



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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	December 11, 2025		
<b>START TIME</b>	11:00 AM	<b>ADJOURNMENT TIME:</b> 12:39 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="#">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, Thomas Roache, Dr. Erica Holmes, Victor Manalo, Lawrence Schallert, Brittney Weissman, Stacy Dalglish, Susan Friedman, Bennett Root Jr., Deena Duncan, Andrew Roble, Yun Hee Anna Lee, Alex Tsobanoudis, and Guadalupe Orozco	Reba Stevens (E), Tyler Cash (U), and Imelda Padilla-Frausto (U)
<b>QUORUM PRESENT:</b> Yes	<b>APPROVAL:</b> Yes. Motion made by Commissioner Dalglish. Seconded by Commissioner Root.
<b>ADJOURNED:</b> 12:39 PM	

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/DECISION SUMMARIES</b>	<b>FOLLOW-UP ITEMS</b>	<b>UPDATE ON 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><b>UsCC Representative</b></li> <li><b>CCC:</b> Invited Chair Manalo to attend the CCC meeting in 2026.</li> </ul>		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALT 4</li> <li>• SALT 7</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>UsCC Representative</u></li> <li>• <u>CCC</u></li> <li>• <u>SALT 4</u></li> <li>• <u>SALT 7</u></li> </ul>		
<i>General Comments</i>	<p>Jim “the Hat”, Tristen, Mark Karmatz, Ricardo Kim, Angel Mercado, Pastor Johua Nah, Allison Wolinski, and Dr. Esroruleh Mohammad addressed the Commission by phone, in-person, and with emailed communication. <b>See attached public comment document.</b></p>		
<b>4. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/UPDATES</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Commissioner Lee</b> reported meeting with the Director of Reset Wellness Center, attending and contributing to community events, and participating in educational webinars.</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Duncan</b> shared that she is collaborating with the Department of Health Services to discuss the enrollment process for individuals recently released from incarceration into Office of Diversion and Reentry programs to support holistic care.</li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Austria</b> reported that although she has been on vacation, she was able to connect several</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenia to look for information regarding the services and funding at St. Vincent Hospital.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystal has identified a contact and will share that information with Commissioner Friedman.</li> </ul>



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	<p>individuals to resources. Her focus continues to be on CPT, and she plans to maintain this work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commissioner Holmes</b> reported meeting with two community-based organizations, including Partners for Children LA.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Roache</b> shared that he is seeking to better understand the role and impact of Proposition 1 and has been contacting elected officials to address related questions.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Weissman</b> reported that she has submitted her sunset form and encouraged other Commissioners to do the same. She also shared that she and Chair Manalo met with former Chair Molina to thank him for his service. Additionally, she reported working closely with her Hollywood team to protect vulnerable populations in response to Medicare changes and the transition to the Behavioral Health Services Agency.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Dagleish</b> shared a study with the City Manager and City Attorney regarding the benefits of integrating services directly into the community. She also invited Commissioners to participate in a newly formed commission resulting from recent county changes, which will include an elected officer and newly appointed supervisors.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Friedman</b> reported attending a SHARE meeting and speaking with Transition Age Youth</li></ul>		



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	<p>(TAY) who expressed concerns about access to mental health services. She also shared that St. Vincent Hospital is expected to reopen and expressed interest in learning what funding and services the Department of Mental Health will provide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commissioner Schallert</b> reported that he serves as Chair of the Santa Clarita Valley Suicide Prevention, Postvention, and Wellness Committee and shared that Kaiser Permanente recently participated in discussions regarding barriers to treatment. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Santa Clarita Human Trafficking Committee and shared updates on trainings and activities. Additionally, he met with SAPC to collaborate with the Substance Abuse Subcommittee and serves on the Henry Mayo Community Health Committee, which is working to establish an urgent mental health care center in the Santa Clarita Valley, anticipated to open in June. He also reported participation in the Lethal Means Subcommittee, focused on reducing access to lethal weapons and providing gun safety training, and attendance at recent CPT meetings.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Root</b> emphasized three points, including discussions with his supervisor regarding maintaining Supervisor Barger’s participation in the Behavioral Health Commission to avoid disruptions caused by annual reappointments. He also expressed</li></ul>		



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	<p>interest in SAPC and whether extended care models may improve long-term recovery outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commissioner Tsobanoudis</b> reported that he is currently a student at Kaiser Permanente and previously served on the Santa Clara Behavioral Health Board. He shared that he has met with Dr. Cruz and Dr. Reynoso regarding Hollywood 2.0 and the new Transition Age Youth office.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Roble</b> reported attending a veterans’ event at the SoCal Gas Resource Center that encouraged participants to share their lived experiences. He also reported attending a press conference with Chair Manalo, Supervisor Hahn, Supervisor Horvath, and Assembly Member Mark Gonzalez advocating for the reinstatement of Option 3 for 988. Additionally, he shared that the Veterans Committee of UWA 132 is implementing a 988-like phone line, set to launch in January 2026. He requested a tour of the Whittier Wellness Center and is awaiting updates from support staff. He also reported working with Senator Susan Rubio on a legislative proposal addressing mental health-related violence against children.</li><li>• <b>Commissioner Orozco</b>, a newly appointed member of the Behavioral Health Commission, shared that she works with the Los Angeles County Office of Education in a department overseeing juvenile court</li></ul>		



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	<p>schools and county community schools. Her goal is to strengthen connections between students and available County resources. She also shared personal insight related to family members with lived experience of substance use and mental health challenges.</p>		
<b>5. CONSENT AGENDA</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approval of the minutes: November 13, 2025</li> <li>b. DMH Constituent Follow-Up Report</li> <li>c. DPH-SAPC Legislative Update Report</li> <li>d. DMH Legislative Update Report</li> <li>e. BHC Budget Report</li> <li>g. Brown Act - updates handout – Effective 1/26/2025</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item F was pulled from the consent agenda by Commissioner Austria.</li> </ul> <p><b>Items A-E and G on the consent agenda were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Weissman. Seconded by Commissioner Roble.</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. BHC Topics of Interest</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Austria requested the addition of quarterly reports from the Department of Health Services (DHS).</li> <li>• Commissioner Austria also requested a report providing updates on the closure of hospital beds at Hawkins Mental Health Center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenia to add the topics requested by Commissioners to the Topics of Interest List.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics have been added.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Weissman requested a report on the Governor’s budget for discussion at the February meeting.</li> <li>• Commissioner Dalglish requested a presentation on how the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is supporting community members in obtaining employment considering new service eligibility requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Item F on the consent agenda was approved. Motion Made by Commissioner Dalglish. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan.</b></p>		
<b>6. STANDING ITEMS- WRITTEN REPORTS</b>			
<p>a. BHC Chair Update – Dr. Victor Manalo, PhD., MSW</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departments will now be asked to provide written reports, with presentations requested on an as-needed basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Item A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Manalo reported attending the Gateway Cities Council of Governments meeting, where he shared insights to support ensuring TAY has access to available resources.</li> <li>• He also reported meeting with Dr. Wong, Director of the Department of Mental Health, to discuss implementation of SB 43, anticipated in January 2026.</li> <li>• Chair Manalo encouraged Commissioners to consider ideas or topics for collaboration across the Commission.</li> </ul>		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He attended the reception at the new Transition Age Youth (TAY) office.</li> <li>• He and Kalene Gilbert, MHSAs Program Manager, met to discuss implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Agency (BHSA) and how the Behavioral Health Commission can best support the transition. They concluded that the BHC can contribute by engaging in meaningful discussions with stakeholders, UsCCs and SALTs.</li> <li>• He attended the API UsCC meeting.</li> <li>• Additionally, he attended the Understanding Health and Homelessness webinar.</li> <li>• He met with the Coalition for Responsible Community Development in South Los Angeles.</li> <li>• Chair Manalo also reported attending the Option 3 press conference.</li> <li>• He informed the Commission that at the January 8, 2026, meeting, he would like to discuss topics that the full Commission can collaborate on.</li> </ul>		
<p>a. DMH Director Report</p>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Weissman asked for more information regarding the change with the managed care plans and for it to be presented at a Commission Meeting.</li> <li>• Commissioner Weissman asked what is being done to strengthen the relationships between care plans and the DMH department to avoid misusing funds during</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenia to add the topic requested by Commissioner Weissman on the agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic added</li> </ul>



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	<p style="text-align: center;">this federal fund change.</p> <p><b>Requests and Decisions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission agreed to add this topic to the future agenda.</li> </ul>		
b. DPH-SAPC Report	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discussion was held.</li> </ul>		
c. MHSA/BHSA Report	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discussion was held.</li> </ul>		
<b>7. NEW BUSINESS</b>			
a. Ratify amendment to bylaws approved on 12/09/25 by the LA CO Board of Supervisors – <u>BOS motion 12/09/2025</u>	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bylaw amendment allows the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to nominate the Board member who will serve on the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) on an annual basis.</li> <li>The Commission was asked to ratify the amendment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Amendment was approved. Motion made by Commissioner Root. Seconded by Commissioner Dalglish.</b></p>		
<b>9. WORK IN PROGRESS</b>			
a. Members-at-large Candidate Recommendation of Veteran: Brian Banks, Psy.D.	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Manalo informed the Commission of the Executive Committee’s decision to appoint Dr. Brian Banks as the new Member-at-large meeting the Veteran or Veteran Advocate criteria.</li> </ul>		
<b>10. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>			



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a. CARE Court Stakeholder Feedback Town Hall – 1/26/26, 5:30pm at Ramona Hall Community Center	<b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Weissman and Dalglish will be in attendance, but all commissioners are welcome.</li></ul> <b>CARE Court Stakeholder Feedback Town Hall – 1/26/26, 5:30pm at Ramona Hall Community Center.</b>		