

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (CAOD)**

**Meeting Minute Summary  
October 9, 2024**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Tony Bell, Rebecca Birotte, Amanda Cowan, Deena Duncan, Alicia Garoupa, Christina Gonzales, Jack Hadjinian, Tonya McKenzie, Mark Mendoza, Jr., Juan Navarro, Charles Robbins, Ruben Rodriguez, Avia Rosen, and G. Lola Worthington

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioners Bruce Boardman, Bennett Root, Jr., Johng Ho Song, Jerry G. Velasco, and Howard Winkler

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** Jozef Essavi and Dean Nakanishi

**GUEST REGISTER:** Dr. Gary Tsai, Director, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs October 9, 2024 Agenda; Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs July 2024 and September 2024 Minutes – Draft

| Topic   | Discussion/Finding  |
|---|---|
| 1. Call to Order & Introduction of Commissioners and Guests | <p>Chair Tony Bell, County of Los Angeles, the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs convened the meeting at 12:49 P.M.</p> <p>Chair Tony Bell asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guests.</p> <p>Quorum present.</p>   |
| 2. Public Comments  | No public comment.  |
| 3. Action on AB2449 and Excuse Absence                      | <p>Commissioners Bruce Boardman, Bennett Root, Jr., Johng Ho Song, Jerry Velasco, and Howard Winkler have asked to be excused from the October 9, 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Commissioners Rebecca Birotte, Jozef Essavi, Mark Mendoza, Dean Nakanishi, and Bennett Root, Jr., had asked to be excused from the September 11, 2024 meeting.</p> <p>Commissioners Amanda Cowan, Alicia Garoupa, and Avia Rosen are appearing remotely for the October 9, 2024 meeting by “just cause” in accordance with AB 2449.</p> <p>Commissioners Amanda Cowan, Deena Duncan, and Alicia Garoupa appeared remotely for the September 11, 2024 meeting by “just cause” in accordance with AB 2449.</p> |

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|  | <p>Chair Tony Bell entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Commissioner Charles Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Christina Gonzales.</p> <p>Motion was carried with one Abstention from Commissioner Jack Hadjinian.</p>  |
| <p>4. Action on Meeting Minutes for July and September 2024 meeting</p>  | <p>Chair Tony Bell entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Commissioner Tonya McKenzie and seconded by Commissioner Deena Duncan.</p> <p>Motion was carried with one Abstention from Commissioner Jack Hadjinian.</p>   |
| <p>5. Presentation on Update on Behavioral Health Administrative Integration (BHAI) and Prop 1 and BH Commission</p> | <p>Gary Tsai, M.D., Bureau Director for SAPC provided updates on BHAI, Prop 1 and the Behavioral Health Commission. Some of the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Tsai met with the Commissioners to ensure that the team had a better understanding of the Behavioral Health (BH) Commission.</li> <li>• BH Commission entails a combination of Mental Health Commissioners and Substance Use Commissioners possibly from CAOD</li> <li>• It would be advantageous to have one Behavioral Health Commission due to the similar advisory roles.</li> <li>• BH Commission may be involved with budget component from the MHSA funding, but this is not confirmed and DMH would have more information</li> <li>• There will be a final report with its recommendations to be released in November.</li> <li>• Board of Supervisors will make the final decision</li> <li>• The Commissioners had asked Dr. Tsai to come back and speak about the BHAI, Prop 1, and BH Commission to the Health Deputies at the December meeting</li> </ul> |
| <p>6. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair McKenzie provided updates on the AI-Impics event held on September 14, 2024.</li> <li>• Commissioners asked Jessie to follow-up on who sponsors the AI-Impics contract and what is the defined role from the Commission?</li> <li>• Melinda Avey, Chair of Sacramento County will be speaking next month (November)</li> <li>• All five Health Deputies have confirmed their attendance to the Roundtable Meeting in December – will need to put together questions that the Commission may want to ask</li> </ul>   |
| <p>7. Adjournment</p>  | <p>Meeting was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.</p>  |

**Next meeting date:**  
November 13, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple Avenue, Sybil Brand Commission Room, Suite 372  
Los Angeles, California 90012