

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

Eastern-European / Middle Eastern (EE/ME) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
3/26/2025

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Nane Avagyan, Mitra Shabani, David Arakelian, Seta Haig, Nelly Ghukasyan, Leonard Slutsky, Michelle Thomassian, Jibril Hussen, Reuben Wilson, Carlos Pineda, Rhoda Addam, Magda Kirakosyan, Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Karima Sudan, Jamie Walker, Rubou Sous, Seta Haig, Mastaneh Moghadam, Rima Safaryan, Armine Stepanyan, Mariam Nahapetyan, Amal Ibrahim, Josephine McMahan, Julia Monteon, Sydney Sonnier, Richard (captioner).

DMH Admin: Dr. Anna Yaralyan, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay, Yailin Noriega,

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone introduced themselves. • Dr. Jennifer Alquijay read the Board of Supervisors Land Acknowledgement.
Meeting Minutes Review and Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed & approved 2/26/2025 EE/ME Subcommittee meeting minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nelly Ghukasyan motioned to approve & Mastaneh Moghadam second. - Minutes were accepted by subcommittee members. There were no subcommittee member objections.
DMH Updates	<p> Jamie Walker & Dr. Jennifer Alquijay provided the following DMH updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCC Capacity Building Projects, CBPs, are still rolling out, all EE/ME USCC CPB projects are active. • Next round of Stakeholder Newspaper submission will be published on April 21, 2025. • May is Mental Health month! At DMH we are currently working on organizing & planning important community events for the May Mental Health month.
Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Unit Presentation	<p> Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Presentation: Reuben Wilson, Head of Alternative Crisis Response Unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACR is a new way to help people during mental health crisis. The goal is to not involve law enforcement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACR’s goal is to help people in the least controlling way possible, while keeping everyone safe. • ACR works with other teams and services to make sure people get the care they need most. • ACR care is available 24/7: There are Respond Field Intervention Teams available. It includes Psychiatric Urgent Care Centers & Crisis Residential Treatment Programs; Follow-Up Teams are also available. • Individuals can call for help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 1: Call 988 or LACDMH Help Line (800-854-7771) ○ Step 2: A trained person answers ○ Step 3: They listen and ask questions to understand the situation ○ Step 4: They help connect you or your loved one to the right support, like a field response team or psychiatric urgent care. • The responding individuals include Mental Health clinicians, Community Health Care Workers, and Culturally Competent Teams. • Psychiatric Urgent Care Centers (UCCs) are special clinics where people can go immediately if they’re having a mental health crisis. UCCs can give people the help they need in a comfortable place, so they don’t have to go to a busy emergency room (ER). • People can talk to medical professionals to get help and medicine if they need it to feel calmer. • If someone needs more help than a UCC can give, the people at the UCC will help them get to a hospital safely. • Services are available in English, Spanish, Armenian, Farsi, Korean, and Chinese (more languages coming).
EE/ME Subcommittee Capacity Building Proposals FY 2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arabic Speaking Poetry Night Mental Health Outreach Project – Vendor is in the process of completing the second half of the project, including the final poetry events & the project summary report.
EE/ME Subcommittee Capacity Building Updates FY 2024 - 2025	<p>Anna Yaralyan announced which projects have been rewarded to Vendors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Group and Mental Health Educational Seminar for Afghan Refugees - Qazizada Multicultural Therapy Clinic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 4 presentations have been completed. • The next event is scheduled to be on April 5th, 2025. DMH is waiting for the project Vendor’s confirm on this event.

- Vendor continues the process of identifying the venues to conduct mental health seminars to the Afghan Community members.

2. Armenian Wellness Festival Project – Nuway Express Inc.

- Vendor submitted the address of the new venue. DMH project Liaison will schedule an appointment to receive a tour of this venue in the month of April.
- The Armenian Wellness Festival will include 8 mental health presentations and wellness & cultural activities.
- Advertisements for the festival have been conducted in the media, such as the Armenian TV, newspapers, and social media, and disseminating flyers at various community agencies and venues. Project advertisements are done in Armenian & English languages.
- The Vendor will continue the process of advertising the festival until the day of the festival.
- Vendor is also continuing the process of collecting the credentials & PowerPoint presentation abstracts from individual seminar presenters.
- EE/ME USCC Subcommittee members provided positive feedback & excitement about the Armenian Wellness Festival and its promotional efforts.

3. Armenian Poetry Circles for Mental Health - Prolific Styles LLC, Sydney Sonnier.

- Vendor has completed 4 Armenian Poetry Events at adult day care centers in the month of March.
- So far Armenian poetry has been read in English & Armenian languages, and the poetry included contemporary poems & writers, as well as classic Armenian poems.
- Vendor will continue the promotional efforts for the Armenian Poetry Events.
- The next poetry event is in the works of being held at Ararat Home. It is a comprehensive senior living community, offering a range of care options, including independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing. It has a culture center and other community spaces, and its primary focus is on providing residential senior care.
- Vendor continues to identify venues for the Armenian MH Poetry Events, such as Armenian Adult Daycare Centers, community public libraries, senior centers, and children's day care centers.

	<p>4. Russian and Farsi Mental Health Film Project #2 – Cross Cultural Expressions, Mastaneh Moghadam, LCSW!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendor reported that everything is going well & according to plan in terms of completing the films. • Currently, the Russian and Farsi Mental Health film is in the process of sound editing. Afterwards, color editing will be conducted. • After full editing of the film, it will be submitted for subtitling. The subtitles of the film will be in Farsi & Russian languages. • Vendor will begin publicizing the film after it's ready to be shown. • Vendor has also begun the process of looking for venues where the Russian & Farsi MH films will be screened.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Labor Acknowledgement ❖ Next meeting will be on Wednesday 4/30/2025, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
	<p><u>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (323) 446-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#