

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

**Meeting Minute Summary
March 12, 2025**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Tony Bell, Rebecca Birotte, Bruce Boardman, Deena Duncan, Jack Hadjinian, Tonya McKenzie, Juan Navarro, Ruben Rodriguez, Avia Rosen, Howard Wrinkler, and G. Lola Worthington **(11)**

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Alicia Garoupa, Charles Robbins, John Ho Song and Jerry Velasco

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Ana Maria Quintana, Mark Mendoza, Ben Root Jr., Jozef Essavi

GUEST REGISTER: Keith Humphreys

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs March 12, 2025 Agenda; Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs February Meeting Summary – Draft

Topic	Discussion/Finding
1. Call to Order & Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	<p>Chair Tonya McKenzie, County of Los Angeles, the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs convened the meeting at 12:31 P.M.</p> <p>Chair Tonya McKenzie asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guests.</p> <p>Meeting held with no quorum/ no votes.</p>
2. Public Comments	<p>Public comment on behalf of other providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns about the BHSA merger between Department of Public Health and Department of Mental Health. Concern that any drastic change of moving any services that are under prevention, harm reduction and treatment is detrimental because each of the services has its own process and to try to put that under Department of Mental Health is not a puzzle that fits all and it would disrupt decades of effective services. • They urge that the services stay under Public Health and they will submit a letter to this effect. • Merger could harm progress in integrating prevention, harm reduction and treatment due to DMH's lack of experience. • Harm reduction saves lives, and the merger could push underserved communities further from seeking services 'a call for advocacy and transparency in the process. • Emphasis that harm reduction is not solely a mental health issue. • The Commission acknowledged the concerns and confirmed the importance of continued advocacy and engagement.

Topic	Discussion/Finding
3. Report from SAPC	<p>Michelle Gibson presented on the following: Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and Behavioral Health Administrative Integration (BHAI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Overview) • MHSA Components vs BHSA Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carves out 30% of the allocation for homeless-related services, impacting current MHSA services. ○ Prevention funding shifts from County to CA Department of Public Health. ○ Early funding remains with County. • DMH MHSA FY 2023-24 Expenditures vs. BHSA Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DMH will need to sunset or find alternate funding for select programs to accommodate housing mandate. ○ Move from Alternate Crisis Services to Early Intervention relieves pressure on the Outpatient Care allocation. ○ Workforce Training and Capital Infrastructure are removed, but existing funds can be encumbered for up to 10 years. • BHSA Community Planning Process (CPP) Overview *UPDATE* CO-LED BY DMH AND DPH-SAPC • BHSA Community Planning Team (CPT) Overview *UPDATE* CO-LED BY DMH AND DPH-SAPC • Draft BHSA CPP Process • BHSA Integrated Plan * New* Co-Developed by DMH and DPH-SAPC • Behavioral Health Continuum • Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report (BHOATR) *NEW* CO-DEVELOPED BY DMH AND DPH-SAPC • Behavioral Health Administrative Integration (BHAI) Overview
4. Action on AB2449 and Excuse Absence	<p>Commissioners Alicia Garoupa, Charles Robbins, Johng Ho Song and Jerry Velasco have asked to be excused from the March 12, 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Commissioner Christina Gonzales is appearing remotely for today's meeting by "just cause" in accordance with AB 2449.</p> <p>A vote was not conducted due to lack of quorum, this item will be tabled and revisited at the next meeting.</p>
5. Action on Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2025 meeting	<p>A vote was not conducted due to lack of quorum, this item will be tabled and revisited at the next meeting.</p>
6. Action on Nomination of Chair for the Education & Prevention Committee and Policy & Planning Committee	<p>A vote was not conducted due to lack of quorum, this item will be tabled and revisited at the next meeting.</p>
7. Speaker: Keith Humphreys –	<p>Keith Humphreys presented on the following: Re-Energizing Drug Prevention by Investing in Youth Development</p>

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Legislation and Youth Prevention Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention is usually how Epidemics are brought under control. • Examples of Efficiency and Effectiveness such as Communities that care and Core Programs that focus on young people. • CTC builds Positive bonds in all young people by providing opportunities, skills and recognition. • 3 High-quality Trials: CTC Improves Behavioral Health • CTC: 20-30% Population Level Improvement • UW Center for Communities that Care: CommunitiesthatCare.net • Unusual Fiscal Opportunity: Consider investing the Opioid Settlement dollars in Prevention
8. Speaker: Bill Gould – Policy and Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Gould presented on the following: Policy and Legislative Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AB 255 – The Supportive Recovery Residence Program ○ AB 396 – Needle and Syringe Exchange Services ○ AB 425 – Certification of Alcohol and Other Drugs Program ○ AB 543 – Medi-Cal: Street Medicine ○ AB 564 – Cannabis: Excise Tax: Rate Increase Repeal ○ AB 877- Health Care Coverage: substance Use Disorder: Residential Facilities ○ AB 1037 – Public Health: Substance Use Disorder ○ AB 1320 – California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020: Opioid Antagonists ○ SB 329 – Alcohol and Drug Recovery or Treatment Facilities: Investigations. ○ SB 395 - Alcohol Beverages: Additional Licenses: Retail District
9. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	<p>Discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meth Taskforce Conference • 32nd Annual Cesar Chavez March for Justice
10. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 2:33 P.M.

Next meeting date:
 April 9, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.
 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
 500 W. Temple Avenue, Sybil Brand Commission Room, Suite 372
 Los Angeles, California 90012