

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

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

March 31, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Sarkis Simonian, Mastaneh Moghadam, Armine Stepanyan, Mariam Nahapetyan, Dr. George Gharibian, Avo Soltanian, Seta Haig, Dr. Shushan Kalantaryan and Haydeh Fakhrabadi

DMH Admin: Dr. Anna Yaralyan and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	Everyone introduced themselves.
Meeting Minutes - Review	February 24, 2021 minutes were reviewed and tabled for approval pending amendment of meeting minutes. Later in the week, the meeting minutes were approved by Co-Chair Sarkis Simonian.
LACDMH Newsletter “Cultural Traditions and Connections” - Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. George Gharibian and Mariam Nahapeyan were selected to be the EE/ME Liaisons for the LACDMH Newsletter “Cultural Traditions and Connections” committee. • Mariam Nahapetyan shared with the group that they will be changing the Newsletter to a magazine due to an over abundant submission of topics and content. • They gave an update on what kind of content the magazine would have. The content will be about Mental Health and community traditions and connections. • The bulk of the information/content will come from the community. There will be a section for resources and a section for the community to ask questions. • There was a discussion on what areas/places the magazine would be distributed to and how the magazine would be distributed, either by hard copy or a link. • It was decided it will be distributed within DMH and outside DMH. To service providers, also having it on the DMH website and sharing with stakeholder groups. All Service Area outreach and engagement teams, UsCC groups, SALT groups and Co-Chairs and members can share the link to their mailing lists.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The magazine should be released soon, waiting on executive management to okay release of magazine. • Sarkis Simonian informed the group that if they have any suggestions of articles, please submit to Dr. George Gharibian or Mariam Nahapetyan. <p><u>Question:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be space for business advertisements? <u>Answer:</u> (No). • Will the Magazine be translated to the 13 threshold languages? <u>Answer:</u> (No). Only in Spanish since the population majority is Spanish speaking. <p><u>Feedback:</u></p> <p>There were some concerns from community members that the funds for this magazine could be utilized elsewhere in other projects.</p>
<p>Brainstorming Ideas for new Capacity Building Projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Anna Yaralyan reported to the group that there have not been any updates as of yet on these 4 Capacity Building Projects. She will update the subcommittee at the next EE/ME subcommittee meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arabic Mental Health Needs Assessment Project 2. Armenian Community Symposium Project 3. Virtual Poetry Night for Farsi Speaking Community Project 4. Media Campaign for Russian Speaking Community Project • Mastaneh Moghadam shared with the group, that they received a lot of positive feedback from the capacity building project movie Wake-up Sleeping Beauty. • It was suggested for a future capacity building project, that they make a copy of the screenplay and revise it to a book in English, Russian and Persian. • Also maybe a stage production Theater project, it would be nice for the community to come out and connect in that manner. <p><u>Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shushan Kalantaryan shared with the group that this is the first time in history the Armenian government has recognized Mental Health to be an official field.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Armenian government agreed to provide money needed for Mental Health services. • Volunteers will be sent to Armenia to help with training on intense trauma work to help children and families. • Masaneh Moghadam shared with the group that Cross-Cultural Expressions is looking to hire a Farsi speaking Clinician. They could be an intern, MSW, LCSW, MFT or LMFT. They have to be fluent in Farsi. • Dr. George Gharibian shared with the group that they are trying to create a suicide helpline in Armenia, or a kind of helpline for people to get help if they are not comfortable with therapy or not able to receive therapy.
<p>Future Meeting Date & Times</p>	<p>Next meeting is on Wednesday April 28, 2021 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm</p>
	<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#