions regarding this conference: Is this conference still

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				<p>scheduled to take place?</p> <p>Can DMH provide a panel that includes state representatives from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), particularly those involved in developing BHSA policies and mandates, to allow for a robust discussion and Q&A with stakeholders and service providers? Will the panel include topics such as early intervention and prevention, child and youth day programs, substance use disorder (SUD) continuum of care services, and housing? How will DMH conduct meaningful outreach to engage stakeholders and service providers and maximize attendance? How will DMH be held accountable for ensuring access and participation? How will DMH accommodate members of the public, including unhoused individuals, who may want to attend but do not have the means or ability to RSVP online? How many spaces will be reserved for these individuals? Lastly, regarding the CAF orientation in December, if it is scheduled for December 16, will it be held in person or online? What time will it take place, how can participants access the orientation, and how will DMH accommodate individuals who do not have access to online platforms? Thank you very much, Commissioners.</p>
Public Comment	Pastor Joshua Nah	By Phone	Stakeholder Report/SALT 4 co-chair	<p>We had our SALT 4 meeting on November 25th last month. It was the last meeting of our year and we had that meeting in person with different activities such as painting. So at this moment I would like to share my gratitude and also a heartbreaking incident that occurred in my SALT4 area within the last year.</p>

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				<p>The one thing I have been very thankful on a personal level is that I had BHSA CPT in conjunction with SAPC I was able to gain information and knowledge in SUD so im happy about that.</p> <p>In my SALT4 area I would like to share a heartbreaking incident that took place. A friend of a church member in the SALT 4 area committed suicide last year.</p> <p>I actually encountered this brother at church too. He even played my guitar during worship period. I had two encounters with him. I am just so pained and heartbroken that as a community we could not save him. So my goal and the members of the SALT 4, next year we want to guarantee connection to great services from DMH and SAPC.</p> <p>So all the co Charis and all SALT4 area our goal ultimately is that not even 1 individual will go un-accounted for because of the systemic problems with DMH and SAPC.</p> <p>So, in SALT 4 we stakeholders are pained to see things going on there and people suffering. A lot of people are in desperate need of help. So, we are hoping to provide that access to help and resources and services next year.</p> <p>Lastly, I would like to make a recommendation to this commission that if you could come to our CPT meetings and see how hard our co-chairs are working with tremendous passion and if you can hear us out on our input. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment	Jim The Hat	In Person	General	Good morning Commissioners, You would provide that Commissioner, support of being able to deal with some of the

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				<p>issues. From the different bills, now we're going to talk about. Us being able to see what some of the snags are and one of the things we learned at JW to imitate people who are successful like Christ, like David, or if we could imitate Elon Musk. Mental ability in dealing with some of these. See what the states are. So you take them out? That's what his mentality is, in a nutshell. On the 1st report, there's a snag on the test ship expansion. Expanding fence. No, an excellent test strips requires state and local adoption, not just federal authorization. Some regions may resist or lack capacity, creating an uneven ability across communities.</p> <p>As we saw, the areas with the highest overdose may still receive the least support. Now I haven't read through all the state, but I have a friend here who has and then the background of this the friend also in AB1205 says that this has a little snag.</p> <p>It only makes technical edits that does not strengthen or expand AOT services. The core problems in treatment, assessment and enforcement remains unchanged, so we see some of these. These need to be addressed. So when we put our effort, we would get a return on investment for my efforts.</p> <p>Like SB35 and SB329, these bills imposed strict investigation timelines on DHCS while adding staff or resources. This will overload the department, create stress, and create burnout for our workers, create delays and other critical oversight work. So now we see how this works as I'm asking to be our Commissioner, support analysis to be able to help y'all appreciate,</p>

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				to be able to remove these things. And you know. The services. Their proceeds would go to my favorite charity, JWORG, and be over to give you the support. It's necessary for us to get the snacks out, help more people. Thank you, Sir.
Public Comment	Tristen	By Phone	General	Yeah. So my name is Tristan and I'm part of hanged brain person with live experience with schizophrenia. I've been institutionalized and into the whole system. I just want to emphasize the importance of the peer perspective and I want to get the Commission to really think about what can we do to further the pure perspective, the pure voice and everything we do and also how can we include. Small pure run community based organizations. In our mental health plans and give them a meaningful role in a way to make revenue and promote all of your perspective. Aside from that, I really appreciate the space and the importance of having peer perspectives is very vital. That's that's my whole comment. Thank you.
Public Comment	Mark Karmatz	By Phone	General	There's a couple of answers to that and I just got some stuff from the. Be careful that they're gonna have a confluence on here. Here when programs. In January. On January 20. 6 and that's gonna be on. January 23rd. That's gonna be from 9:00 AM to 4:00.

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				<p>It's gonna be in Sacramento and Cowboys is gonna. Be going to be making some presentations and there's also. There's a woodchuck called navigating pathways, and in and out of College Hospital. The hospital there has been, according to the Wrights, California has abusing their consumers and putting them in constraints and stuff like that. So we needed the proactive in opposing that sort of stuff. They have been some things to include, but. According to two security guards, California not enough. So we need to we need to be there and be active and to be interclose what they're doing. So if patients right can weigh in on this and Health Commission can weigh on this. We'd like that would be beneficial for the consumers there. So it's. There was. There was everything. Several consumers who were impaired because of what was happening to them and not only that. January 8th is gonna there's gonna be a. Oh, it's gonna be. A. Get a webinar 2 webinars with regards to Cottage hospital and I don't have the Information on how they did, but I do have some of the stuff that they did that they announced. I was able to get some of that.</p>
Public Comment	Angel Mercado	By Phone	General	<p>Hi my name is Angel Mercado and I'm with painted brain a pure run organization here in LA and just like in terms of public comment, I was thinking about one. Thank you for your time and everything that you do. And then two, as as being a pure trainer, part of the 80 hour pre support specialist training, you know they get folks like trained and certified and being peer support specialist. I just want to. Pure involvement on multiple levels.</p>

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				<p>Well, I really appreciate this board and I've attended a couple meetings in the past and I've heard how you've mentioned adding in Members specifically that come from your experience and I think that's such a powerful choice.</p> <p>I just really appreciate you know, those board members that have been added in and to go along with that.</p> <p>I know that like as a trainer, I think about my students and. As they complete our peer support specialist training for them to continue to have. Work opportunities to be able to not only give back to their communities, but also to stay within recovery. The opportunity to be employed to self sustain oneself and make such a difference in folk lives. I know it's made the world of a difference in my own life navigating my own recovery, navigating my mental health when I feel my employment is in danger, it becomes. Incredibly. Not only scary, but it it my my symptoms start to come. And I just. I would like to continue to advocate for continuous peer involvement and hopefully more peer job opportunities. Workforce development for peers. Not once again. Not only giving back to the community, but also the amazing work that that does and how beneficial it is to that individual's mental health and or substance use recovery. And thank you for your time.</p>
Public Comment	Bernice Masters	By Phone	Stakeholder Report/CCC	<p>Hello, it's Bernice Masters. I'm with the culture competency committee and I just wanted to give a brief update and invitation. We had our what we call a retreat meeting yesterday, which is kind of where we look back at all that we did in the last year. So Doctor Sandra Chang reviewed our basically an annual report.</p>

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				<p>And it's always wonderful looking back at all that was accomplished and we began to talk about our work plan goals for next year and did some special acknowledgements, gave out certificates of attendance. There was about almost 30 given, which is actually great. The invitation I want to extend as we move into the new year is to to chairman. Welcome, by the way.</p> <p>I'm looking forward to getting to know you and the other Commissioners as well. I just joined as Co chair a couple months ago, again at the CCC and we I heard that you were visiting all the usccs and salts and I wanted to extend a personal invitation to invite you to the CCC. We're a little different in that we're very broad in our populations and cultural groups. We're not just specifically for a certain group and our.</p> <p>Basically, it's a state that requires that culture competency be part of every area of the department. And so we want to ensure that that's happening. So you're coming to introduce yourselves and maybe share some issues or other Members could share issues and just open lines of communication with our participants would be wonderful. So that's something we can plan for 2026. I would love that. So that is my sharing for today. Thank you for letting me share and talk and again welcome to your position and to all the new Commissioners as well. I'm learning a lot. I'm catching up as well with everything going in the Park Department. Thank you.</p>
Public Comment/Agenda Based	Jim The Hat	In Person	General/ Agenda Item: SAPC Report	Yeah, let me help you understand what I was talking about and being able to see these snags. I just wanted to say there are snags, but being able to have the solution. Now to spot these solutions it

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				<p>would take.\$2000 on each snag for a person a month.But be able to help one of my workers pinpoint which counties and provider struggling most who.Improve target and two weak points. That's in the assisted outpatient treatment.That's one.How about my work? Could be able to tell exactly where to allocate MHS funds support, ACT workforce grants and medical expansion.</p> <p>Get another worker to recommend when you trigger early outreach people outreach to prevent clinical decline.</p> <p>That would take another 2000 months. Also to help prevent hospitalization or police encounters before they happen.</p> <p>Take somebody special to be able to do that.</p> <p>And be able to give the measurable performance of each of these.</p> <p>Now this is five out persons, \$2000 a month.</p> <p>With this \$10,000.Discounted to \$500 a month with my worker.</p> <p>Be able to provide all of this on a child basis instead of \$10,500 a month. That's like a no brainer.</p> <p>It's not right, Doctor.</p> <p>Bond no brainer and that's what Monarch Commissioner consulted involves.How do you like that offer?</p> <p>Sound good?</p> <p>Bad, yes..</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p>
Public Comment/Agenda Based	Joshua Nah	In Person	General/Agenda Item: SAPC report	So looking at the SAPC image report, I have something relevant to that and I wanted to speak up something on that. This is an actual case a child went for treatment and what they prescribed for him is

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				<p>marijuana, and ultimately this opened the gateway to the world of addiction. And he got addicted to drugs, ultimately. For me, this was actually a first time hearing about such a case, but I'm sure that these kind of cases are out there in many. I recall about 10 years ago, DMH. Was consolidating medical prescription and was involved in prescribing these kind of things. So I'm thinking that SAPC. Need to take more active participation in supervising Marijuana being prescribed for treatment and I think we need to take into budget related to that into consideration.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Public Comment/Agenda Based			General/ Agenda Item: SAPC Report	<p>Hello, this is Tristan from painted brain</p> <p>I just wanted to make a comment about the idea of drawing down funds from the federal government related to health plans and how health plans can be part of the TMH ecosystem.</p> <p>I guess of different kinds of sources of funding. I want to.</p> <p>I know the Commission's are interested in this and I just wanted to bring up the idea of Pierce Park specialist and. The CMPs.</p> <p>Death certified workers to be part of this experience and what our health plans can draw, that sort of funding down and potentially.</p> <p>Promote the role of peers for specialists.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Public Comment/Agenda Based	Allison Wolinski	By Phone	General/BHSA-SAPC ITEM	<p>Hi, my name is Allison Wolinski.</p> <p>I'm with the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. I just had a couple of comments.</p>

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PUBLIC COMMENT TO ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION
December 11, 2025
Behavioral Health Commission Meeting

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				<p>One that the the public broadcast for the teams isn't is not working anymore but additionally regarding the agenda, I think. It's really important that the Behavioral Health Commission, under the topics of interest and the line item upholding those who are utilizing. For homeless services. Sorry for homeless services and the funding under BHSAL. Would it?I think it's going to be really important for the behavioral Health Commission to. Understand how that funding is going to work and what the parameters are gonna be for that. Because it's that funding, to my understanding, is going to be managed by the new homeless services department in LA County and it's. Important to understand how the behavioral health and safety, funding and support services are going to be worked into those the housing funding was provided for that population.</p>

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