

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

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

August 25, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

**Present:** Sarkis Simonian, Dr. Heather Laird, Rima Safaryan, Dr. George Gharibian, Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Seta Haig, Mariam Nahapetyan, Ruth Wen, Peyman Malaz, Armine Stepanyan, Cody Hanable, Hector Ramirez, Johana Lozano, Kevin Collins and Mireille Hanable

**DMH Admin:** Anna Yaralayan, Connie Acosta Castaneda, Pinki Mehta and Rosario Ribleza

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Introductions</b>	Everyone introduced themselves.
<b>Meeting Minutes - Review</b>	June 30, 2021 minutes have been reviewed and approved by <b>Dr. Heather Laird</b> and seconded by <b>Sarkis Simonian</b> .
<b>Access for All Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Co-Chairs Cody Hanable and Hector Rodriguez, along with their Liaison Rosario Ribleza of the Access for All subcommittee gave a presentation to the group.</li> <li>• Hector Ramirez gave a brief description of the commitment and goals the Access for All subcommittee is doing to improve accessibility for the disabled community.</li> <li>• Hector explained to the group the different types of disabilities that there are.</li> <li>• Hector explained that they developed a type of training for the Los Angeles County staff to help them better understand ADA accessibility services.</li> <li>• Hector shared the different Capacity Building Projects the Access for All subcommittee has done.</li> <li>• Hector explained the goal is for all Mental Health services to be accessible.</li> <li>• Cody Hanable stated that the Access for All subcommittee would be focusing on Deaf, Blind, Hard of Hearing, and Physically disabled stakeholder within Los Angeles County.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The goal of the Access for All subcommittee is to increase accessibility to Mental Health Services and bring overall awareness.</li> <li>• Cody announced that Access for All subcommittee would be having a workshop for DMH staff, SALT Leaders and UsCC Leadership.</li> </ul>
<b>Brainstorming / Presentation for Capacity Building Projects FY2021-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Shushan Kalantaryan proposed a project for Armenian Single Parents.</li> <li>• Dr. Heather Laird proposed Mental Health shows, Dance shows, Art expression, painting activities to address Mental Health wellness and reduce stigma.</li> <li>• Sarkis Simonian shared with the group how in the past, PSA's have been very instrumental. He proposes to make more PSA's.</li> <li>• Anna Yaralyan asked the subcommittee to please submit any proposals as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>LACDMH Newsletter "Cultural Traditions and Connections" – Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarkis Simonian announced that the Cultural Traditions and Connections magazine in the form that was released last month is going to be cancelled.</li> <li>• The magazine is going to be included with the newsletter that DMH publishes every month.</li> <li>• Each UsCC subcommittee are asked to still submit articles.</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building Project Updates FY2020 – 2021 – Ana Yaralyan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarkis Simonian shared regarding the Armenian Symposium Project. He reported that Focus Groups can be conducted for different mental health subjects, such as depression, substance abuse, and domestic violence.</li> <li>• The group suggested music as non-traditional therapy.</li> <li>• Dr. Laird shared with the subcommittee a detailed report of available resources.</li> <li>• Dr. Laird shared that they finished phase 1, in terms of getting everything prepared for the listening sessions.</li> <li>• There were between 120 – 150 people at the listening session, half agreed to be interviewed individually.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Laird explained that they are in the process of interviewing and they will start in September.</li> <li>• Anna Yaralyan reported on Mastaneh Moghadam’s Russian PSA project. She announced that it has begun its first phase. The 30 second PSAs were completed on August 1, 2021 and will be played on the Armenian-Russian TV Network, ARTN, and Russian Television Network, RTN.</li> <li>• The Farsi Poetry project is on its first phase creating a resource book. The project includes identifying your emotions through Persian cultural poems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Meeting Date &amp; Times</b></p>	<p>Next meeting is on Wednesday <b>September 29, 2021</b> from 2:00pm – 4:00pm</p>
	<p><b><u>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (323) 446-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#</li> </ul>