

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

Meeting Summary – September 9, 2020

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cruz Baca, Tony Bell, Deena Duncan , Joseph Essavi, Jihan Judeh, Lou La Monte, Juan Navarro, Sharona R. Nazarian, Bennett Root, Jr., Monica Sanchez, John Ho Song, Denise Tom, Jerry G. Velasco, Wendie Warwick and G. Lola Worthington

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Roger Gertmenian, Howard Winkler, Mordechai Polityko and Sharon Shelton

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: Commissioners Jack Hadjinian

GUEST REGISTER: Michelle Gibson, Dr. Brad Spellberg

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: CAOD September 2020 Agenda; CAOD Meeting Minutes 07.22.20 – Draft; LAC+USC RCV Update 09.09

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
1. Call to Order	First Chair Bennet W. Root, Jr., County of Los Angeles, to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) Policy and Planning Committee convened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.	
2. Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair Root asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guest.	
3. Motion to Excuse Absences	Quorum present. Chair Root asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Commissioner Roger Gertmenian, Howard Winkler, Mordechai Polityko and Sharon Shelton from today's meeting.	Chair Root entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Sharona R. Nazarian, seconded by Com. Lou La Monte and approved. Motion was unanimously carried.

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4. Approval of Minutes	Chair Root asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting.	Chair Root entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Lou La Monte seconded by Com. Sharona R. Nazarian and approved. Motion was carried.
5. Presentation	<p>Dr. Brad Spellberg, Chief Medical Officer of LAC+USC gave a presentation on the LAC+USC Restorative Care Village.</p> <p>LAC+USC Restorative Care Village is geared to a holistic care view. Many patients have overlapping issues thus Dr. Spellberg stated, "We must treat the whole patient and not just try to compartmentalize care."</p> <p>LAC+USC Restorative Care Village is built to be a comprehensive campus, enabling movement of individuals through the continuum of care, reducing morbidity and cost, restoring function and dignity.</p> <p>Phase 1 is designed to have 96 recoup care beds and the other 4 buildings will consist of 64 residential treatment beds. Construction began in April of 2020 and is expected to be completed by Spring of 2021.</p> <p>In December 2019, the Board authorized Public Works to work with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Health to complete the needs assessment, feasibility analysis, site investigations, and cost estimates required to develop project budgets and schedule for these proposed projects. These efforts are currently in progress.</p> <p>Chair Root asked how many people Dr. Spellberg anticipates going through the program. Per Dr. Spellberg this number would depend on timing and funding. Once community engagement begins LAC+USC can begin to tailor care. After engagement volume depends on how efficient the program is at rehabilitating those with needs to get them back out into society. This will allow space for new participants.</p> <p>Commissioner Baca inquired about the timeframe for short term housing. Dr. Spellberg said that short term housing would be for 6 weeks and the permanent support housing would last for 6 to 12 months.</p> <p>Commissioner Velasco asked who would be helped at</p>	

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	LAC+USC Restorative Care Village. Dr. Spellberg stated that the program is run by the County of Los Angeles and not USC or Keck. It would serve the communities of Los Angeles County.	
6. Discussion - Commissioner Deena Duncan	<p>Commissioner Deena Duncan led a discussion on the changes to care that took that went into effect on July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Commissioner Deena Duncan spoke on the changes that went into effect on July 1, 2020. She informed the Commission that clients coming in to residential or outpatient treatment that need to apply to Medi-Cal are now limited to 30-day authorization stay per year until status of their Medi-Cal is active. Unfortunately, this creates a problem because Department of Public Social Services often takes longer than 30 days to process these applications. Providers are forced to continue to provide services with no guarantee of funding.</p> <p>Commissioner Duncan also pointed out that being limited to 30 days of in-patient care is unrealistic when dealing with people who also suffer from mental issues in addition to Substance use disorders.</p> <p>Commissioner La Monte asked if the 30-day restrictions come from State or from SAPC. Michelle Gibson informed the Commission that the 30 days are a target but that does not mean that a patient could not stay longer.</p> <p>Commissioner Duncan stated she was very concerned about how the new residential targets would affect homelessness.</p>	
7. Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control	<p>Michelle Gibson, MPH, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), provided an update.</p> <p>Michelle Gibson addressed several shifts that SAPC has had to make due to changes in its budget.</p> <p>In the past SAPC would front 60 days' worth of payment to their providers. Of ten point four million they were only reimbursed for approximately two million dollars for those who successfully received their Medi-Cal benefits. They were not reimbursed millions of dollars that were spent on individuals who were DMC eligible who did not seek or complete the Medi-Cal process. Thus, SAPC has had to move away from this practice for financial viability. The changes of going to a 30-day model will take effect on Jan 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Gibson stated that SAPC is trying to live within the budgets streams that they were given because they don't anticipate</p>	

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	<p>getting additional funding.</p> <p>Ms. Gibson briefly discussed that SAPC has been having discussion with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation concerning their early releases program. They are looking to release three to four thousand people and there may be a need for SAPC to assist a third of that population.</p>	
8. 2020 AI-Impics	Commissioner Warwick stated the theme of the 2020 AI-Impics is "Overcoming, Empowering and Thriving." She encouraged Commissioners to volunteer as judges.	Commissioner Warwick to give AI-Impics committee update at the next meeting.
9. Chair Report	Chair Root asked Commissioner to think of what can be done to encourage the Board of Supervisors in making SUD treatment and prevention a priority.	Root asked Commissioners to think of what can be done to encourage the BOS in making SUD a priority.
10. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	<p>Commissioner Bell asked if it would be appropriate to draft a resolution from the Commission that they can present to their respective Supervisors requesting a review of the 30-day restriction on recovery services. Chair Root stated that he would work on resolution language for possible resolution.</p> <p>Commissioner Tom informed the Commission that the open comment window has passed. However, Michelle Gibson stated there may be other opportunities to speak.</p>	Chair Root to work on resolution language for possible resolution.
11. Public Comments (Comments from the Public on Items of Interest within the Commission's Subject Matter Jurisdiction)	No Public Comment	
12. Adjourn to the next meeting of the Commission	Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.	

Next meeting date:
October 14, 2020

November 18, 2020
December 9, 2020

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