

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

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

January 27, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Sarkis Simonian, Rima Safaryan, Dr. Heather Laird, Seta Haig, Mastaneh Moghadam, Armine Stepanyan, Mariam Nahapeyan, Waffa Abu-Hajar, Dr. George Gharibian and Haydeh Fakhrabadi

DMH Admin: Dr. Anna Yaralayan, Dr. Sandra Chang, and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	Everyone introduced themselves.
8/26/20 Meeting Minutes - Review	Minutes were reviewed and approved by Sarkis Simonian and seconded by George Gharibian.
<p data-bbox="69 829 321 992">Discussion about COVID-19 and other community current events – Sarkis Simonian</p> <hr data-bbox="69 1360 321 1364"/> <p data-bbox="69 1401 321 1433">Promatores Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="394 868 1927 966">• Rima Safaryan shared with the group that she contracted the COVID-19 virus, however, did not know how she contracted it. She experienced all COVID-19 symptoms but now has been relieved. According to Rima, she is happy to be at the EE/ME, UsCC subcommittee meeting today. <li data-bbox="394 1003 1927 1068">• The subcommittee expressed that they are very happy that Rima is feeling much better and are happy to have her join today's meeting. <li data-bbox="394 1105 1686 1138">• Dr. Heather Laird expressed her concerns with the group about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. <li data-bbox="394 1175 1602 1208">• Dr. Heather Laird shared what she felt were discriminative practices at the COVID-19 site. <li data-bbox="394 1245 1528 1278">• Dr. Heather Laird had to get a manager's approval to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. <li data-bbox="394 1315 1927 1380">• Health Care Workers that are in phase one and work directly with patients can receive the vaccine. You will need to provide your license and your identification. <li data-bbox="394 1417 1812 1450">• Sarkis Simonian and Dr. Heather Laird provided an update to the group regarding the Promatores Project. <li data-bbox="394 1487 1875 1520">• Dr. Laird reported that some applicants have been experiencing difficulties, but please do not feel discouraged.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications are, Peer Specialist Certification training and six months of experience with their communities. • Dr. Sandra Chang shared key words with the group, to strengthen their application, (i.e. Advocacy, Experience with community education.) Also they should focus on all their skills. • Dr. George Gharibian shared with the group that he has been feeling a little depressed due to the War in Armenia, as Armenia had many losses of life and territories in Artsakh. • Dr. Gharibian reported that the Armenian-American Mental Health Association has been conducting trainings and consultations with the Mental Health professionals in Armenia to provide necessary mental health assistance to those effected by the War such as war veterans, children who have lost their fathers/mothers, mothers who lost their sons, etc. • The program is still running and the groups will be made more independent, like a volunteer group. • Dr. George Gharibian asked the group to share resources and connections. • Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day will be on April 24, 2021. • The Armenian American Mental Health Virtual Conference April 17 & 18, 2021. • The Armenian Genocide, Intergenerational Trauma and Mental Health issues will be topics of discussion. • Dr. Gharibian will be sending out the proposal, to anyone that would like to participate in this conference, please fill out the proposal.
<p>Update on the Russian & Farsi Theater Project – Mastaneh Moghadam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Theater Project was completed and the summary report was written and turned in. • The project started in August 2019 and successfully completed by December 31, 2020. Due to COVID-19 the stage production it was delayed. • In July of 2020 they were changed into Theatrical pieces that are recorded and then played live on ZOOM. • The project was overall highly successful, they received great feedback and very positive comments. They had 225 people register for all six Russian performances and 1086 registered for the Farsi/Persian performances. The Access line was given out to all participants. • Additional viewings were put on YouTube Live and had 560 views.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre and Posttest indicated that there was an increase of awareness on how to access mental health services for both communities.
Dr. Sandra Chang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sandra Chang shared with the group a new project that the CCC's have been working on and would like to connect with the UsCC's with a Multi-Cultural News Letter put together for the community by the community. • There will be a page dedicated for each subcommittee that would like to participate. The goal is to create opportunities to connect cultural expertise to reach the community to bring hope. • The project was approved a week and half ago. They will be forming a work group, and will be meeting in a week to plan newsletter content. • The newsletter will be quarterly; it will inform the community of resources available to them. It will also allow us to connect our cultures by sharing childhood upbringing experiences, food recipes, photography and poems. • The subcommittee shared that they are very much interested in participating in the News Letter. Dr. Chang asked to please leave their contact information in the chat box and she will be connecting with everyone soon. Dr. Chang thanked everyone in advance for their participation.
Future Meeting Date & Times	Next virtual meeting is on Wednesday February 24, 2021 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm
	<p><u>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (323) 446-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#