

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Strategic Communications Division**

**Eastern-European / Middle Eastern (EE/ME) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

September 30, 2020

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

**Present:** Sarkis Simonian, Mariam Nahapetyan, Mastaneh Moghadam, Rima Safaryan, Dr. George Gharibian, Dr. Heather Laird and Tara Omrani

**DMH Admin:** Anna Yaralayan, Dr. Jorge Partida Del Toro, Dr. Sandra Chang, Julio Miranda and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Introductions</b>	Everyone introduced themselves
<b>8/26/20 Meeting Minutes - Review</b>	Minutes were reviewed and approved by Sarkis Simonian and seconded by Mastaneh Moghadam
<b>Discussion about COVID-19 and other community current events (i.e. The War in Armenia) – Sarkis Simonian</b>	<p><b>(i.e. How members are doing individually and ensuring that everyone is safe):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members each shared their stories related to COVID-19</li> <li>• <b>Rima Safaryan:</b> Was happy to share with the subcommittee, that her Daughter-in-law and family are all doing well; they no longer have the Coronavirus.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. George Gharibian:</b> Shared with the subcommittee that a war started in Armenia. Azerbaijan attacked Armenia on 9/27/2020, to win Artsakh, which is mainly populated by ethnic Armenians. In Los Angeles, people in the Armenian community are very worried and sad about the War in Armenia. People are worried, many people need help. He asked for the subcommittee members to please share what is happening to raise awareness, and if possible, provide donations. Mental Health Services are needed for the children and first responders in Armenia. Armenian American Mental Health Association wants to put a group of Mental Health professionals together to guide and help support the Armenian community, via ZOOM.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Partida</b> suggested putting together a Mental Health Resource Manual around Trauma for the Armenian community here in Los Angeles County, and for the people in Armenia.</li> <li>• <b>Sarkis Simonian</b> suggested that they also use the resources from the DMH UsCC website.</li> <li>• <b>Mariam Nahapetyan</b> and <b>Rima Safaryan</b> volunteered to help translate the manual. Mariam also said she would like to be a spokesperson.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sandra Chang</b> will provide the subcommittee a list of Los Angeles County employee’s that speak Armenian to help with translations and recruit mental health professionals to volunteer for this cause.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Modification of the Capacity Building Projects on a Virtual Platform – Sarkis Simonian:</b></p>	<p><b>The Farsi and Russian Mental Health Theatrical Project – Mastaneh Moghadam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian and Farsi Mental Health Theater Project continues. This project has been a bit challenging to film, especially the theatrical pieces, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the actors/actresses were not being able to gather. Now it is being done on a virtual platform.</li> <li>• For the Farsi Mental Health Theatrical Project, the director decided to film each actor individually and then edit them together to make it appear that it was filmed with everyone together.</li> <li>• Rehearsals are 3 to 4 times a week and filming and editing has already started. Everything is going well. There is a lot of passion involved.</li> <li>• The goal is to start the virtual performances on November 1, 2020, to start off the first of 6 live performances. Persian and Russian ZOOM events will be conducted in the entire month of November. There are no dates set yet, but that is the goal.</li> <li>• The Farsi Mental Health Theater Project is working on subtitles in English.</li> <li>• <b>Anna Yaralyan</b> requested for the recordings of the Farsi and Russian Mental Health Theatrical Projects to be submitted to her at LACDMH after it is completed, to have it in the DMH archives.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Russian Mental Health Media (TV &amp; Radio) Outreach Campaign:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SOW for this project is completed and approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Armenian Community Symposiums Project Statement of Work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Statement of Work (SOW) has been completed but because of COVID-19 pandemic, it needs to be modified to be done virtually.</li> <li>• <b>Sarkis Simonian</b> suggested to put the project on hold, pending COVID-19 circumstances. Hopefully by next year it will be possible to have the Festival as it is vs. virtually.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mental Health Focus Groups for Arabic speaking community Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SOW for this Project is completed. Heather Laird will turn in modifications for this projected in order for it to be conducted virtually.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Follow-Up Items:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sandra Chang and Anna Yaralyan will follow up with Mirtala Parada Ward regarding the timeline of the new Capacity Building Projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health Promoters Program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Partida talked about the Health Promoters Program and suggested that it be an Agenda item for next month's meeting. He reported that the Health Promoters Program is a wonderful program and there are funds allocated for these positions. It is needed in other cultures and other languages as well.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarkis Simonian suggested for Dr. Heather Laird to connect with the Health Promoters Program and take advantage of what they can offer to the EE/ME community.</li><li>• The subcommittee all agreed that it will benefit the community.</li></ul>
<b>Future Meeting Times &amp; Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• October 28, 2020 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm</li><li>• November 25, 2020 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm</li></ul> <p><b><u>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</u></b></p> <p>+1 323-776-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#</p>