

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

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

October 27, 2021

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Sarkis Simonian, Dr. Heather Laird, Rima Safaryan, Dr. George Gharibian, Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Seta Haig, Mariam Nahapetyan, Mastaneh Moghadam.

DMH Admin: Luis Guzman and Rosario Ribleza,

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	Everyone introduced themselves.
Announcements	Co-Chair of Cultural Competency Unit & (previous) Co- chair for American Indian Alaska Native American UsCC, and Community Activist, Sunny Whipple, passed away. EE/ME Subcommittee Members send their Condolences to this news.
Meeting Minutes - Review	September 29, 2021, minutes have been reviewed and approved by Dr. George Gharibian and seconded by Sarkis Simonian .
Capacity Building Project Updates FY2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Russian Mental Health Media Virtual Outreach Campaign – Mastaneh Moghadam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastaneh reported that the Russian mental health virtual media is in progress and is going well. • It continues to air on the Armenian-Russian TV Station, ARTN and Russian TV Station (RTN). • Russian PSA's have been getting lots of hits on social media, on Facebook and YouTube. • The total length of the project is 12 months. • The project will be completed by the end of July or in August. ❖ Virtual Poetry Night Mental Health Outreach Groups for the Farsi Speaking Community Project – Mastaneh Moghadam

- Mastaneh shared with the group that the Virtual Poetry Night MH Outreach groups for the Farsi speaking community is in process and is going well.
- Phase one has been completed and consists of creating the pre and posttest, creation of a schedule and different mental health topics, and scheduled chosen dates for the groups.
- Today they had the morning session for this month today, but it was not a big of a turn out maybe because is the day before Thanksgiving. However, they still had good amount of people.
- Vendor agreed to submit for the next weeks/months Farsi Mental Health Poetry Classes fliers for LACDMH records and for EE/ME Subcommittee Liaison, Anna Yaralyan to attend one of the classes for monitoring purposes.

❖ **Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Arabic Speaking Community Through Virtual Focus Groups** – Dr. Heather Laird.

- Dr. Laird stated the implementation of the project has been going along nicely and consistently.
- Vendor is a little under 50% of the way through the interviews.
- Dr. Laird reported that they are seeing patterns emerge around different issues and concerns along generational and ethnic lines which can produce some helpful information about mental health.
- Interviews provide the opportunity to bring new volunteers by asking right questions pertaining to the community.
- One of the questions to the group was if they would like to volunteer for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. There was a great response, and almost everyone stated they would like to volunteer.
- Dr. Laird stated they would continue to interview until they reach capacity.
- In conclusion, in January 2022, there will be a final report.

❖ **Virtual Armenian Community Symposiums Project** – Sarkis Simonian

- Sarkis informed the group that he has one update on this project.
- Vendor decided to change the date from November 7th to December 5th because November 7th turned out to be the Daylight-Saving Day and there are time differences, which may create confusion about the time and affect attendance. This change will also give Vendor and his team additional time to do additional advertising.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendor is still in the process of working on finalizing the Speakers for the first Symposium that is set for December 5, 2021. • Sarkis stated that they are also still working on the flyer. Sarkis will send out flyer to the subcommittee once completed and approved by LACDMH, with the Symposiums times and dates. • As soon as everything is ready and LACDMH approval is received, they will start advertising. • Targeted subject for the first symposium will be about depression, substance abuse and a panel discussion about domestic violence.
<p>One of Discussions/ Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EE/ME Subcommittee member, Avo Soltanian introduced himself and reported that he is the Director of Anchor Counseling Group. He made an announcement that there are opening positions at Anchor Counseling Group for part-time and full-time mental health clinicians, especially for bilingual Spanish and Armenian speaking clinicians. If anyone is interested, they may call Avo directly by the following telephone number (818) 497-7470.
<p>Future Meeting Date & Times</p>	<p>EE/ME Subcommittee will go dark for the month of December. Next meeting is on Wednesday 1/26/2022 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#