

AGENDA

The Select Committee on California’s Mental Health Crisis

Assemblymember Dr. Corey A. Jackson, CHAIR

Wednesday, June 7, 2023- 2 P.M.

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 444

We encourage the public to provide written testimony before the hearing.

Please send your written testimony to Lamont.Gordon@asm.ca.gov.

Please note that any written testimony submitted to the committee is considered public comment and may be read into the record or reprinted.

The Capitol will be open for public attendance at this hearing. The public may attend in person or participate by phone. This hearing can be viewed via live stream on the Assembly’s website at <https://assembly.ca.gov/todayevents>.

A moderated telephone line will be available to assist with public participation. After all witnesses on all panels and issues have concluded, and after the conclusion of member questions, the public may provide public comment by calling the following toll-free number.

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Public Comment will be taken after the completion of all panels and any discussion from the Members of the Select committee.

Panel Topics and Organization

Panel 1. *Defining Mental Health and Addressing the Stigma*

a.	<u>Swords to Plowshares</u> : through case management, counseling, support groups and VA healthcare enrollment, Swords to Plowshares provides individualized plans and referrals to get veterans back on track; have counselors that have veteran-centered backgrounds; find community with other veterans in our various support groups; and assist with the process and paperwork of health plans.
b.	<u>Asian Health Services</u> : provides health, social, and advocacy services for all regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language, or culture. Asian Health Services approach to wellbeing focuses on the “whole patient health.” Asian Health Services provides more than primary care services, including mental health, case management, nutrition, and dental care to more than 50,000 patients in English and 14 languages.
c.	<u>Institute on Aging</u> : works to enhance the quality of life for adults as they age by enabling them to maintain their health, well-being, independence and participation in the community. Institute on Aging serves a diverse population of older adults and disabled adults by providing innovative, community-based programs that enable their clients to live at home for as long as possible. Institute on Aging serves as an essential partner in the continuum of care by providing health services, social and emotional support, and education and advocacy.
d.	<u>California Commission on Aging</u> : serves as the principal advocacy body for older Californians and as a catalyst for change that supports and celebrates Californians as they age. The Commission’s work on behalf of older adults reflects the values of equity and inclusion; autonomy, choice, and access; respect and integrity; collaboration and partnership.
e.	<u>National Union of Healthcare Workers</u> : represents more than 16,000 healthcare workers including: medical technicians and technologists, clerical workers, psychologists, pharmacists, housekeepers, dietary workers, nurses, nursing assistants, drug rehabilitation counselors, mental health clinicians, engineers, and many others whose hospitals and clinics rely on this these professionals to provide top quality care and service.

The questions for the panelists for this issue are as follows:

For Swords to Plowshares: Would you identify the barriers which impede efficient health care delivery?

For Asian Health Services: What does mental health stigma look like within the Asian American community?

For Institute on Aging: what benefits does aging in place have on mental health?

For California Commission on Aging: What is the most pressing issue in mental health care delivery for our older citizens?

For National Union of Healthcare Workers: What type of reforms aimed at improving the enforcement of our state’s behavioral health laws are needed so that the rights enshrined in our laws become the reality in our communities?

Panelists

- **Swords to Plowshares-** Michael Blecker, Executive Director
- **Asian Health Services-** Thu Quach, PhD, President
- **Institute on Aging-** Katy Spence, LMFT, Sr. Director-Friendship Line

- **California Commission on Aging**- Janet C. Frank, commissioner, DrPH, MS in Gerontology
Faculty Associate, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Adjunct Associate Professor, UCLA School of Public Health
- **National Union of Healthcare Workers**- Sarah Soroken, Mental Health Clinician- Solano County Behavioral Health- MA, LMFT

Panel 2. Where do we go from here?

a.	California Health and Human Services Agency: has a mission is to work together with counties, cities, and communities, as well as public, private, faith, and educational partners to make California a healthy, vibrant, inclusive place to live, play, work, and learn.
b.	Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission: serves a primary function to oversee the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act. The Commission distributes grants, collects and shares spending and efficacy data on local programs, spreads best practices, conducts research into critical subject areas like criminal justice involvement of people with mental health needs, and engages experts to develop policy proposals and other path breaking solutions.

The questions for the panelists for this issue are as follows:

For The California Health and Human Services Agency:

1. How do we build the behavioral health pipeline to address future workforce needs?
2. How do we move away from responding to behavioral health needs as a crisis – to a point where we are strengthening and building the underlying behavioral health system to sustain folks who need care and to a point where we are better able to address needs prior to them reaching an acute stage?

For The Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission: What is the largest barrier to the implementation of the mental health services act?

Panelists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Health and Human Services Agency- Melissa Stafford Jones, Director of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative • California Health and Human Services Agency- Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health • Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission- Toby Ewing, Executive Director

**PUBLIC COMMENT
(PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN ON ALL ITEMS)**

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