

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

August 27, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Stakeholders: Alison Freeman, Carol Kou, Junko Nagamatsu, Lourdes Rabello, Hector Ramirez

DMH Staff: Alex Elliott, Oliver Harris, Jenny Nguyen, Martha Ortiz, Regina Ramirez, Tracy Tisino, Mirtala Parada-Ward, Elaine Waldman, Vicki Xu

ASL Interpreter: Desiree and Sharon

Captioner: Selin Cacao

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Opening Discussion	Co-Chair Hector Ramirez welcomed the group and shared that September marks the 50 th Anniversary of the American Rehabilitation Act, Section 504, the civil rights law banning disability discrimination. Co-Chair Dr. Alison Freeman gave an overview of the UsCC Code of Conduct, and encouraged everyone to keep their camera on, if possible, to enable participants access to lipreading.
Community Resources	Alex announced that his new position is ADA Coordinator for the Department, reporting to Angel Baker. He joined the California Association of ADA Coordinators; and looks forward to advancing access and equity

for people with disabilities. Alex shared that he has lived experience, as well as work experience with LAUSD, Red Cross, and DMH. Co-Chairs expressed appreciation for Alex's work and shared that he served as a Co-Chair of Access for All in prior years.

Alex shared a curated list of relevant community resources for September, including:

- 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline's addition of nationwide American Sign Language (ASL) services
<https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>
To connect directly to a trained 988 Lifeline counselor in ASL, callers who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened can click the "ASL Now" button on 988lifeline.org and follow the prompts. Direct dialing to 988 from a videophone will be available in the coming weeks, and in the meantime, ASL callers can call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) from their videophone to reach ASL services.
- **Fact Sheet: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Proposed Rule Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
<https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/section-504-rehabilitation-act-of-1973/fact-sheet/index.html>
On 9/7/23, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) through the HHS Office for Civil Rights announced a proposed rule, updating its regulation implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.
- **Fact Sheet: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities**
<https://www.ada.gov/notices/2023/07/20/web-nprm/>
The Department of Justice (Department) is publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) explaining how they propose updating

the regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to add more specific requirements about web and mobile application (app) accessibility.

- **Governor Newsome Signs Executive Order to Prepare California for the Progress of Artificial Intelligence**

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/09/06/governor-newsom-signs-executive-order-to-prepare-california-for-the-progress-of-artificial-intelligence/>

Governor Newsom issued an executive order laying out how California’s measured approach will focus on shaping the future of ethical, transparent, and trustworthy AI.

- LA County Public Health – A Toolkit for Parents and Guardians of Teens

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/pie/Education/Welcome-MentalHealthToolkit.htm>

This mental health toolkit is designed for parents, guardians, and other adults with a significant role in the lives of middle and high school students.

The purpose of this mental health toolkit is to equip parents with the knowledge and resources to support their teen’s mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Health America – Back to School Toolkit

<https://mhanational.org/back-to-school/toolkit-download>

Mental Health America has developed its 2023 Back-to-School Toolkit and campaign to help increase understanding of how online activity affects the mental health of children and teens. Mental Health America is providing materials on these topics for parents and caregivers, school personnel, other adults in a young person’s life, and young people.

If you need further assistance or help with resources, please call 1-833-540-0473, open 7 days a week, 8:00 am – 8:30pm

	<p>http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBT Online - Individuals and families now have the option to purchase groceries online using their EBT card https://www.cdss.ca.gov/ebt-online California is actively working to expand the number of stores that accept EBT online in the future. Please check back for future updates to the list of participating stores. More information about EBT Online can be found in the following links: https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalFresh/EBTOnline/EBT-Online-Flyer.pdf https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CalFresh/EBTOnline/EBT-Online-FAQ-Sheet.pdf • • CalHOPE Schools Initiative https://www.calhopeschools.org/ In support of California schools, teachers, students, and families, CalHOPE continues to offer no-cost, evidence-based resources to provide healing, hope and inspiration to students and school personnel. • LA County Public Health – COVID-19 Resources
Co-Chair Elections	<p>The Access for All UsCC has three Co-Chairs. Junko Nagamatsu asked about the duties of the volunteer position, and Hector shared that co-creating the meeting agendas, co-facilitating monthly meetings, participating in DMH community planning, and attending a monthly UsCC leadership meeting are the main responsibilities. Co-Chairs can receive a stipend for their service. Dr. Freeman encouraged Hector to seek a third term. Interested participants were encouraged to submit their names as candidates in or before October, and elections may be scheduled for November.</p>
MHSA Community Funding Planning Brainstorming Session	<p>Participants suggested ideas for interventions, services, and approaches for DMH to better serve people with disabilities. The input will be compiled into a report that the MHSA Administration and community planning consultant Rigo Rodriguez are preparing as they guide funding priorities</p>

and decision-making for FY 24-26. This month, the categories of Prevention/Early Intervention and Community Supports Continuum were discussed; next month, the categories of Homeless Services and Housing Resources, and Workforce Education and Training will be discussed.

Prevention/Early Intervention focuses on building protective factors, preventing trauma, eliminating mental health stigma, and intervening at early onset of mental health challenges. Strategies include prevention, suicide prevention, early intervention, stigma and discrimination reduction, and outreach to increase recognition of early signs of mental health challenges.

Community Supports Continuum focuses on promoting recovery, hope and wellbeing for people experiencing serious mental health challenges through community supports, including urgent/emergency services, intensive services, outpatient care, and access points.

Input included:

Advocacy training

Youth outreach

ASL access, how to file complaints, if needed

Suicide prevention for people with disabilities, including in ASL

Focusing on parents of youth and children who seek services at the Regional Centers, helping increase parent support and protective factors

Adapting the Easter Seals' model of introducing children with various disabilities into disability awareness education sessions with students

Bullying prevention

	<p>Supporting parents of children with disabilities</p> <p>Establish peer to peer parent programs</p> <p>Prioritize people with language deprivation, deaf, and hard of hearing</p> <p>Working with pediatricians and DMH to support parents</p> <p>Focus on most impacted and marginalized people who seek equity, including formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, people who are homeless, survivors of domestic, interpersonal, and community violence</p> <p>Job support</p> <p>Training employers to hire people with disabilities, and reduce stigma</p> <p>Digital literacy, increasing access to online documents and webpages</p> <p>Assistive technology resources</p>
<p>Reducing Ableist Language</p>	<p>Hector shared that ableist language and behavior continue to harm and exclude the community, (such as using terms such as "crazy"). He recommended training for staff and community members. Training should be trauma-informed, and address the culture, needs, and experience of people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting will be held on Microsoft Teams on October 11, 2023.</p>