

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

### Access for All UsCC Minutes

December 11, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Racquel Decipeda (co-chair), Héctor Manuel Ramírez (co-chair), Maria Elena Arauco, Olina Bishop, Caitlin Bostwick, Wendy Cabil, Grace Leung, Daneta Calderon-Vital, Bea Leung, Maria Tan, Jennifer Yates

DMH staff: Anna Yaralyan, Alex Elliott, Jennifer Alquijay, Keianna Crenshaw, Cintia Huitzil, riKu Matsuda, Tracy Tisino, Andrea Grimes, Yailin Noriega, David Calvillo

Microsoft Team: John Palacio, Keith Wells

Interpreters and captioners: Alex (Spanish), Lucy (Spanish), Sharon (ASL), Mara (ASL), Sara (CART)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Co-chairs Héctor Manuel Ramírez and Raquel Decipeda welcomed participants, provided visual descriptions of themselves, and shared accessibility tips for inclusivity.
Land Acknowledgment	Héctor gave the land acknowledgment.
Introductions and Icebreaker	Co-chairs shared their intention to create a safe, inclusive and supportive space. They facilitated a round of introductions with subcommittee members. Folks gave introductions with pronouns, visual descriptions and shared why they attend the meeting.
Approve November Meeting Minutes	Héctor called for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Maria Elena Arauco motioned to approve, seconded by Racquel Decipeda. The motion passed with no objection.
Co-chair Update	Racquel shared her decision-making process in running for the co-chair role to represent the blind and hearing-impaired community. She also shared that she will be transitioning out as co-chair due to the bylaws. The organization Racquel co-founded, Hearts for Sight, won the bid for a capacity building project, and the bylaws prevent vendors from serving as co-chairs. Héctor and others thanked Racquel for her exceptional leadership. Racquel plans to continue participating in Access for All UsCC and other stakeholder meetings. Héctor

	encouraged others to run for co-chair and emphasized the importance of showing up for the community. They highlighted the healing and advocacy opportunities the group provides and shared their experience as co-chair. Co-chairs recapped 2024 including a successful in-person retreat at DMH Headquarters as well as improved accessibility with ASL interpreters, CART services, and program developments.
DMH Updates	Dr. Jennifer Alquijay announced stakeholder listening sessions to begin in early 2025 and gave a reminder about the deadline for submissions to the DMH Quarterly Stakeholder Newsletter- January 31, 2025. Capacity Building Project Award Updates: Mental Wellness Art Series for Young Adults with Disabilities awarded to Nail Dega • Expanding Mental Wellness Opportunities for People with Blindness or Low Vision awarded to Hearts for Sight ADA Coordinator Alex Elliott provided updates on the U.S. Access Board's efforts regarding AI for the disability community. A webinar is scheduled for January 14, 2025. Additionally, new disability data from the U.S. Census Bureau will be released on December 20, 2024. Alex encouraged everyone to complete a metro survey aimed at improving transportation services for people with disabilities, which will close on December 20, 2024. He also announced his transition to a new role within DMH, expressed gratitude for the support from participants, and assured that the ADA team's work will continue. Members of the group celebrated Alex's foundational and ongoing contributions to Access for All.
Community Updates	Grace Leung shared a NAMI event at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center highlighting mental health awareness and ASL peer groups. Co-chair Wendy Cabil invited everyone to the Cultural Competency Committee meeting scheduled for 1:30 PM on the same day.
Labor Acknowledgment	Racquel Decipeda gave the labor acknowledgement.
Closing	Racquel and Héctor expressed gratitude to participants, emphasized community support, and shared emergency contact resources, including the <a href="#"><b>988 Suicide &amp; Crisis Lifeline</b></a> Available 24/7 via phone, text, or online chat. Call: <a href="#"><b>988</b></a> and the <b>24/7 Help Line</b> at: <a href="tel:(800)854-7771"><b>(800) 854-7771</b></a>  Next meeting will be on Microsoft Teams – <a href="#"><b>January 8, 2025, 10AM to 12PM</b></a>