

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Office of the Deputy Director of Strategic Communications**

Access for All UsCC Subcommittee Minutes

March 10, 2021
10:00AM – 12:00PM
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Alex Reynoso, Amy Kay, Ashley Flores, Bianca Gallegos, Cody Hanable, Eddie Robles, Hector Ramirez, Juan Cabrera, Maritza Lebron, Osvaldo Carrizoza, Pamela Inaba, Roque Bucton, Wendy Cabil

DMH: Rosario Ribleza, Pinki Mehta, Julio Miranda and Connie Acosta Castaneda, Alex Elliot, Yue Hua Xu

Interpreter & Captioner: Stephanie Webb and Gregory, Joann

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions - Subcommittee Members	Attendee introductions: Each attendee (On Microsoft Teams and on the phone) was encouraged to incorporate a description of themselves to be mindful of those attendees with disabilities: individuals with visual impairments who cannot see the computer screen, and those who cannot hear what is happening in the meeting.
Meeting Norms/Review of Code of Conduct – Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cody Hanable reviewed the Code of Conduct and Meeting Norms to the subcommittee.
Meeting Minutes: Review and Approval – Co-Chair & Subcommittee	February 10, 2021 meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved by Amy Kay and seconded by Alex Reynoso .
General Updates:	<p>A. DMH Updates – Pinki Mehta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Mental Health is releasing a monthly newsletter, “Connecting Your Community”. The newsletter provides information, updates and mental health resources, so Pinki encouraged everyone to sign up to receive monthly issues. February newsletter was about the implementation of the 988 Alternative Crisis Response line. It is a State initiative number to call for help in a crisis situation.

- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) at the State level is moving forward with plans around SB803 implementation, the Peer Certification. There is a public comment period that will be open Countywide in April 2021.

B. Capacity Building Projects – Rosario Ribleza

- The 2018-2019 Capacity Building Projects are all completed: 1) Peer-to-Peer Network, 2) Clinical Mental Health training, and 3) the PSA Development Project.
- The 2020-2021 Capacity Building Projects: 1) Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community 2) Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Blind, Partially Sighted and Visually-impaired Community, and 3) Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Physically Disabled Community are in the Procurement Division for review and approval. Once they get approved, ISD will review them for solicitation.
- Pinki Mehta is working to have the PSA media campaign leveraged with “We Rise” in celebration of Mental Health month in May. Hopefully she could get a more definitive answer by next month.
- Hector emphasized the need for more accessibilities during the We Rise events, particularly the use of CART and interpreters especially for individuals with visual and hearing impairment.

C. Outreach with SALT and UsCC meetings – Co-Chairs

- In order to build and increase Access for All membership, co-chairs attended meetings of other UsCCs and SALTs to outreach, make connections, and share resources.
- Alex Elliot shared the use of digital navigation to connect with the communities and organizations, and to get help.
- Pinki Mehta reported that the Los Angeles County Corporate Executive Officer (CEO) will have budget set aside to fund for digital accessibility.

D. Measure J Updates – Hector Ramirez

- One of the focus of Measure J is to address the disproportionate impact of racial injustice through community investment and alternatives to incarceration.
- There are more people with psychiatric disabilities in the Men’s Central Jail and Twin Towers than any other place in the United States, and they need services from the Department of Mental Health.
- The Measure J meetings are well attended: smallest group is composed of about 115 members, and 360 is the biggest one. Everyone who attends can vote and give recommendations.
- Pam Inaba acknowledged Hector for the work he is doing and encouraged more people to participate and be heard.

<p>Deaf Services: 5 Acres – Amy Kay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Acres is a non-profit agency that provides services only to children, but also accommodates adults as no other agencies serve them. However, due to lack of funding, Five Acres is struggling to continue serving both children and adult clients. • There are too many deaf and hard of hearing clients, but there is not enough qualified clinicians. • Currently, there are no other agencies that provide services for the deaf and hard of hearing community especially for adults; no advocacy; not enough resources. • DMH Contract Monitoring and Management Division denied Five Acres request for funding.
<p>Brainstorming: Access for All Presentation with the Commission on Disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for All UsCC co-chairs and Amy will present the issues to the Commission on Disability to get support. • Inform the Commission about Access for All subcommittees and their mission as well as their strong advocacy for the deaf and hard of hearing community. • Talk about the mental health services and accessibility issues for the deaf and hard of hearing in Los Angeles County as well as the lack of a DMH- ADA coordinator. • On April 14, 2021 meeting, the Co-Chairs will present the letter for the Commission on Disabilities to the subcommittee for their review. • If PSA will be taken out from the 2020-2021 budget, it may be possible to hire a consultancy firm to run an accessibility system-wide analysis of DMH to receive more data needed to resolve the issues. • Pinki Mehta asked Amy to write a letter to DMH regarding Five Acres' request for funding, and she will try to advocate for it.
<p>Newsletter: Discussion for Future Release</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each UsCC subcommittee has its own page in the DMH newsletter. The Access for All subcommittee submitted their mission statement, time and dates of the meetings, and resources that specifically targeting the disabled community. • Roque Bucton suggested to always use Access for All logo with a caption or hyperlink associated with the subcommittee. Standard message on accessibility and accommodation: a reminder that closed captioning (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters are available.
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>12:00 P.M.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting is on April 14, 2021 – 10:00-12:00 noon