

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Unit**

EASTERN EUROPEAN/ MIDDLE EASTERN SUBCOMMITTEE UNDERSERVED CULTURAL COMMUNITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

April 17, 2019

3pm – 5pm

Present:

AGENDA ITEM	COMMENTS/DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS
Introductions	<p>Everyone introduced themselves. A new Consumer joined the meeting. She was asked to share some of her experiences as a client with the group. She reported that she fell into depression after her husband passed away and became detached from everyone. She isolated herself, lost interest in her daily activities, and cried often. She is glad she found Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services, as since receiving services, life is meaningful for her again. She reported that she lives alone without any family members in United States. She had challenges understanding the different Armenian dialects when interacting with community members. At this agency, she visited the Adult Center, where she attended computer and English classes. She also took cooking classes and enjoyed doing that. In addition, there is case-management services where the case manager helps to translate important documents.</p>
Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Minutes were approved with no corrections</p>
DMH Updates Anna Yaralyan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 4/26/19, from 9:30 am to 12 pm, there will be a Joint SAAC/UsCC meeting to discuss how they will work together, as they are part of YourDMH initiative. The meeting will be held at 550 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, Ca 90022 2nd Floor Conference Room. All Co-chairs are encouraged to attend.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The WeRise Event 2019 will be May 18 thru May 27th at Downtown Los Angeles Art District, 1262 Palmetto Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90013. We Rise is a cultural event featuring arts, live performances and bold conversations to help us explore mental health well-being and a wide range of related social issues. It includes a full program of special events like music, art activities, workshops and screenings. It is a free event and it's open to the public each evening and the weekend ● The next Stakeholder Subcommittee on Education is having their second engagement, it is scheduled to happen at WeRise. More information is to come in the upcoming weeks. ● The Underserved Cultural Communities Unit will have to decide on a new name. This is pending management approval. ● For this coming fiscal year 2019/2020, all UsCC Building Capacity Proposals need to be ready by July 31, 2019. ● In our next meeting, we will brainstorm on developing new ideas and concepts for future Capacity Building Projects. We must have them all ready by July 31, 2019.
<p>Schedule of Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EE/ME UsCC subcommittee co-chair Sarkis Simonian informed the members that they have to discuss if they would like to meet every other month instead of monthly ● If there aren't any projects on the table, the group does not have to meet every month, updates are through YourDMH ● It was discussed as a group to meet every other month instead of monthly ● This will be discussed with Mirtala Parada Ward, the decision to go with every other month of meetings ● Anna Yaralyan will send an email informing all members the date when the changes will take effect
<p>UsCC Bylaws & Charter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Code of Conduct was given to all the subcommittee members to sign, once a year they are to complete a new form ● Bylaws were discussed with the group. Sarkis asked group members if they had time to read YourDMH and the Bylaws? ● It was decided to keep the existing bylaws with minor modifications. In addition, each group can add cultural adaptation if needed. ● The new bylaws, have two categories of membership, a voting member or general Member.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you decide to become a voting member you have to apply every year, and the subcommittee members have to approve you by 50% vote. ● If you want to be a general member, no application is needed. You can just show up at the meetings, but you will have no voting privileges ● DMH employees are not allowed to vote ● You must attend 50% of the meetings to have voting privileges and this is closely monitored. ● We want members to be committed to the meetings. ● There will be some updates to the Bylaws, Mirtala will share with everyone once they are updated
<p>New Capacity Building Project Updates:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The TV program for the Armenians showing the process of therapy has not been approved yet. We are waiting for the ISD to complete the solicitation process. ● The other projects are still in process. We will provide updates in two months ● Mastaneh Moghadam, from Cross Cultural Expressions updated on the Arabic, Farsi, and Russian Public Services Announcement Project. She reported the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total of 50 PSAs were completed, although there were supposed be 14 PSA's per language (Arabic, Farsi, and Russian) on social media. . ○ Three PSAs go live per week. All the PSAs will be live by June. ○ The PSAs have been advertised on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. ○ Overall the project is going very well. ● Heather Laird also provided an update on the Capacity Building Projects for the Arabic speaking community. She reported that The Arabic Text Translation Project concept was exchanged to the Parenting Seminars for the Arabic speaking Community. ● EE/ME subcommittee members discussed the importance of parenting classes for the Arabic speaking community to be conducted at different community venues. ● Sarkis Simonian asked the members whether they are ok with this project, given that it was recently changed. The members agreed that parenting classes are important for the Arabic speaking community. Everyone agreed to move forward with this project. ● Heather also provided a brief overview of the “Defining Islamic Psychology Conference, 2019.” She stated that she

	appreciated LACDMH employees and subcommittee members such as Nina Tayyib, Mirtala Parada Ward and Anna Yaralyan attending the conference, meeting, and interacting with other conference attendees.
	Future Meeting: Times & Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday: June 12; 3pm – 5pm• Wednesday: July 31; 3pm – 5pm