

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

November 13, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Racquel Decipeda (co-chair), Héctor Manuel Ramírez (co-chair), Isabella Rodriguez, Maria Elena Arauco, MargaretAnn Mendenhall, Richer San, Jennifer Yates, Junko Nagamatsu, Christina Myers, Nour Bouchakra, Daneta Calderon-Vital, Irma Velasquez, Edwin Quiles, Naomi Navor, Roxana Napoles, Ja'Nean Palacios, Bea Leung, Gabriela Velasquez, Sophia Sidhu, Amy Kay, Cody Hanable

DMH staff: Alex Elliott, Blanca Gonzalez, Dr. Evelyn Espinoza, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay, Keianna Crenshaw, Laura Kerr, Martha Ortiz, Martin Jones, riKu Matsuda, Tracy Tisino, Andrea Grimes, Dr. Chiyah Lawrence, Yailin Noriega, David Calvillo, Vicky Yue Hua Xu

Microsoft Team: John Palacio

Interpreters and captioners: Alex (Spanish), Lucy (Spanish), Andréa (ASL), Amber (ASL), LaDawna (CART)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Racquel Decipeda welcomed all and reviewed the disability etiquette.
Land Acknowledgment	Dr. Jennifer Alquijay gave the land acknowledgment.
Approve October Meeting Minutes	Racquel called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Maria Elena Arauco motioned to approve, seconded by Cody Hanable. The motion passed with no objection.
Five Acres Presentation by Amy Kay	Amy Kay shared a presentation on mental health services for the deaf and hard of hearing in LA County. She gave an overview of Five Acres, an organization that provides early intervention and behavioral health services. Five Acres focused on Service Area 3 (San Gabriel Valley) but offers telehealth countywide. The services provided include mental health assessments, therapy, psychiatric services, and case management. Services are available in ASL, English, Spanish, and other languages through interpreters. Five Acres staff utilize

	<p>trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices (e.g., CBT, family therapy). They have intensive care coordination with schools, regional centers, and DCFS. They provide support for deaf families, including hearing parents of deaf children or vice versa.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children (0–21) and deaf adults (21+) with LA County Medi-Cal. • Services are continuous until the end of care, emphasizing skill-building for independence. <p>As a result of COVID-19, Five Acres expanded telehealth services, making psychiatric and therapy support more accessible.</p> <p>Junko Nagamatsu highlighted a lack of psychiatric and therapy support for deaf clients in other counties.</p>
<p>DMH Quarterly Stakeholder Newsletter Relaunch Presentation by Christina Myers and Nour Bouchakra of Idea Hall</p>	<p>Christina Myers and Nour Bouchakra from the organization, Idea Hall, shared the relaunch of the quarterly newsletter to amplify stakeholder voices and share community stories.</p> <p>There will be open submissions for articles, poetry, art, recipes, and personal reflections. A \$50 stipend will be awarded to contributors whose work is published. Themes will be announced quarterly, and content will be translated into Spanish, Korean, and other threshold languages. Regarding accessibility, the newsletter will be available for digital and print distribution (DMH website, clinics, and community spaces). Videos with use captioning and/or ASL for online publication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First call for submissions: January 10, 2025. • Deadline: January 31, 2025. • Newsletter launch: February 2025. <p>Racquel asked about distribution and inclusion of organization updates. Junko advocated for video content and resources for the deaf community.</p>
<p>Voting Accessibility Discussion</p>	<p>Raquel shared her experience using a digital “full pass” ballot with a QR code. This allowed her to pre-mark her choices independently, enhancing her voting experience.</p> <p>Junko shared the historic lack of adequate accessibility for deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) voters at polling places has led to GLAD becoming a voting center. Prior volunteers were not well trained to communicate with DHH voters. This year, the Registrar-Recorder volunteers used a machine for video remote interpretation in ASL. This relieved the necessity for GLAD staff to assist with communication.</p>

Co-chair Update	Héctor Manuel Ramírez emphasized the importance of mindfulness, nature, and peer support during challenging times. They encouraged attendees to connect others to community meetings for support. Héctor highlighted the risk of losing disability protections under the incoming federal administration and shared work with California legislators to preserve healthcare access and ADA protections. Héctor encouraged proactive community resilience and resource-sharing. They also shared a November 14th seminar featuring indigenous disability advocates and traditional healing methods covered by Medi-Cal.
DMH Updates	<p>ADA Coordinator Alex Elliott sent a resource guide (shared via email with meeting materials)</p> <p>MHSA Liaison Keianna Crenshaw shared upcoming MHSA Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Planning Team and Stakeholder Meeting, 12/10/24- 9:30AM-12:30PM, St. Anne’s Conference and Event Center, 155 N. Occidental Blvd., LA, 90026 (click here for meeting materials) ○ Beyond the Walls, 2/8/25- 11AM-1PM, Lancaster Library ○ Beyond the Walls, 2/22/25- 11AM -1PM, Culver City Julian Dixon Library
Community Updates	Community members introduced themselves and some folks shared updates on life events. Community care was activated, and folks offered compassion, support and resources.
Labor Acknowledgment	Racquel Decipeda gave the labor acknowledgement.
Closing	Racquel and Héctor closed the meeting and thanked all for attending and supporting the meeting. Next meeting will be on Microsoft Teams – Dec. 11, 2024, 10AM-12PM