

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit  
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2023, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Present:** Richer San, Sithea San, Mariko Kahn, JR Kuo, Belinda Rabano, Vicky Xu, Norio Iwahori, Dr. Rocco Cheng, Dr. Sheila Wu, Dr. Ann Marie Yamada, Carrie Na, Paul Stansbury, Eric Hernandez, Kerry Chhay, Mirtala Parada Ward, Sokthea Phay, Violeta Villareal, Blanca Watson, Dr. Hyun Kyung Lee, Julia Criselda Francia, Kaajal Sheth, Keith Brandon, Kelly Wilkerson, Laura Pan, Luis Guzman, Marceliano Bonafe, Parker, Reese, Julian, Soh Yun Park, Stacy Dalgeish, Tuan D. Nguyen

**Cambodian Interpreter** – Bo Uce

**Korean Interpreter** – Sun Lim

**DMH Admin** – Alan Wu

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs
<b>MHSA Feedback and Recommendations</b>	<p>Richer San reported that it is important to share our input regarding the diverse needs of the API community with LACDMH. You can share your input in this meeting or email Alan Wu your input. Alan will compile the input and send it to Richer and Norio Iwahori for review and bring them to LACDMH. Richer and Norio will represent and advocate for your interests and needs.</p> <p>Mirtala Parada Ward provided an overview of what the community feedback needs to look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services that could better serve or resonate with the API community provided by legal entity providers and DMH directly operated programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FSP services</li> <li>▪ Regular therapy services</li> <li>▪ Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)</li> <li>▪ Trainings to equip workforce to better serve API community</li> <li>▪ Culturally relevant services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The ability of the co-chairs to represent and advocate for all the groups, needs, and interests of this subcommittee is dependent on the amount of feedback you provide them. The more feedback you provide the better they will be able to advocate for all the groups. There is no such thing as a bad idea. Every single idea is a great idea because it speaks to the culture adaptations for your group and what you think is needed for DMH service delivery to improve.</li> </ul>

**SB 43 Presentation**

Paul Stansbury, President, NAMI South Bay

- Existing law, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, provides for the involuntary commitment and treatment of a person who is a danger to themselves or others or who is gravely disabled.
- This bill expands the definition of “gravely disabled” to also include a condition in which a person, as a result of a severe substance use disorder, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe substance use disorder, is, in addition to the basic personal needs described above, unable to provide for their personal safety or necessary medical care.
- NAMI California believes Senate Bill43(Eggman) is essential to both those experiencing severe mental illness and their families by making it easier to provide mental health treatment for individuals unable to care for themselves.
- Despite all efforts to reduce the need for conservatorship, in some cases, it is critical to families’ ability to provide critical treatment to those who are gravely disabled.
- The current definition and interpretation of gravely disabled does not accurately reflect the realities of what we are seeing in our communities. Because of the outdated definition, our families struggle to get loved ones experiencing severe mental illness the dire care they need.
- SB 43 modernizes the definition of “gravely disabled” within the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act to better meet the needs of individuals experiencing severe mental illness.
- SB 43 would update the definition of “gravely disabled” to add:  
“Substantial risk of serious harm to their physical or mental health” as a third criterion of “gravely disabled” and further defines “serious harm” to mean “significant deterioration, debilitation, or illness” due to the person’s failure to meet their need for medical care, nourishment, adequate clothing and shelter, and personal safety.
- Modernizing the definition will provide families the ability to secure needed treatment for their loved ones experiencing severe mental illness.
- SB43passed its last committee hearing unanimously has now been re-referred to Appropriations.

**DMH Updates**

Mirtala Parada Ward provided the following updates:

- Emphasized the importance of using the latest ethnic specific data to direct and inform new capacity building projects for next year in October and November. Data presentations will be conducted for all the UsCC subcommittees specifically for each ethnic group. This will help us to see the services utilization by the different underserved groups and identify where is the greater need.
- Continue to work on revamping and updating the UsCC bylaws. Once they are finalized hopefully by September at the UsCC leadership level with the co-chairs, then they will be shared at the subcommittee level for feedback. Subcommittee feedback will be brought back to UsCC leadership for vote and implement any changes. Mirtala will assists Richer San to share the bylaws changes and feedback from each of the subcommittees by having a focus group with API UsCC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly encourage everyone to share your training ideas, suggestions, and recommendations on how to equip our workforce (DMH staff and legal entity staff) to better serve the API community by emailing Alan Wu as soon as possible. For example, are there any culturally specific trainings that will augment our service delivery? Are there any strategies that our workforce needs to know? Dr. Sheila Wu suggests revisiting the mental health terminology training.</li> </ul>
<b>Review of Meeting Minutes</b>	Motion by Sithea San to approve minutes and seconded by Mariko Kahn.
<b>Open Discussion on non-agenda items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mariko Kahn shared she decided to pull out of her project, <i>API Renewal Space Facilitator Training Program</i> because did not want to lose ownership of the training curriculum.</li> <li>• Alan Wu updated on the status of the SOWs for FY 2022-2023 and 2023-2024: all SOWs are completed and pending internal review and approval. One capacity building project has gone out for bid. Everyone will be notified by email when any project goes out for bid.</li> <li>• Mariko Kahn share that a better outreach technique/methodology with the API community is to understand trauma as a community issue rather than an individual one due to the stigma. This approach can increase community acceptance and help people to feel less alone and more comfortable in accepting that they have been affected by trauma and seek help. Mariko also suggests DMH to have more specific API approach and trainings on domestic violence for the 1.5 generation.</li> <li>• Dr. Sheila Wu shared about the grand opening of the Monterey Park Hope Resiliency Center at the Sierra Vista Community Center and press conference was held last week. The new facility offers counseling and workshops including yoga and chanting and help to bring people together to share their experiences especially with regards to the recent mass shooting in the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Meeting: September 25, 2023</b>	