

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

**Meeting Summary – October 2, 2019**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Deena Duncan, Lou La Monte, Juan Navarro, Sharona R. Nazarian (Chair), Bennett Root, Monica Sanchez, Sharon Shelton, Denise Tom, Wendie Warwick and Howard Winkler

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioners Jozef Essavi, Jihan Judeh, Mordechai Polityko, John Song, Jerry G. Velasco and G. Lola Worthington

**GUEST REGISTER:** Mayra Del Real, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Nislan Jose, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control; Ed Nettles, Intervention Institute; Ken Pierce, Center for Counseling

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** Meeting Agenda; September Meeting Minutes; Los Angeles County Health Integration Network; CAOD BOS Report September 2019

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Call to Order	Chair Nazarian, County of Los Angeles, to the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.; a quorum was present.	
Presentation - “Health Departments Integration Proposal”  Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Per Dr. Ferrer shared the Proposed HIN Structure. Per Dr. Ferrer, our purpose hasn’t changed, we are aligning resources efficiently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HIN Proposed Priorities and Objectives               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration and development of prevention, treatment, and healing services</li> <li>• Reduction of Health Inequities</li> <li>• Improvement of Organizational Effectiveness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Any follow-up questions or comments can be emailed directly to Dr. Ferrer at <a href="mailto:DPHDirector@ph.lacounty.gov">DPHDirector@ph.lacounty.gov</a> .

Question and Answer Period:

Per Dr. Ferrer, has a proposed set of questions we would love to get your feedback on.

Per Commissioner Root, thank you for this information, clarifies lots that has been evolving for months. Our budget is undersized for the amount of people in Los Angeles County affected with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs). We don't have a good way to advocate and deal with some of the critical issues. One large issue is the time to respond to synthetic drugs and fentanyl and the time to getting Narcan to first responders. This integration seems to make it much more difficult to get the budget to the right issues. How do we effectively advocate to deal with the problems we're charged to deal with?

Per Dr. Ferrer, in total agreement that these issues cross. We have a different way we're thinking of a network. Front and center to a network is the people. Who are the people tasked to support? What resources does each department bring to address these issues? You may have two departments that are funders, but a patient should have one provider. The fundamental issue is people need to be in the center. The person with SUD is also homeless, may be mentally ill and people are cycling in and out of our jails. We need a continuum of care that will leverage DHS, DPH and DMH resources. People will need things from other departments. We have to work with DCF, DPSS, the criminal justice system, etc. What we haven't done well is figure out how to put people front and center, collaborate with each other and have our systems collaborate so there is a continuum of support.

Per Commissioner Tom, one challenge is data sharing. Has this been addressed through specific projects?

Per Dr. Ferrer, we are the obstacle to more robust data sharing. The law says that people with SUDs have additional protections. The suggestion has been that we do a better job on informed

consent. People should know who is going to look at their data and have the right to make an informed decision. We know this is an issue, but we aren't going to sign any agreements. We want to be sure an individual person in treatment has the right to determine how their data is shared.

Per Chair Nazarian, homelessness is becoming an epidemic in Los Angeles. How will these services affect them and what steps are being taken to address this population? Often times, mental illness is an issue which leads people into homelessness.

Per Dr. Ferrer, items 1.1 and 1.4 are meant to do a better job to help people transition out of homelessness and into permanent and supportive housing. Mental Health has a much bigger budget for a smaller number of people than Public Health has for a larger number of people with SUDs. The future will be a person can go into a DMH clinic and have access to SUD services and chronic disease services. There is a badly set up reimbursement system that haunts us; we are hoping to fix that and have providers in the same location.

Per Commissioner Warwick, I have a client who is co-occurring, and it takes them 30 days to get an appointment for Mental Health and over 30 days to get into a program for detox. Is the issue lack of funding?

Per Dr. Ferrer, I can't speak for DMH, but for DPH it's both funding and staffing. In some places there is a lack of trained staff and in other places, it's just sheer dollars. One issue is we have no way to reimburse for capital funding and we've been struggling with this. There aren't enough care beds on SUD or mental health sides which then create overcrowding at emergency rooms.

Per Commissioner Navarro, item number three, Improvement of Organizational Effectiveness, seems like a major undertaking. How are additional resources going to be brought in?

	<p>Per Dr. Ferrer, Just Culture is a partnership with our labor unions and is a program we've been doing for two years. Each department has a Just Culture Champion, and everyone has been trained, with managers receiving extra training. We use an algorithm to look at disciplinary infractions. This has all been done from our existing budget.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Root, we're directed to talk to our Supervisors, but this seems to be an issue. How can we advocate for an increased budget? We would like to be an advocate for how we can get more resources applied.</p> <p>Per Dr. Ferrer, often the inadequacy of funding can stymie our ability to do what we all know is best. I always urge our partners, advocates, families and community members to lift your voices. There is power in the advocacy you can all do. Would also suggest that you request a budget presentation from SAPC sometime in the next few months. Everyone has a right fundamentally to understand where the allocation of resources is and understand why we are experiencing some of these gaps. We rely on you to provide recommendations on where we can do better, where we are missing items, etc.</p>	
Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair Nazarian asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guests.	

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion/Finding</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action, Follow-up</b>
Motion to Excuse Absences	Chair Nazarian asked for a motion to excuse the absences of Commissioners Essavi, Judeh, Polityko, Song, Velasco and Worthington.	Chair Nazarian entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. Winkler, seconded by Com. La Monte and approved. Motion was unanimously carried.
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the September 11, 2019 Meeting.	Chair Nazarian entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Com. La Monte, seconded by Com. Navarro and approved. Motion was unanimously carried.

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
<p>Presentation: Homelessness</p> <p>Presenter: Reggie Clark, Program Director Volunteers of America</p>	<p>Mr. Clark has been running the Pomona program since 2006, developed a service center to address the homeless population in the city of Pomona. Barriers the homeless population face include SUDs and lack of money for housing.</p> <p>With the homeless population, it is important to deal with the person as a whole. Aftercare is another important component. There is a need for more funding in the service center environment, currently working with LAHSA and outside agencies including Tri City Mental Health and Prototypes to best serve the population. Programs designed to get people into housing are also part of the service center. Rent increases have caused a newly homeless population to arise. People can no longer afford where they once lived.</p> <p>Question and Answer Period:</p> <p>Per Commissioner Tom, would like your opinion on the right to accept shelter.</p> <p>Per Mr. Clark, there will always be people who do not want services. We need to build a rapport with them, it can take someone days or years, but feels we still need to be there for someone when they decide they do want shelter.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Root, the integration of services you have currently, does this allow you to work with someone who needs services immediately?</p> <p>Per Mr. Clark, we are an access center. Grants come from LAHSA and other organizations.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Root, what happens at the end of the program, 90 days?</p>	

	<p>Per Mr. Clark, the key is that if we get the buy in and the participant allows us to help them, there are extensions. A person works with a case manager and demonstrates progress. We must show why we are issuing extensions. Extensions are granted about 75% of the time. The housing crisis presents additional challenges, a person still has to have a house to move into and there are landlords who don't accept housing vouchers.</p> <p>Public Comment – What do you see as a keystone issue for supporting housing for youth?</p> <p>Per Mr. Clark, youth may not have the credit to access housing; they may need to work on building their credit.</p> <p>Per Commissioner La Monte – Two major bonds were passed in the County, one was for housing and one was for services. Have you seen any of that money?</p> <p>Per Mr. Clark, no.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Root – How many beds do you have?</p> <p>Per Mr. Clark – We have 210 beds at the service center. 100 beds are from Measure H, 28 are from Tri City Mental Health and 12 are Police Department beds. About 75 beds are currently unfunded. The City of Pomona is looking for funding other than LA County for these beds so they can focus on helping the local homeless population.</p>	
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<p>Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</p>	<p>Michelle Gibson, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), provided an update.</p> <p>Commission was provided with the September 2019 report "Update on Substance Use Disorders and Other Related Board Correspondence." Highlights from report include Health Agency Integration and Disrupting the Cycle of Chronic Homelessness in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Per Ms. Gibson, SAPC is working on a workforce development campaign in an effort to encourage individuals to consider a career in the field of SUD treatment, particularly in Los Angeles County, and to increase the number of qualified SUD counselors and licensed clinicians working in the field, DPH and its participating partners. The campaign is scheduled to launch on October 7<sup>th</sup> and will include print ads, video spot-ads, audio spot-ads, social media platforms and a website.</p> <p>The AI-Impics took place Saturday, September 28, 2019. Many thanks to Commissioners Warwick, Tom, Shelton and Navarro for attending. There was a total of 57 volunteers, 31 of those being SAPC staff. 19 participating agencies and over 3,000 people in attendance. Celebrity guests included Danny Trejo, Fred Roggin and Big Boy. The event was a success and we already have verbal commitments from our celebrity guests for next year.</p>	



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Chair's Report	<p>Per Chair Nazarian, Cindy Harding has taken a new leadership role with LA County's Department of Human Resources as the Chief Strategist for Interdepartmental Initiatives.</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the Tobacco Ordinance on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.</p> <p>Commissioner Kynna Wright officially resigned from the CAOD as of September 19, 2019. Commissioner Sharon Papa's office notified us that she is officially retiring from the Hermosa Beach Police Department as of October 1, 2019, however we are waiting for official notice that she is resigning from the CAOD.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p>Per Chair Nazarian, we would like a commitment from Commissioners regarding their participation in the committees. Next month, SAPC's Prevention Unit will present an overview of what they do and gather feedback regarding what the Commissioners would like to see from the Education and Prevention Committee.</p>	
Comments from Commissioners	<p>Per Commissioner Tom, homelessness is a complex issue. Believes it would be helpful to have someone present from a systems level, not just a provider level. Also, Dr. Ferrer mentioned Dr. Sherin, Director of LA County DMH. It would be helpful to have him as a guest speaker if possible, to hear how he is working with SAPC and DPH.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Sanchez, a student and youth advocate from Friday Night Live addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding the Flavored Tobacco Ban on September 24, 2019.</p> <p>Per Commissioner Shelton, would like to thank Commissioner Warwick for her work and leadership on the AI-Impics planning committee.</p>	

	Per Commissioner Warwick, would like to be made more aware of what's happening throughout the County. Received an email yesterday for an event this weekend, doesn't always see everything listed on the SAPC calendar. Per Ms. Gibson, we have announcements that go out to our providers, but that may be more than you want. We are currently working on updating the SAPC calendar.	
Public Comments	Per Mr. Pierce of the Center for Counseling, our top County people aren't willing to bring up substance abuse. If we don't start mentioning these things, they won't be recognized.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.	

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.  
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, A-9 East Ground Floor G-2 Conference Room, in Alhambra.**