

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

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

October 26, 2022

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

**Present:** Tuan D. Nguyen, Rima Safaryan, Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Joann Jaimes (captioner), Mastaneh Moghadam, Yue Hua Xu, Seta Haig, Sarkis Simonian, Mariam Nahapetyan.

**DMH Admin:** Anna Yaralyan.

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone introduced themselves.</li> <li>• EE/ME Subcommittee welcomed a new member, Tuan D. Nguyen, ALM, Founder, Chairman &amp; CEO Asian-American National Committee; Inc.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Minutes Review and Approval</b>	Reviewed and approved meeting minutes from 9/28/2022. Mastaneh approved and Rima Safaryan second.
<b>Co-Chair Election Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Yaralyan and EE/ME Subcommittee congratulated Sarkis Simonian for becoming a co-chair with Seta Haig.</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building Project Updates FY2021-2022</b>	<p>1. <b>The Russian and Farsi speaking Mental Health Film Project</b> – Mastaneh Moghadam</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to develop and implement Russian and Farsi speaking Mental Health Films. There will be a development of the two 90-minute film productions in English language, with one of the films Farsi and the other in Russian subtitles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project is going well and on timely manner. Phase 1 of the project is completing, and the Vendor will soon submit the first invoice and Progress Report to LACDMH.</li> </ul>

- The Vendor interviewed Russian and Farsi community members for relevant film topics important for these two communities.
- Both Russian and Farsi community members identified “Loss & Grief” as one of the topics of interest, given the recent events happening in Eastern Europe and Iran. The war between Russia & Ukraine, and the mass protests in Iran over the brutal death of a young Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, by the morality police for failing to meet the requirements of the Islamic dress code laws, and not wearing her head scarf “hijab” appropriately.
- Both Russian and Farsi community members also expressed that they thought it would be best for the film to be shot in the English language, with Russian and Farsi subtitles.
- Mastaneh reported that LACDMH approved for both Farsi and Russian speaking communities to have the Mental Health Films in English and with Russian and Farsi Subtitles to include the youth. The films will be culturally modified and include actors/actresses from these two target populations. Vendor has been very excited and thankful about this approval.
- Vendor reported that the scripts of the two movies have also been completed and submitted to LACDMH for review and approval.
- After the approval of the scripts, the next steps will be hiring of a cinematographer, editor, sound editor and director for the films and identifying locations. Vendor will begin the interview process for all of this as the project moves into phase two.

## **2. The Arabic Healing Through Art Mental Health Outreach Project – Anna Yaralyan**

This project will consist of ten (10) art events, one (1) time a month, for ten (10) consecutive months, utilizing painting to express thoughts and feelings and open the door for healing. Each event will be conducted in at least one of the eight (8) Los Angeles County Service Areas and will last total of four (4) hours in length. The first hour will introduce the idea of well-being through art, one & half hours will be painting, and the last one & half hours will include expression of thoughts, feelings, and mental health discussions.

- The Arabic Mental Health art event project is in its first phase of implementation.
- The Vendor is in the process of looking for venues where the events will take place.
- The Vendor is also in the recruitment process
- Some of the challenges of the project are similar to last years project, where community members don’t want to talk about their personal and mental health issues. They also don’t want to share information about themselves or their families in a group setting. Arabic culture is a private type of culture and stigma to Mental Health is high. As a result, the Vendor is trying to come up with other, nontraditional ways of reaching this community. She is creating the mental health art events so that the participants will feel comfortable enough to share their personal issues through art.
- The first phase of the project is taking a little longer to be completed due to these challenges.

	<p><b>3. Armenian PSA Mental Health Project – Anna Yaralyan</b></p> <p>This project is in the process of going out to solicitation again soon.</p>
<b>Future Meetings Times and Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Next meeting is on Wednesday 11/30/2022, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm</b></li><li>❖ EE/ME Subcommittee will go <u>DARK</u> in the month of December 2022.</li></ul>
	<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>