

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

Meeting Summary – March 10, 2021

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Tony Bell, Deena Duncan, Joseph Essavi, Jihan Judeh, Lou La Monte, Sharona R. Nazarian, Bennett Root, Jr., Dr. Mark Ryan, Monica Sanchez, John Ho Song, Jerry G. Velasco, Wendie Warwick, Howard Winkler and G. Lola Worthington

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Roger Gertmenian

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Cruz Baca, Jack Hadjinian and Juan Navarro

GUEST REGISTER: Michelle Gibson, Francisco Reyes, Kai Luna and Judge Peter Espinoza

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: CAOD March 2021 Agenda; CAOD Meeting Minutes 2.10.21 – Draft; Handout - Office of Diversion and Reentry Quarterly Report Attachment; Handout - 2021 Strategic Priorities

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 1:04 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. Chair La Monte asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Commissioners Roger Gertmenian from the meeting.	Chair La Monte entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Jerry G. Velasco seconded by Com. Dr. Mark Ryan. Motion was unanimously carried.

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4. Approval of Minutes	Chair La Monte asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting.	Chair La Monte entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Howard Winkler seconded by Com. Tony Bell. Motion was unanimously carried.
5. Presentation	<p>Speaker Peter Espinoza is a retired Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. He currently serves as the Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry for Los Angeles County's Department of Health Services.</p> <p>Judge Espinoza discussed the following programs offered by the Office of Diversion and Reentry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial-Community Based Restoration (MIST-CBR) program • Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial-Community Based Restoration (FIST-CBR) program • Department of State Hospitals Diversion program • Housing maternal health diversion program • Olive View medical center inpatient psychiatric unit • Law enforcement assisted diversion • Overdose education + Naloxone distribution program • Youth Diversion and Development (YDD) program. <p>Through a harm reduction and public health approach the Office of Diversion and Reentry has helped over 6,000 people through its community-based diversion programs.</p> <p>Judge Espinoza discussed the cost savings of diversion programs from reduced incarceration levels and addressed public safety questions that were posed by Commissioners.</p>	
6. Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and	Michelle Gibson, MPH, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services gave an update for Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC).	

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Control	<p>Michelle Gibson shared the COVID-19 vaccination timelines for those suffering with SUD and/or mental health issues. SAPC's Providers will be notified of how to get their clients vaccinated.</p> <p>Ms. Gibson spoke on the impacts of Measure J funding and how Senate Bill 803 would affect mental health and SUD systems.</p> <p>She informed the Commission that Substance Abuse Prevention and Control is working on a new media campaign against Methamphetamine use.</p> <p>Michelle Gibson shared the following resources:</p> <p>COVID related information by city: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/vaccine-dashboard.htm</p> <p>New SAPC Report: Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths in LAC during the COVID-19 Pandemic: http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/AccidentalDrugOverdoseReport.pdf</p>	
7. 2021 Strategic Planning	<p>The Commission discussed and reviewed the 2021 Strategic priorities.</p> <p>Youth prevention through school training programs was discussed and it was suggested that this matter be added to the Education and Prevention committee's agenda.</p>	
8. Discussion: Collaboration with Other Commissions	<p>Commissioner Warwick gave an update on her collaboration with the Commission on Disability.</p> <p>Commissioner Root spoke on possible collaborations with the Commission on Mental Health.</p>	Commissioners to provide any other commissions of interest to the commission liaison.
9. Commission Committees	<p>Commissioners were reminded of the mandate to participate in one of the two Commission sub-committees.</p> <p>Sub-committees will meet prior to Commission meetings.</p>	Commission liaison to email Commissioners for committee preferences.
10. Chairs Report	Chair La Monte informed Commissioners that meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.	

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	Chair La Monte informed the Commission of possible speakers for April and May.	
11. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	<p>Commissioner Tony Bell suggested having Director of Mental Health Dr. Jonathan E. Sherin as a speaker.</p> <p>Commissioner Warwick stated the 2021 AI-Impics is scheduled for Friday, September 17, 2021.</p>	
12. Public Comments	No public comments.	
13. Adjourn to the next meeting of the Commission	Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.	

Next meeting date:
April 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.