

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Office of the Deputy Director of Strategic Communications**

Access for All UsCC Subcommittee Minutes

August 10, 2022
10:00AM – 12:00PM
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Hector Ramirez, Cody Hanable, Sylvia G. Youngblood Gabriela Velasquez, Irma Velasquez, Maria A., Arnold Youngblood, Junko Nagamatsu, Eric Escareno, Alex Reynoso, Amy Kay, Angy K., Alison Freeman, Maria Tan, Rex Wilde, Madison Buteyn, and Addison Rose Vincent

DMH: Martha Ortiz, Alex Elliot, Angel Baker, Julio Miranda, Rosario Ribleza, Jenny Nguyen, Jennifer Hallman, Kattie Rodriguez, and Dr. Jorge Partida

Interpreter & Captioner: Sophia Aguirre and Richard Dickinson Joann

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions - Subcommittee	Attendee Introductions: Attendees (On Microsoft Teams and on the phone) were encouraged to incorporate a description of themselves to be mindful of other attendees with disabilities: individuals with visual impairments who cannot see the computer screen, and those who cannot hear what is happening in the meeting.
Meeting Norms/Review of Code of Conduct – Co- Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cody Hanable reviewed the Code of Conduct and Meeting Norms to the subcommittee.
Meeting Minutes: Review and Approval	Approval of Meeting Minutes No meeting minutes was reviewed and approved today.
Community and Accessibility Resources Alex Elliot	<p align="center">Community and Accessibility Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Information and toolkit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline currently serves TTY users either through their preferred relay service or by dialing 711 then 1-800-273-8255. Lifeline also offers services through chat and text. Lifeline is in the process of expanding to video phone service to better serve deaf or hard of hearing individuals seeking help through the Lifeline/988. https://dmh.lacounty.gov/988-information/

- **Explore Google’s accessibility features and products**

Google recently launched a new accessible products site. Find more information on the accessibility features of products like Android, Google Chrome, and YouTube

<https://about.google/belonging/disability-inclusion/product-accessibility/>

- **Social Media Platforms Accessibility Settings**

Find more information on the accessibility features of some of the top social media platforms below
Twitter Accessibility Features

<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/accessibility-features>

Twitter Guide to Writing Image Descriptions

<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/write-image-descriptions>

Instagram Accessibility Features

<https://help.instagram.com/308605337351503>

Facebook Accessibility Features

<https://www.facebook.com/help/273947702950567>

Microsoft Edge Web Browser Accessibility Features

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-edge/accessibility-features-in-microsoft-edge-4c696192-338e-9465-b2cd-bd9b698ad19a>

- **Guidance on “Long COVID” as a Disability Under the ADA, Section 504, and Section 1557**

In light of the rise of long COVID as a persistent and significant health issue, the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice have joined together to provide this guidance.

This guidance explains that long COVID can be a disability under Titles II (state and local government) and III (public accommodations) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Section 1557).

This guidance also provides resources for additional information and best

practices. https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/civil-rights-covid19/guidance-long-covid-disability/index.html#footnote10_0ac8mdc

- **LA County Aging and Disabilities Department Launches**

- The new website for the Aging and Disabilities Department is <https://www.lacountyad.org/>. AD is available on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @lacountyad.

AD houses two LA County commissions, the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) and the Commission on Disabilities. AD also manages LA County's 14 Community and Senior Centers, which provide a wide range of in-person supportive services, including congregate meals, emergency food programs, computer access, adult and youth programming, educational resources, and much more. Other significant programs include:

Information & Assistance Referral Line for Older Adults: this "one stop shop" service line provides a range of referrals to older adults ages 60 and older, including food resources, caregiver services, legal assistance, supportive services, and much more. Please call 1-800-510-2020, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

LA FOUND: in addition to providing resources for community support services, this lifesaving service offers a free tracking bracelet for families and caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, and other cognitive impairments that increase chances of wandering. Please call 1-833-569-7651, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Adult Protective Services' Elder and Dependent Abuse Hotline: Adult Protective Services investigates elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect referrals. Please call 1-877-477-3645, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement: Program provides mileage reimbursements to volunteer drivers, including family members, when no other transportation services exist or when the client is too frail, ill, or unable to use public transportation. Please call 1-888-863-7411, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Services: It aims to assist eligible older adults and people with disabilities who are at risk of falling or institutionalization by providing information, education, referrals, in-home environmental assessments, and injury prevention equipment and installation. Please call 1-800-510-2020, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Adult Protective Services Home Safe 2.0: Program provides older and dependent adults who are at risk of experiencing homelessness with a wide range of services necessary to maintain their current housing or find new housing. Provides assistance on security or utility deposits, rental assistance, past due bills, legal fees, reunification services, and more. Please call 213-610-1589, Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Disability Information and Access Line: launching today, this program assists adults with disabilities in getting vaccinated and tested for COVID-19. This hotline helps disabled adults order free at-home tests, make vaccination appointments, and connects callers to other local services such as accessible

GENERAL UPDATES:

DMH Updates

Angel Baker

Capacity Building Projects

Rosario Ribleza

transportation to overcome barriers to vaccination and testing. Callers can also receive information and referrals to services that promote independent living and address fundamental needs, such as food, housing, and transportation. Please call 888-677-1199, Monday to Friday from 6am- 5pm. Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers using relay services may dial 888-677-1199. (Callers who use TTY relay may first dial 7-1-1, and then relay the 888-677-1199 number.) <https://www.lacountyad.org/>

DMH Updates

- Working on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues –
 - i. Angel’s staff are doing researches to acquire more information.
 - ii. Angel is talking to Los Angeles County’s representative to do an assessment of the department and organization.
 - iii. Angel asked Hector and Cody for some guidance and resources to have DMH complied with ADA
- DMH New Management
 - i. Dr. Lisa Wong – Acting DMH Director, replacing Dr. Sherin
 - ii. Connie Draxler – Acting Chief Deputy Director, replacing Greg Polk

Capacity Building Projects Updates

FY 2020-2021

All three (3) Capacity Building Projects were already completed. The vendor, Painted Brain will be presenting the outcomes of the all the projects by September

- i. Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Blind, Partially Sighted, and Visually Impaired
- ii. Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- iii. Mental Health Needs Assessment for the Physically Disabled

FY 2021-2022

- i. Peers Talking Circle - in the process of implementing the the 1st Deliverable
- ii. Domestic Violence Task Force – in the implementing the 1st Deliverable
- iii. Podcast and YouTube Series – implementing the 1st Deliverable; Vendor is presenting at the end of the meeting to get feedback from the subcommittee

Summary of the projects proposed by the subcommittee:

A. Peers Training for Employability and Self Advocacy

- Provide peer-led training to the blind, deaf and hard of hearing, and physically disabled on technology, resume preparation, completing job application, interviewing, and developing skills to self-advocate

B. Pilot Program: Incorporation of American Sign Language (ASL) with Middle & High School Curriculum

- Introduction of American Sign Language (ASL) as second language to Middle and High School Students in partnership and collaboration with Los Angeles Unified School District Middle and High School administration.
- Conduct survey on students' knowledge on American Sign Language (ASL), accessibility, and rights to reasonable accommodation. Survey would include evaluating students' interests in learning ASL and incorporating said interest into future career goals.

C. Workshop for Interpreters – develop a curriculum to:

- Train interpreters for correct/appropriate sign language associated with mental health
- Situational training to prepare interpreters with supporting mental health professionals during a crisis.
- Provide certification after completion

D. Peer Patient's Rights Training

- Develop a curriculum focusing on ADA rights that gears toward accessibility and accommodations rights within Los Angeles county.

E. Workshop for Police Officers, First Responders

- Develop a training for police officers, first responders, and medical professionals on how to provide ADA compliant services, best practices, and culturally sensitive approaches for interacting with deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and/or people with physical disabilities during a crisis in the community.

F. Workshop/Training for Mental Health Providers working with D/HH

- Develop a specialized workshop/training for mental health services providers on best practices and strategies for Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) interventions when working with Deaf/hard of hearing in either ASL or English.
- Work in conjunction with academics and leaders within the national Deaf Community to ensure that the project is culturally appropriate and accessible to participants.

G. Mental Health Specialist: Training for Peers

- Develop a curriculum to train peers to become Peer Specialists.
- Certification awarded upon completion of the curriculum

H. Innovation Lab and Fellowship

This project will work to reduce mental health access barriers for people with disabilities ages 18+ by recruiting Fellows from Los Angeles County to meet and develop innovative strategies to violence prevention and barrier reduction. Over the course of Summer 2023, the Fellows will design their approaches and present their ideas to key stakeholders, LACDMH representatives, foundation representatives, and sector leaders. These ideas will then be considered as Capacity Building Project (CBP) proposals for the 2024 fiscal year (voting in approximately August 2023).

	<p>I. Liberation Workshop Series This project will work to reduce barriers to mental health services for people with disabilities who are BIPOC and ages 18+ by (1) providing artistic outlets for participants to practice ceramics, (2) facilitating discussions around mental health barriers and challenges, and (3) connecting them with LACDMH and relevant resources. Creating spaces for people with disabilities to come together through free ceramics classes can provide a space for self-expression, development of stronger relationships and community ties, discussion of experiences, and referral to appropriate resources for mental mental health, advocacy, and more.</p>
<p>988 – Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Jennifer Hallman</p>	<p>988 - Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – administered by Didi Hirsch (vendor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was expanded into a behavioral health crisis line that includes mental health and substance use crisis • There is someone to call, someone who can come out to the field, and a place to go to receive stabilization services (like Urgent Care Center) • The plan is to provide 24/7 services. • It is in the final stage of contracting additional field services with other providers • It has text and chat features • It has English & Spanish only at this time, but in the process of adding more languages • More challenges are encountered, but DMH will continue to work on making it more accessible and helpful to everyone.
<p>Update: Mental Health Provider’s Contract for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community Dr. Jorge Partida</p>	<p>A. Proposed Solutions for the Lack of Competent ASL Interpreters</p> <p><u>Short-term Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMH contracts with providers are being reviewed and expanded • Increase the pool of available interpretation services aside from the list of the providers from the master agreement used with other County departments. • Reach out to universities teaching ASL, individuals, providers, and community to create a pool of ASL interpreters <p><u>Mid-term Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment opportunities for individuals that are ASL or representative of the community • Create a cohort of ASL certified and individuals from the deaf and hard of hearing community • Offer a practicum internship with students from colleges, universities, academic programs with ASL certification curriculum , and a possibility of DMH employment <p><u>Long-term Solution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for future employment, and increase incentives of bilingual bonus across the department

	<p>B. Update: Contracting with Five Acres to provide Services for Adult Deaf and Hard of Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMH is now reviewing and revising the contract based on the recommendations provided
<p>Announcements Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosario announced the candidates who were nominated for the Co-Chair position: Irma Velasquez, Dr. Alison Freeman, and Cody Hanable. • All subcommittee members were invited to nominate qualified individuals with voting privileges for a new Co-chair • Privileged voters were encouraged to vote for the 2022-2023 Capacity Building Projects
<p>Topic Suggestions for Next Meeting/</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting is on October 12, 2022 – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon / Recording & Transcriptions at DMH website</p>