

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

**Education and Prevention Meeting Minute Summary  
July 12, 2023**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Tony Bell, Bruce Boardman, Amanda Cowan, Deena Duncan, Joseph Essavi, Alicia Garoupa, Jack Hadjinian, Jeremiah Hart, Mark Mendoza, Tonya McKenzie, Dean Nakanishi, Juan Navarro, Mark Ryan, Bennett Root, Jr., John Ho Song, Howard Winkler and G. Lola Worthington

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioners Lou LaMonte, Sharona R. Nazarian, and Jerry G. Velasco

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** Commissioner Rebecca Birotte

**GUEST REGISTER:** Michelle Gibson; Dr. Siddarth Puri

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs July 2023 Agenda; Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs June 2023 Minutes – Draft; PowerPoint for Harm Reduction

Topic	Discussion/Finding
1. Call to Order & Introduction of Commissioners and Guests	Chair Deena Duncan, County of Los Angeles, the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD), Education and Prevention Committee convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.  Chair Deena Duncan asked for self-introductions from all Commissioners and guest.  Amanda Cowen appearing remotely in accordance with AB 2449.  Quorum present.
2. Public Comments	No public comment.
3. Action on AB2449 and Excuse Absences	Commissioners Lou LaMonte, Sharona R. Nazarian, and Jerry G. Velasco have asked to be excused from July meeting.  Amanda Cowen appearing remotely in accordance with AB 2449.  Chair Deena Duncan entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Commissioner Howard Winkler and seconded by Commissioner Mark

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	Ryan. Motion was unanimously carried.
4. Action on Meeting Minutes for June 2023 meeting	Chair Deena Duncan entertained a motion which was moved to approve by Commissioner Tony Bell and seconded by Commissioner Mark Ryan. Motion carried with one (1) Abstention from Commissioner Howard Winkler.
5. Speaker: Dr. Siddarth Puri	<p>Siddarth Puri, MD, Associate Medical Director of Prevention from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control spoke on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand overdose trends in Los Angeles County (LAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From 2016-2021, the drug overdose is increasing</li> <li>○ Majority death are from methamphetamine and fentanyl</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The definition of harm reduction</li> <li>• How harm reduction has been effective in protecting the health of individuals and communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 30 years of harm reduction practices have shown its effective in reducing overdose deaths and reducing blood-borne infections</li> <li>○ People using harm reduction services are 5x more likely to participate in drug treatment and 3x more likely to reduce or stop injecting</li> <li>○ Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) has the R95 Initiative where they measure harm reduction challenges and issues</li> <li>○ Real time intervention with populations that have a higher rate of overdose</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Data helps us confirm harm reduction is beneficial for LAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data shows that for three quarters, we are able to help out close to 10,000 people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SAPC-HRU efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Student well-being centers located in 31 high schools ran by Department of Public Health staff</li> <li>○ Substance Use Peer Educator for Risk Reduction (SUPERR) pilot program and is launched in 3 high schools (Reseda, Santa Monica, and Pasadena High School) – train youth on topics such as overdose prevention, substance coping skills, and health communication strategies and share info with peers</li> <li>○ Recover LA app or RecoverLA.org – provides quick information and if residents want speak to someone about substance abuse</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dr. Puri and Dr. Hurley visited safe consumption sites in Copenhagen, Barcelona, and Lisbon and Dr. Puri visited Vancouver separately to observe the way they function and serve their citizens and non-citizens and how law enforcement plays a role as a social worker</li> </ul>

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6. Report from Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) on treatment and prevention programs and initiatives	<p>Michelle Gibson, MPH, Deputy Division Director for Treatment Services of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control spoke on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAPC received the State's Behavioral Health Bridge Housing for \$61.9 million over four years to add 300 new Recovery Bridget Housing beds (up to 180-days), 100 new Recovery Housing beds (up to 12-months), and housing navigation services.</li> <li>• SAPC updated online provider directory know as the Service and Bed Availability Tool (SBAT) to be more user friendly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/">https://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7. Discussion concerning Commission Committee Reports from the Policy & Planning, Education & Prevention and AI-impics Committees	<p>Commissioner Tonya McKenzie updated the commission concerning AI-impics committee meeting that was held on June 28, 2023. There is no provider for the event so it went out to bid. A decision will be made by the end of this month, or early August. The next AI-impics meeting will be held on July 26.</p>
8. Action on Education and Prevention Educator's Newsletter	<p>Item tabled.</p>
9. Administrative Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronae Harrison will no longer be the commission liaison. This will be her last Commission meeting. The new commission liaison will be Jessie Taw</li> <li>• Policy and Planning meeting will hold an Ad Hoc meeting on September 13th at 11:30 AM to receive Legislative Analysis training</li> <li>• The commission will be dark in August</li> </ul>
10. Comments from Commissioners on Items of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
11. Adjournment	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.</p>

**Next meeting date:**

September 13, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Headquarters

1000 South Fremont Avenue, Building A9 East Ground floor G-2 Conference Room

Alhambra, California 91803