

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**Access for All UsCC Minutes**

May 10, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Stakeholders:** **Maria A., Maria Arauco, Joseph Bucton, Wendy Cabil, Carol Chung, Leslie Dishman, Alison Freeman, Cody Hanable, Jacqueline Hasty, Melissa Hernandez, Pam Inaba, Adjoa Jones, Amy Kay, Angy K., Brenda Morales, Steven Park, Hector Ramirez, Peggy Reyna, Jessica Sullivan, Maria Tan, Gabriella Velasquez, Irma Velasquez, Lisa Wong, Jarris Wright**

**DMH Staff:** **Patty Choi, Alex Elliott, Martin Jones, Julio Miranda, Jenny Nguyen, Martha Ortiz, Suyapa Umanzor, Elaine Waldman, Alan Wu**

**ASL Interpreter:** **Kayelle Morgan**

**Captioner:** **Joann Jaimes**

| <b>Agenda Items</b>              | <b>Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions</b>  |
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| <b>Welcome from DMH Director</b> | Dr. Wong thanked the participants for their dedication as disability stakeholders, and for all they do to help the Department of Mental Health improve services and programs. She highlighted the current campaign, "Take Action for Mental Health," and encouraged everyone to get involved in the various community-based activities throughout the months of May and June. |

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|  | <p>Dr. Wong encouraged everyone to know about the DMH Help Line for emotional support and service referrals, available 24 hours a day/7 days a week by phone, at 1-800-854-7771 and by texting 988.</p> <p>Several participants shared concerns about consumer access to DMH leadership, Client Activity Fund (CAF) restructuring, and the critical needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing clients.</p>   |
| <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>  | <p>Amy Kay moved to approve the May meeting minutes; Pam Inaba seconded the motion.</p>  |
| <p><b>Community Accessibility Resources, Compiled and Presented by Alex Elliott</b></p> <p>also posted on the UsCC webpage:<br/> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/access-for-all-uscc/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/access-for-all-uscc/</a></p> | <p>Alex shared that he is in his third year of curating resources that are only one click away, to help people with disabilities reduce loneliness and increase community engagement. He highlighted important resources, including:</p> <p>“Take Action for Mental Health LA County” Resources: This initiative brings LA communities together around mental health and empower you and those around you to find support. <a href="https://www.takeactionlac.com/resources">https://www.takeactionlac.com/resources</a></p> <p>LA County Department of Mental Health Resources: Special collections of resources are organized by topic below:<br/> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/resources/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/resources/</a> Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Community Resources &amp; Information<br/> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/ee/resources/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/ee/resources/</a></p> <p>Global Accessibility Awareness Day - GAAD Thursday, May 18, 2022, help us celebrate the 12th Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)! The purpose of GAAD is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion, and the more than One Billion people with disabilities/impairments. <a href="https://accessibility.day/">https://accessibility.day/</a> · Mental Health America - May is Mental Health Resources for Mental Health Month this year, Mental Health America is encouraging individuals to look around and look within. From your neighborhood to genetics, many factors come into play when it comes to mental health conditions. We encourage everyone to consider how the world around them affects their mental health.</p> |

<https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/MHM/Toolkit-2023/MHM-2023-Additional-Resources.pdf>

#### Apple accessibility features - Quick Videos

This collection of short videos features tips and tricks on Apple accessibility including how to use Guided Access, Assistive Touch, Conversation Boost, Voice Control, and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI2EzNYri0cLtSIzowttih25VnSvWITU>

#### TASK Resources

TASK's mission is to educate and empower people with disabilities and their families. TASK specializes in special education support for people with disabilities from birth to age 26 and their families.

<https://taskca.org/resources/>

#### FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Promote Responsible AI Innovation that Protects Americans' Rights and Safety

The Biden-Harris Administration announced new actions designed to further promote responsible American innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) and protect people's rights and safety. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/04/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-promote-responsible-ai-innovation-that-protects-americans-rights-and-safety/>

#### U.S. Surgeon General - Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection

Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection calls for action essential to our nation's health, safety, and prosperity. Individuals and organizations can use this framework to address the public health problem of social disconnection and strengthen social connection.

<https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/connection/resources/index.html>

John Hopkins University – Disability Health Research Center

Using a disability data justice approach, focused on developing, expanding and improving methods to collect disability data. This work is grounded in perspectives of the disability community and prioritizes accessibility and equitable access to this data and information.

<https://disabilityhealth.jhu.edu/research/>

The Web AIM Million - The 2023 report on the accessibility of the top 1,000,000 home pages <https://webaim.org/projects/million/>

**Group Discussion**

Meeting participants shared input on the upcoming capacity-building project plans. Elaine shared that the solicitation process is handled by the County of Los Angeles Internal Services Division, after DMH staff prepares and submits required scope of work documentation for each proposed project. Interested organizations and individuals who are registered County vendors can respond to a solicitation, once it becomes available. Elaine will take the five proposed project concepts that were presented last month and will try to increase access for a wider range of potential vendors, especially people with disabilities, to bid on them, when available; hopefully by the Fall.

Stakeholders who are deaf and hard-of-hearing shared that they have had to fight to be heard, that it is exhausting and extremely difficult to constantly advocate for oneself. Accessibility is an ongoing challenge and serious frustration.

Alison Freeman, Hector Ramirez, Amy Kay, and Angy K. spoke about the need for commitment by DMH to expand access to ASL interpretation and needed infrastructure to be developed to provide equitable access to all DMH services and programs. Resources are extremely limited, or they don't exist. There is no or inadequate ADA oversight for both physical and mental health, including a lack of in-person, trained and qualified ASL interpreters. Community events must have CART and ASL available, for people to

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|                     | <p>participate. Hector shared that advocacy is a part of wellness; he spent years asking for accessibility to be built into the MHSA planning, so that community members are not excluded from participating. One suggestion that came from participants is to train DMH clients and community members on complaint processes.</p> <p>Brenda Morales shared that she will research the Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center speech pathology resources, along with applied rehabilitation technology and equipment. Alex Elliott is particularly interested in learning what is available.</p> |
| <b>Next Meeting</b> | The next meeting is on June 14, 2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM   |