

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
**Service Area Leadership Team Monthly Meeting**  
**Service Area 1**

**Palmdale Mental Health Center**  
**2260 East Palmdale Blvd., Suite. J**  
**Palmdale, CA 93550**

**April 17, 2025**

**3:00pm – 5:00pm**

[Microsoft Teams Link](#) / [Closed Caption Link](#)


Email: [SALT1@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:SALT1@dmh.lacounty.gov)

**DRAFT Minutes**

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
Welcome, Land Acknowledgements, and Introductions (3:00 – 3:15)	Meeting facilitated by Co-Chairs Rudy Perez and Heather Varden Land Acknowledgement presented by James Coomes Attendees introduced themselves		Rudy Perez Heather Varden James Coomes	N/A
Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from 3/20/25	Paper copy available in the training room, distributed prior to meeting via e-mail, and posted on screen for online attendees.	Page 3, second paragraph. Change verbiage to not commit to providing food at event.  Note: minutes regarding evening meeting are correct, but meeting was subsequently changed due to contracting issue.  Motion by Michael Dutton to approve minutes as amended; Seconded by Jodi Kyman; with no abstentions; Approved unanimously.	Heather Varden	N/A

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
SALT1 Logistics update	<p>James thanked the DMH staff for their work in coordinating the SALT1 meeting.</p> <p>Update on reason evening meeting did not take place. Will schedule next evening meeting for October.</p> <p>Encouragement for all attendees to register as a SALT1 member. Over 300 individuals receive distributions for SALT1, but not nearly that many registered members. Each community member can be a SALT1 member, and each agency is allowed to have 1 voting member.</p> <p>Jamie Walker reviewed SALT membership. Can only be a member of 1 SALT anywhere in the County.</p> <p>Recruitment for alternates to attend the Community Planning Team (CPT). Meeting takes place on the second Tuesday and the fourth Friday of each month. The Tuesday meeting is at St. Anne’s, and the Friday meeting is online via Teams. The CPT develops the 3-year plan for BHSA funding and services in LA County. The 160 voting members of the CPT determine what will go into the plan.</p> <p>There is an online option to participate in the Tuesday CPT meetings, but it does not have the ability to comment. The Friday online meeting has opportunities for comment.</p> <p>Discussion of transportation issues to access BHSA and other countywide meetings. Transportation was previously provided, but the number of community members utilizing this resource</p>	<p>Applications available both electronically and in the room.</p> <p>Request for alternates to attend to represent SALT1 as our co-chairs may not always be available to attend due to work obligations.</p> <p>Concern raised that online comments on the Friday meeting receive little acknowledgement.</p>	<p>James Coomes</p> <p>With Jamie Walker</p>	ASAP

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	<p>was extremely low or nonexistent. This becomes problematic due to the cost of transportation and potential audit liabilities. SALT1 members must ask ourselves if we will take advantage of offered transportation.</p> <p>Discussion of pickup/drop-off locations, as well as recommendation for reservations for transportation. No-shows raised question of proper use of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>Emphasis on importance of in-person attendance at CPT meeting. Clarification that CPT meeting is 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and SALT/UsCC Co-Chair meeting is 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. If co-chairs are unable to attend, alternates will be asked to attend from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.</p>	<p>Proposal for an accessible van to be driven by DMH staff to and from the AV and meetings down below.</p> <p>Transportation will continue to be explored by MHSA Division. There are currently no other Service Areas that provide transportation to CPT meetings.</p> <p>Danielle Gray-Smith (LACOE) has offered to calendar in attendance as an alternate. The Dutton's (Jannie and Michael), Jodi Kyman and Nick Ashbaugh can also serve as potential alternates. The alternates only serve as an alternate to the co-chair when they are not able to attend. They are not alternate co-chairs.</p>		
Take Action LA - Antelope Valley Event	<p>Event takes place on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup></p> <p>72 organizations will be represented</p> <p>Participants will be grouped in areas to Take Action “for yourself”, “your circle” (like family) and “your community”.</p>	<p>Mayra (get last name), Luisa Merino and Jodi Kyman volunteered to work the event on behalf of SALT1. Other SALT members expressed an interest Multiple SALT1 members volunteered to have SALT1 materials at their tables.</p> <p>John Keith is working with a planning subcommittee to identify dignitaries who will speak at the event.</p> <p>The CAF fund can provide some financial compensation up to \$150.</p>	James Coomes	May 7th

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	Discussion about how members might be compensated for volunteering at resource events.	James will also follow up with Jamie to explore other ways in which community members might be compensated for involvement in the community.		
Presentation by Dr. Stephany Powell	<p>Dr. Powell has been in the AV for 18 years. She understands the challenges with the development of resources in the AV. Dr. Powell presented on the Umjoa Project: the BAH-UsCC Life Links Resource Guidebook.</p> <p>Her organization has been contracted by DMH to develop a resource book specifically for the Black and African Heritage (BAH) community. Goal is to identify culturally competent resources in Service Areas 1, 2, 6 and 8 which have the highest concentrations of BAH staff.</p> <p>Attendees can also reach Dr. Powell at <a href="mailto:Powell.positivechange@gmail.com">Powell.positivechange@gmail.com</a> with any additional questions or to participate in the focus groups.</p>	<p>QR Code provided to access a survey collecting resource information for BAH community members.</p> <div><p>Please use this QR Code to access the survey or you can use the link. I will place the link in the chat.</p></div> <p>There are also sign-up sheets for focus groups to collect resource information.</p>	Rudy Perez	April 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> are the next focus group dates
Budget and spending	<p>As Gabby is on vacation this week, we will not have a full budget and spending presentation.</p> <p>April 24<sup>th</sup> is the procurement cutoff.</p>	<p>Wendy Cabil recommended increasing participation in the SALT1 planning meeting. There is a planning meeting</p>	James Coomes	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	<p>James reported that the SALTs are going from \$110,000 back to \$50,000 per year.</p> <p>The budget is a “use it or lose it” allocation and funds cannot be rolled over to future years.</p>	<p>every 2 weeks to support the SALT in maximizing our budget allocation. The next meeting is April 22<sup>nd</sup> during which</p>		
Report Out on DMH O&E and other Outreach and Engagement Activities	<p><b>Past Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women’s Symposium for the City of Palmdale March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 189 attendees checked in</li><li>• Rise Up for Kids with AVPH on April 4<sup>th</sup> – 109 participants</li><li>• Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on April 5<sup>th</sup> – 256 participants</li><li>• Little Rock High School resource event on April 5<sup>th</sup> – 103 participants</li><li>• LA Care Resource Event April 5<sup>th</sup> – 48 participants.</li><li>• Promoters assisted with events to cover all activities.</li></ul> <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You Are Loved event with City of Palmdale and Life Church on April 19<sup>th</sup></li><li>• Kindness Heals on April 25 at Challenger Middle School</li></ul>		Diana Luna Miller	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empowering Youth Family Festival on May 15<sup>th</sup> through Joe Walker Middle School</li><li>• Youth Empowerment Event on May 10<sup>th</sup> with E&amp;E Love Foundation at CASA office in Lancaster</li><li>• AV Block Party through AV College Palmdale location on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 pm.</li><li>• Healing and Empowering Summit May 16<sup>th</sup> with E&amp;E Love Foundation. Event will take place at CASA in Lancaster.</li></ul>			
Committee Member Reports	<p><b>Underserved Cultural Committees:</b> Riku Matsuda reported out on the Access for All UcCC. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 12 pm. For community members living with dis. All information is available on the calendar. There is a UsCC landing page for all UsCC’s with information. Access links through calendar or through specific pages on the DMH website.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Commission</b> (currently vacant)</p> <p><b>DMH Updates:</b> Announcement about Behavioral Health Commission vacancies. There are currently 3 at-large vacancies as well as a vacancy for the 5<sup>th</sup> District and Supervisor Barger.</p> <p>Tour of Fountain House, which is a clubhouse model. DMH will be transforming Peer Resource Centers and opening new PRC’s as clubhouse models. Treatment is not provided in clubhouses, rather members engage in a work-ordered day in clubhouses. Staff and members work side-by-side. Review of</p>	The next leadership meeting we will be discussing the labor acknowledgement. It has been adopted by many of the UsCC’s. Hope is for the SALTs to practice the same labor acknowledgement.	Heather Varden Rudy Perez  Riku Matsuda  Wendy Cabil (not present)  Amber Anderson	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	examples of activities to be found in a clubhouse setting. AV clubhouse will tentatively be located at 251 E. Ave. K-6.	If not receiving e-mail distributions, please let James know.		
COmmunity and Family Member / Supporters Time (Public Comments)	<p>Updates from community members on the progress towards access to treatment.</p> <p>Challenges and successes associated with navigating medical care and how that affects mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>BrainStim – a new organization in the AV that is providing Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. Used for TBI, sleep problems, smoking cessation and PTSD among other conditions. In the City of Hope building and will be at the May 7<sup>th</sup> event. May be an option for people who feel like they have run out of options.</p> <p>Home Outreach, suppporthome.com. This organization works with at-risk youth and youth in foster care who are getting ready to graduate and don’t know what to do. It is a faith-based program.</p>		Community members	
Closing	<p>Rudy asked James to close out the meeting.</p> <p>Bridging Resources in the Antelope Valley Board Resolution meeting was held recently.</p> <p>Wendy reported out on listening session held at Lancaster library. Limited participation from the DMH service delivery community. Would like to have more listening sessions.</p>		Heather Varden	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible	Due Date
	Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.			

**Attendees:** See sign-in sheet