

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

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

April 28, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Sarkis Simonian, Mastaneh Moghadam, Armine Stepanyan, Dr. Heather Laird, Rima Safaryan, Mariam Nahapeyan, Dr. George Gharibian, Avo Soltanian, Dr. Shushan Kalantaryan, Amparo Ostojic and Haydeh Fakhrabadi

DMH Admin: Anna Yaralyan, Rosario Ribleza, Dr. Sandra Chang and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	Everyone introduced themselves.
Meeting Minutes - Review	March 31, 2021 minutes have been reviewed and approved by Dr. Heather Laird and seconded by Mastaneh Moghadam .
EE/ME Subcommittee Co-Chair selection discussion – Sarkis Simonian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarkis Simonian shared the Co-Chair selection process with the group. • Sarkis reported that Co-Chairs are selected by attending 50% of the UsCC subcommittee meetings which qualifies them for voting privileges. • Each Co-Chair term is 2 years, which can be extended for 2 more years when there are no new Co-Chair options. • Co-Chairs attend CLT & UsCC meetings once a month and will attend the SA meetings when in person meetings resume. • Dr. Laird shared that the Department of Mental Health is offering a stipend of \$125 dollars a month for Co-Chairs for their expenses (i.e.) traveling expenses or to upgrade their internet. • Anna Yaralyan advised the subcommittee that she will finalize the Co-Chair selection by the end of May 2021. • Dr. Heather Laird encouraged the members to volunteer for the Co-Chair position.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Laird stated it would be a great experience and opportunity to help DMH understand the EE/ME community. • Dr. Heather Laird nominated Dr. George Gharibian to consider running for Co-Chair. Dr. Gharibian respectfully had to decline; he is currently serving as a contact person for the Cultural Traditions and Connections Magazine for DMH and has a heavy workload. • The subcommittee members thanked Sarkis Simonian for his eleven years of hard work and dedication in serving his community. • Anna Yaralyan will email the Bylaws to the subcommittee.
<p>Capacity Building Project Updates – Anna Yaralyan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Yaralyan updated the EE/ME Subcommittee on the Capacity Building Projects. • The two projects awarded were the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arabic Mental Health Needs Assessment Project – Project Awarded to Dr. Heather Laird - Media Campaign for Russian Speaking Community Project – Project Awarded to Cross Cultural Expressions, Mastaneh Moghadam • Anna stated she is awaiting information on the other two Capacity Building Projects. Projects Pending are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Armenian Community Symposium Project - Virtual Poetry Night for Farsi Speaking Community Project • The EE/ME Subcommittee congratulated Dr. Heather Laird and Mastaneh Moghadam for having their Capacity Building Projects awarded.
<p>Invitation for Dr. Scorza to do a presentation to EE/ME in the upcoming meetings – Sarkis Simonian</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarkis Simonian invited Dr. Scorza to give a presentation on his project called “Life Works” to the EE/ME subcommittee. • Dr. Scorza must provide the ratio where the disparities are and the needs to supplement the services. • Dr. Heather Laird shared that the project “Life Works” looks at the developmental pieces of the African-American community. • The model could be modified for other communities, particularly with the EE/ME subcommittee, because of the trauma that has been experienced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarkis questioned the Armenian, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian speaking people being classified as white. Dr. Scorza explained there is sub data and there will be accurate data for these communities.
Cultural Traditions and Connections Magazine – Dr. Sandra Chang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sandra Chang announced to the group, the first issue of the magazine Cultural Traditions and Connections has been completed. • Dr. Chang asked the subcommittee to please contribute content to the magazine. The content can be a poem, articles or reflections, the content should represent the different cultures in the EE/ME subcommittee. • Please send all content to Mariam Nahapetyan and Dr. George Gharibian for finalization before sending to Dr. Chang.
Future Meeting Date & Times	<p>Next meeting is on Wednesday May 26, 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#