

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

**Meeting Summary – December 8, 2021**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Tony Bell, Amanda Cowan, Deena Duncan, Joseph Essavi, Jeremiah Hart, Jihan Judeh, Lou La Monte, Juan Navarro, Sharona R. Nazarian, Bennett Root, Jr., Mark Ryan, Jerry G. Velasco, Wendie Warwick, and G. Lola Worthington

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioners Cruz Baca, Johng Ho Song, Gino Roncelli, and Howard Winkler

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioners Jack Hadjinian, and Monica Sanchez

**GUEST REGISTER:** Michelle Gibson; Erika Valdez

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs December 2021 Agenda; Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs November 2021 Minutes – Draft

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations Action, Follow-up
1. Call to Order	First Chair Lou La Monte, County of Los Angeles, to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.	
2. Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair La Monte asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guest.	
3. Motion to Excuse Absences	Quorum present. Commissioners Cruz Baca, Johng Ho Song, Gino Roncelli, and Howard Winkler have asked to be excused.	Chair La Monte entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Bennett Root, Jr. seconded by Com. Joseph Essavi. Motion was carried with two abstentions.
4. Approval of Minutes	Chair La Monte asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting.	Chair La Monte entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Bennett Root, Jr.

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		seconded by Com. Joseph Essavi. Motion was carried with one abstentions.
5. Approval of the CAOD 2022 Meeting Schedule	Chair La Monte asked for a motion to accept the CAOD 2022 Meeting Schedule.	Chair La Monte entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Joseph Essavi seconded by Com. Cruz Baca. Motion was unanimously carried.
6. Presentation	<p>Participating Health Deputy for the Health Deputy Roundtable were Anthony Cespedes – 1st District, Jessica Jew – 2nd District, Elan Shultz – 3rd District, Katie Butler – 4th District, and Anders Corey – 5th District. The Health Deputies discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top priority of Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mental Health</li> <li>○ Access to services for foster youth, and veterans</li> <li>○ Mental health</li> <li>○ Aligning funding streams</li> <li>○ Crisis response system (988)</li> <li>○ Safe Use Centers</li> <li>○ Expanding treatment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Harm reduction (OD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Possibility of overdose prevention center</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CAL-Alms</li> <li>• COVID-19 protections</li> </ul>	
7. Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control	<p>Presenter – Gary Tsai, MD, FAPA, FASAM, Division Director of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) spoke on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm reduction</li> <li>• Cal-alms</li> <li>• Payment reform</li> <li>• Data exchange</li> </ul>	

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8. Commission Committees Report	<p>Chair Lou La Monte discussed presentation given by Froilan Mendoza, Superintendent of Schools of Baldwin Park Unified School District.</p> <p>Commissioner Deena Duncan gave a brief update on the legislation that was discussed during the Policy and Planning committee meeting.</p>	
9. Chairs Report	<p>Chair La Monte gave an update to the Commission concerning upcoming speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan – Mariana Mendoza Castillo, Harm Reduction at Office of Diversion and Re-Entry</li> <li>• Feb – Annette Kunzman, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders Network of Southern California</li> <li>• Mar – Darin Scharer, Winners Foundation</li> <li>• Apr – Dr Jonathan Sherin, Department of Mental Health</li> </ul> <p>He also informed the Commission that the Speaker Ad Hoc Committee has been dissolved.</p> <p>Chair La Monte also discussed the Annual Report and informed commissioners that next month the Commission will finalize the annual report.</p>	
10. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	No comments.	
11. Public Comments	No public comments.	
12. Adjourn to the next meeting of the Commission	Meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.	

**Next meeting date:**  
January 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.