


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



**Eastern-European / Middle Eastern (EE/ME) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**2/26/2025**

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

**Present:** Nane Avagyan, Mitra Shabani, David Arakelian, Nelly Ghukasyan, Sara Hill, Rhoda Addam, Magda Kirakosyan, Yailin Noriega, Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Karima Sudan, Jibril Hussen, Jamie Walker, Rubou Sous, Seta Haig, Mastaneh Moghadam, Rima Safaryan, Armine Stepanyan, Mariam Nahabetian, Amal Ibrahim, Josephine McMahan, Yue Hua Xu, Sydney Sonnier, Sarkis Simonian, Lorena Campos.

**DMH Admin:** Dr. Anna Yaralyan, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay.

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyone introduced themselves.</li><li>• Dr. <b>Jennifer Alquijay</b> read the Board of Supervisors Land Acknowledgement.</li></ul>
<b>Meeting Minutes Review and Approval</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed &amp; approved <b>1/29/2025</b> EE/ME Subcommittee meeting minutes.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mastaneh Moghadam motioned to approve &amp; Nelly Ghukasyan second.</li><li>- Minutes were accepted by subcommittee members. There were no subcommittee member objections.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>DMH Updates</b>	<p> Jamie Walker &amp; Dr. Jennifer Alquijay provided the following DMH updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The deadline for submissions for the Stakeholder Newsletter has been extended to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Everyone will get an email about this shortly.</li><li>• On February 11, 2025, there will be a Community Planning TEAM Meeting, 9:30am – 12:30pm, &amp; Joint SALT and UsCC Mtg, at St. Anne's Conference Center (155 N Occidental Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90026).</li><li>• The deadline to complete all the Capacity Building Projects &amp; the project invoice submission is on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. To support the project Vendors, DMH will schedule a TEAMS meeting with them to review the project timelines, receive project updates, &amp; answer any questions they may have to ensure timely completion of the projects.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May is Mental Health month! At DMH we are currently working on organizing &amp; planning important community events for the May Mental Health month.</li> </ul>
<b>EE/ME USCC Flyer Translations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> EE/ME USCC English language flyers have been translated to the Armenian language by Nane Avagyan; to Farsi by Mitra Shabani, and Russian by Nelly Ghukasyan. Thank You all for your efforts &amp; hard work, it is very much appreciated!</li> <li> LACDMH Community Health Worker &amp; EE/ME Subcommittee member, Rubou Sous agreed to translate the flyer to the Arabic language.</li> </ul>
<b>EE/ME Subcommittee Capacity Building Proposals FY 2023-2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Arabic Speaking Poetry Night Mental Health Outreach Project</b> – Vendor is in the process of completing the second half of the project, including the final poetry events &amp; the project summary report.</li> </ul>
<b>EE/ME Subcommittee Capacity Building Updates FY 2024 - 2025</b>	<p><b>Anna Yaralyan announced which projects have been rewarded to Vendors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Support Group and Mental Health Educational Seminar for Afghan Refugees - Qazizada Multicultural Therapy Clinic:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vendor submitted the project PowerPoint Curriculum &amp; it has been approved by DMH.</li> <li>Vendor is in the process of identifying the Venues to conduct mental health seminars to the Afghan Community members.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Armenian Wellness Festival Project – Nuway Express Inc.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Venue for the Armenian Wellness Festival has been changed. The Vendor submitted the address of the new Vendor. The new location has been approved by DMH.</li> <li>Vendor completed several community flyers in the Armenian &amp; English languages. The flyers have been approved by DMH.</li> <li>The Vendor is in the process of advertising the festival. The advertisements of the festival will continue until the day of the festival.</li> <li>Advertisements of the festival will be in Armenian &amp; English languages.</li> <li>Vendor is also in the process of collecting the credentials &amp; PowerPoint presentation abstracts from individual seminar presenters.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p><b>3. Armenian Poetry Circles for Mental Health - Prolific Styles LLC, Sydney Sonnier.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vendor has completed two Armenian Poetry Events at adult day care centers. Each event had over 15 participants.</li> <li>• Various Armenian Poetry Events will be conducted for Armenian seniors.</li> <li>• The next poetry event will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Glendale Adult Center, at 201E. Colorado St. Glendale, CA, 91205.</li> <li>• A few poetry events will be conducted for children and the general Armenian population as well.</li> <li>• Vendor had a meeting with US Armenia TV station to begin the advertisements of the poetry events. Vendor is in the process of securing the time &amp; date of the Armenian Poetry Event promotion interview recording on US Armenia TV.</li> <li>• Vendor continues to identify venues for the Armenian MH Poetry Events, such as Armenian Adult Daycare Centers, community public libraries, and children's day care centers.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Russian and Farsi Mental Health Film Project #2 – Cross Cultural Expressions, Mastaneh Moghadam, LCSW!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vendor completed the filming of the movie.</li> <li>• The Russian and Farsi Mental Health Film is in the process of editing. There will be a reshooting of specific parts of the films that needs to be changed or modified.</li> <li>• After editing, the films will be sent to sound &amp; word proofing.</li> <li>• Vendor will begin publicizing the film after its ready to be shown.</li> <li>• The subtitles of the film will be in Fari &amp; Russian languages.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>❖ <b>Labor Acknowledgement</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Next meeting will be on Wednesday 3/26/2025, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.</b></p>
	<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>