

**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES  
2016 AND 2017**

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**APPOINTED MEMBERS 2016-2017**

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First District Appointees

**PAUL J. PHILIPS, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson**  
**JERRY G. VELASCO**

Second District Appointees

**MARK BURMAN**  
**RUBEN GONZALEZ**

Third District Appointees

**JESSE GABRIEL**  
**LAURENCE M. KAPLAN**

Fourth District Appointees

**PAMELA ALBERS**  
**BARRY WAITE**

Fifth District Appointees

**ANDREW FRIEDMAN**  
**VACANT**

Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

**AZITA FATHEREE, Chairperson**  
**ANA PONCE**

CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

**BOB ARCHULETA**

L.A. County Div. League of CA Cities Appointee

**JESS TALAMANTES**

Independent Cities Association Appointee

**VACANT**

President, Los Angeles City Council Appointees

**DRAKE DILLARD**  
**JOHN A. SONEGO**  
**JULES S. BAGNERIS, III, PH.D.,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient alternatives for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County of Los Angeles.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Commission on Local Governmental Services (Commission) seeks to find means to improve services, eliminate redundancies among public service providers, and identify areas where economies of scale can be achieved while providing better responsiveness to citizen needs. The Commission advises government leaders in the County of Los Angeles on ways to provide better, more responsible and cost effective delivery of services. In addition, the Commission reports and monitors on the implementation of its recommendations.

## **Historical Background**

The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1977 to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient ideas for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County. On the first Tuesday of each month the Commission holds its regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 374-A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County.

## **FOCUS IN PAST YEARS**

### **Peace Officer Training on Interaction with People with Cognitive Disability**

With the increasing relevance of autism diagnosis placing Los Angeles County estimates at more than 135,000 children, the Commission began looking at the frequency of “elopement” (wandering) of children and young people with autism from their caregivers and the ability of first responders to quickly and appropriately find and return them to their families.

The Commission heard from several parents about their experiences with their autistic children eloping (half of children with autism will elope at least once according to the CDC) and their interactions with police officers, which supported the need for increased training for first responders.

The Commission invited Glendale Police Department (GPD) in April 2016 to share their policies and best practices and their use of Project Lifesaver as a module to track those individuals who are prone to wandering due to their diagnosis. Sergeant Traci Fox who leads these efforts shared that Project Lifesaver coupled with specialized training on interactions with people with autism and developmental disabilities reduced the search time for wanderers from an average of more than eight hours to less than one hour, significantly reducing risk of harm and cost to the city.

Additionally, the training reduced the incidence of unnecessary force when interacting with people with intellectual disabilities.

The Commission also heard from Kate Movius, Chief Executive Officer, Autism Interaction Solutions on a few occasions about the specifics of the training she provides GPD and subsequently Sheriff deputies. This discussion continued to include at other hearings in 2016 and 2017 presentations from Lieutenant John Gannon from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; and Captain Timothy Murakami, City of Industry LASD; Lieutenant Natalie Gipson, Los Angeles City Police Department (LAPD); Officer Geoffrey Snowden, Burbank Police Department (BPD); and Jennifer Hunt, Psy.D., Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) who provided a brief overview of the Burbank Mental Health Evaluation Team (BMHET).

The Commission has thoroughly reviewed state mandate (SB-11: Peace Officer training-mental health), training opportunities, curriculum and methods in which Sheriff deputies acquired skill sets to effectively evaluate risk and appropriately de-escalate a situation involving a person with cognitive disabilities or mental health issues.

As a result of the work of the Commission, the City of Industry Sheriff Station began offering a training class, spearheaded and facilitated by Lieutenant John Gannon, using a 3-hour Police Officers Standard Training (POST) DVD with tabletop scenarios, a 3-hour block of training using a Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) simulator, which allows for real-time de-escalation and tactical judgment and firearms training, and a 2-hour training on Autism which incorporates families with autistic children or young adults.

To date, the above training has been provided to over 350 sworn and civilian staff assigned to City of Industry, Lakewood, Crescenta Valley, Lomita, East Los Angeles, and Century stations as well as the entire Mental Evaluation Team (MET) and Transit Mental Evaluation Team units. Additionally, 20 Jail MET deputies have participated as a measure of cross-training.

The demand for this crucial in-service training class, "In-Service Mental Health Update and Interactions with the Developmentally Disabled: *Practical Application of Interview and De-Escalation Strategies for Patrol*" has grown due to participant referrals to include school police departments, California Highway patrol, and stations in San Gabriel Valley. [Please refer to "**In-Service Training Recap Report: January of 2016 through November of 2017**" **White Paper prepared by Lieutenant John Gannon, and Training Police to Better Respond to Autism, By Chris Richard** [(<http://www.calhealthreport.org/author/crichard/>)] • Sep 19, 2016]

Our Commission has deemed necessary the continued support and expansion of this training for the safety of our first responders and, also, the most vulnerable members of our community, those with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment and mental health diagnosis. To assist the Sheriff's Department in expanding the training to fulfill the needs of the County, the Commission made a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to fund a mobile training unit that houses a MILO simulator and the personnel required to provide the ongoing training in multiple locations.

### **Los Angeles County Hospital**

The Commission reviewed the overall functionality of the Los Angeles County+ University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC), the challenges the hospital faces, and any ideas/initiatives under consideration that could improve the Department's ability to serve local residents.

Mr. Enrique Ornelas, Chief Operating Officer, LAC+USC of the Department of Health Services, reported LAC+USC is a teaching hospital partnering with USC since 1885. In 2008, a new medical center was built with a reduced number of beds totaling 600 versus the previous 800 beds used in the General Hospital. He further stated a study revealed that 150 additional beds are needed and patients' readmission is usually within 30-days. The new facility includes a Clinic Tower, Diagnostic & Treatment Tower, Inpatient Tower and an Outpatient Department Services building. Also, the General Hospital facility houses the innovative Wellness Center that includes community-based service providers. The intention of the Wellness Center is to improve and promote health and fitness and to ensure no one goes without care; and to reduce the number of patients and beds used by those entering the emergency room due to a severe/long-term illness. Mr. Ornelas mentioned there is a shortage of wellness doctors. Mr. Ornelas also spoke about the LAC+USC collaboration with Housing for Health Program in finding housing for the homeless and the apartment units being utilized. LAC+USC is a safety net hospital that accepts anyone regardless of financial capability. He stated that more beds are needed in the psychiatric ward because some patients may stay over 100 days. Following the presentation, the Commission questioned the 30-day return of patients and requested a copy of the study regarding the number of beds needed at the medical center. Mr. Ornelas was invited back and to bring with him a representative from the nursing program.

Also, the Commission agreed the perception of General Hospital/LAC+USC image needs improving and additionally requested that Mr. Ornelas invite their Public Relations Officer, also attend a future meeting to address Commission concerns.

Dan Castillo, Chief Executive Officer in Hospital Administration of LAC+USC also presented to the Commission. He discussed the following needs at LAC+USC: Expanding and redesigning primary care is key for the ability to accommodate new patients; Building parking structure next to Primary Care Unit for easier access; Creating an Ambulatory Surgery Center with easy access to parking would reduce backlog; Developing a comprehensive plan for behavioral health services that integrates care across the Emergency Department, inpatient, observation, post-acute and outpatient; and Addressing current shortages in select diagnostic services to fulfill inpatient and outpatient orders in a timely manner.

### **Regional Tourism Authority**

The Commission began discussions in 2014 on the feasibility of establishing a regional tourism authority to either replace or complement the several city-based tourism agencies throughout Los Angeles County. In 2016, Winnie Fong, Project Director, Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG) and Mary Hamzoian, Economic Development Manager, City of Burbank, were invited to discuss the viability of establishing a regional, or countywide, tourism body.

Ms. Fong presented on the WSCCOG Tourism/Economic Development Strategic Initiative. WSCCOG has five member cities: Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Los Angeles City Council Districts 5 and 11, and the unincorporated areas of the Third Supervisorial District. From 2013 to 2015, a strategic action plan for a sub-regional initiative to provide support and resources to member cities and partners was proposed to brand the Westside sub-regional tourist market and create a Westside mobile application for support. This was a collaborative effort from various partners of WSCCOG that included Beverly Hills. Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Los Angeles City and County Chambers of Commerce, the Santa Monica and West Hollywood CVBs, and the Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, and Venice Chambers of Commerce. The proposed initiative culminated in the creation of a central website that linked existing sub-regional CVB websites and transit maps, and also identified specific points of interest along the METRO rail and bus lines. In 2016, WSCCOG shifted gears to other priorities, while meetings remained in place for updating websites. In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Fong stated it would be ideal to convene regularly in non-formal settings to strategize discussions around programs and activities in their region.

Ms. Mary Hamzoian, Economic Development Manager, Community Development Department of the City of Burbank, also provided a presentation and handouts highlighting the Tourism Business Improvement Districts (T-BIDs). She stated T-BIDs are self-imposed, special benefit assessment districts, designed to help leverage funds for marketing and promotional efforts for the hospitality industry. There are 10 T-BIDs in Los Angeles County that included the City of Burbank. The Burbank Hospitality Association/T-BIDs receive a 1% assessment from overnight stays in Burbank hotels with 25+ rooms along with a Transient Occupancy Tax charge of 10%.

The funds received are used to partner with prominent travel and trade agencies, promote and market the City of Burbank, and provide financial contribution on behalf of local businesses to collaborate with major theme parks and other major attractions.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Hamzoian suggested the Commission consider focusing on transportation as it relates to tourism. This may include a recommendation for buses to be available for transportation dedicated to tourism, i.e. for Hop-On Hop-Off sightseeing tours. The Commission has provided recommendations to the Board early part of 2018.

### **Diversion and Re-entry**

The Commission invited retired Judge Peter Espinoza, Director of the Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR) Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, to present on the prevalence of mental health diagnosis among county jail inmates, the attributed programs and costs. Additionally, Judge Espinoza reported on the impact of Proposition 47 and funding for programs around re-entry, and he summarized the different programs such as Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) and the Housing and Women's Integrated Services Pilot (WISP) programs that benefit drug addicted inmates and pregnant inmates. The Commission will continue review of the fiscal impacts of Proposition 47 before making any recommendations.

On December 9, 2016, a letter was submitted to the Board addressing how AB 109 presents very serious social and fiscal challenges for the County of Los Angeles and our region.

### **Senate Bill 11 Implementation in Los Angeles County**

Captains Scott Gage, Training Bureau and Paula Tokar, Population Management Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), provided a presentation on Senate Bill 11 and the Sheriff's training curriculum and timeline for compliance. The primary responsibility of the Training Bureau is addressed through the "Academy", which includes weapons training, emergency vehicle training, professional development civilian training, records, as well as advanced officer training. Senate Bill 11 mandated an increase in training hours from the minimum 6 hours to 15 hours. Recruits receive 17 hours of mental health training in the Academy.

Custody Operations personnel receive de-escalation and verbal resolution trainings, which is a 32-hour course that is not mandated but is a need; as it emphasizes working with inmates with disabilities and mental illness, and/or in situations within the correctional environment. Field Operations personnel (all patrol deputies) are required to attend the 32-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Captain Gage stated that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department would be in compliance with Senate Bill 11 by July 2017 without need for additional funding. No further action needed from the Commission at this time.

## **Los Angeles County Cannabis Regulation**

With the legalization of recreational marijuana in California, the Commission wanted to identify opportunities for collaboration among the cities within Los Angeles County involving regulation, taxation or safety inspections. The Commission invited Joseph Nicchitta, County Coordinator for the Office of Cannabis Management of the Chief Executive Office (CEO), on a few occasions to discuss how Los Angeles County will implement and regulate recently approved Measure M.

Mr. Nicchitta presented on the enactment of Proposition 64 (Adult Use of Marijuana Act or AUMA), the Federal Cannabis Laws and the regulatory challenges of standard banking services. He further provided an overview of the process for developing regulations, which included opportunities for public consensus to be considered in the development of cannabis policies. While the present State law allows local jurisdictions to determine whether or not and to what extent to allow commercial cannabis businesses in their area, our Commission has delved into this topic to assist at minimum with the dissemination of information among all cities in the County and to identify cost cutting practices and to support policies around public health and safety. This item will continue to be reviewed by the Commission in 2018.

## **City of Los Angeles Cannabis Regulation**

The Commission invited Cat Packer, Executive Director, Department of Cannabis Regulation, City of Los Angeles, to discuss the City of Los Angeles' plans on the implementation and impact of Measure M (Marijuana Regulation and Taxation) and Proposition 64. With previous presentations made by the County Office of Cannabis Regulation, the Commission looked at opportunities of collaboration between the two Departments and the independent cities within the County.

Ms. Packer presented on Cannabis Law, policy implementation updates, regulations and limitation on the licensing requirements within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, Ms. Packer highlighted that State licensing expected to begin on January 2, 2018 and the State intends to issue temporary licenses to applicants currently authorized by local jurisdiction. The next steps for the City of Los Angeles include developing a Social Equity Program, finalizing regulatory framework (land use and regulatory ordinances).

Lastly, the following County Departments will be involved with the acceptance and processing of cannabis business license applications: a) Treasurer and Tax Collector-Business License Office, b) Business License Commission, c) Sheriff's Department, d) Department of Regional Planning, e) Department of Public Works Building and Safety, and f) Department of Public Health.



## **Cannabis Business Inspections**

Joe Nicchitta and Daniel Kelleher, representatives of CEO and Fredrick Agyin, Environmental Health Director for the Department of Public Health (DPH), provided brief updates on the County implementation and regulations regarding Measure M and Proposition 64 at the end of 2017.

Mr. Nicchitta reported that the CEO is continuing to analyze the regulations on cannabis business. With the passage of Proposition 64, regulations relating to health and safety of the cannabis businesses were also established.

Mr. Kelleher reported the County had reached out to cities regarding the County's regulations on cannabis businesses and asked the Commission for guidance and collaboration in its outreach.

In February 2017, the Board of Supervisors requested the CEO create uniform regulations for the County and the cities. There were webinar workshops and cross jurisdictional meetings with local officials at Council of Governments (COGs) to open the lines of communications to discuss best practices and share ideas on cannabis businesses. They meet regularly with the cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles and Culver City. He reported the State of California issues licenses without health inspections while the application to the city and County are in the process. Presently, the CEO is working to design a universal emblem for retail cannabis dispensaries in the City of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Culver City and Bellflower. The emblem will be similar to the restaurant grading system after inspection. The CEO estimates emblem design completion by spring of 2018 with issuance to cities in the summer.

Mr. Agyin reported that the DPH is planning to issue cannabis business referrals to cities/County after health inspections. They have 15 trained staff assigned to conduct inspections. DPH guidelines were distributed to Commission for clarification of the department's role in the inspections on cannabis businesses. DPH is also preparing a draft model ordinance on health inspections for cities for the Board of Supervisors' approval.

The Commission will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to require and provide health inspections by the County Department of Public Health during the State's review for licensing dispensaries.

## **Bringing Our Loved Ones Home Task Force**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) invited Azita Karimkhany Fatheree, 2016-2017 Chairperson of the Commission, to serve on the Bringing Our Loved Ones Home (BOLOH) Task Force due to the work of the Commission since early 2016 on the issue of wandering among the county's population with autism and intellectual disabilities. Chairperson Azita Karimkhany Fatheree participated in over 22 hours of collaboration with multiple County stakeholders and helped in identifying 17 strategies the County can employ to more effectively address the critical missing cases. On February 20, 2018, the Board approved the BOLOH Task Force's recommended strategies and initiative.

## **Sustainable Waste Management**

The Commission has heard from several experts since 2011 regarding the sustainable waste management program within Los Angeles County. In October of 2017, the Commission invited Patrick Holland, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works to provide an update. The County continues to focus on reusing, recycling, converting compost, and transforming waste to energy. There are reduction programs such as SMARTGARD and other free programs to be implemented countywide with workshops held on weekends.

Mr. Holland reviewed the following Policy Drivers:

- AB 939, created in 1989 requires each County to identify a minimum of 15 years of estimated disposal capacity with 50% reduction.
- AB 32, created in 2006 requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- AB 341, created in 2011, requires commercial sector to recycle and adopt a Statewide 75% "recycling" goal by 2020.
- AB 1826, created in 2014, requires commercial entities to recycle their organic wastes (food, wood, green waste, contaminated paper).
- AB 876, created in 2015, requires each County to identify 15 years of organic waste recycling infrastructure needs.
- SB 1383, created in 2016, requires California to reduce organic waste disposal 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.

The Commission will continue discussions in 2018 and will partner with the Department of Public Works with a focus on:

- Educating communities on various waste reduction programs for household hazardous waste, smart gardening, mattress recycling, tire recycling and recycling market development zone.
- Educating other Cities and County departments on policy drivers.
- Continuing to support conversion technology programs and Co-Digestion expansion.
- Consider advocating or sponsoring legislation to overcome infrastructure barriers.
- Reviewing the need to develop 10 more facilities and discussion on development in Glendale, Lancaster and Sylmar.

Sincerely,



Azita Fatheree, Chairperson  
Los Angeles County Commission on  
Local Governmental Services

c: Board of Supervisors  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division Action Executive  
Officer