

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7th, 2025, 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Cynthia Ruffin, Rex Wilde, Charlene Logan, Irene Ratliff, Bill Sive, Frank Medina, Alex Salazar, Crystal Whiteaker, Marisa Turesky, Andrea Aoun, Rafael Lopes, Ismael Maldonado, Eden Luna, Brianna Hobson, Yue Hua Xu (DMH), Jessica Valadez, Sydney Rogers, Reg Clarkinia, Beatriz (CART Captioner)

UsCC Admin: Jennifer Alquijay, Christina Barnes-Matthews, Carla Jaramillo, riKu Matsuda, Yailin Noriega, Keianna Crenshaw (BHSA)

Land Acknowledgement – Dr. Jennifer Alquijay read the LA County Land Acknowledgement

Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and what organization they are with

Getting to Know You – Charlene Logan introduced herself to the group.

June 2025 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes were approved by Bill Sive (1st) and Rex Wilde (2nd)

BHSA Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting Report Out

1. Reduce Justice Involvement/Decrease Institutionalization on 7/25/25
2. Decrease Removal of Children from the Homes/Reduce Untreated Mental Health Conditions on 8/12/25
3. Next CPT Meeting is virtual on Friday August 29, 2025
4. Link for mailing list to attend CPT Meetings: [County of Los Angeles, California](#)
5. Link to LAC DMH Event Calendar: [Events for August 2025 - Department of Mental Health](#)

Co-Chair Nominations

1. Rex Wilde was nominated in the meeting and Alex Salazar was nominated via email; they both meet ineligibility criteria and will not be able to run for co-chair
2. Still accepting co-chair nominations! *You can nominate yourself! Please review the bylaws for eligibility/ineligibility criteria here: [1174220 BYLAWSSALTUSCC.pdf](#)

DMH Updates / Follow-Ups

1. Transition from MHSA to BHSA is coming. Encouraged members to join the monthly Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings.
2. CPT meeting:
 - a. In person (at St. Anne's)/virtual at 9:30 AM on Tuesday August 12, 2025
 - b. CPT Meeting is virtual on Friday August 29, 2025
 - c. CPT Alternate is needed if co-chair is unavailable to attend
3. Behavioral Health Executive Commission Meeting Thursday August 28, 2025 at 12 pm
 - a. Behavioral Health Commission Chair Manalo to do an intro in the October 2025 meeting
4. Community Agreements read in each meeting (sent as email attachment); different than Code of Conduct which is in the bylaws
 - a. If there is wording to add or take out to make the Community Agreements more culturally aligned please let Dr. Barnes-Matthews know in the next meeting or via email: LGBTQIA2SUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov
5. Dr. Alquijay announced her departure from LACDMH
6. DHS will do a presentation on SB43 changes in October or November

Co-Chair Updates

- Earth Lodge Center
 - Services provided: Drum Wellness Circles, Sound Bath, Sangha
 - Hand on the Land October 4, 2025

General Announcements / Resources / Updates

Bill Sive

- Movie night at Unitarian Church, 5450 E Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815, Friday August 8 at 6pm
- Community Forum on Medical Debt in collaboration with Third Methodist Church and Cal State Long Beach Nursing Department on Thursday September 18, 2025. Flyer coming soon!

- LA County Medical Debt Relief Link: [LAC | DPH - Medical Debt Relief Program in Los Angeles County](#)

Irene Ratliff

- Think Tank currently postponed due to Inglewood Library renovations
 - Email Irene if interested in collaboration at: streetmeetcompany@gmail.com

Reg Clarkinia

- NAMI Glendale Support Groups
 - Link: [Support Groups - NAMI Glendale](#)
 - NAMI Connection for people with mental health conditions; LGBTQ+ every 3rd Thursday via Zoom from 6:30-8 pm
 - NAMI Family Support Group for family, partners, friends of those with mental health conditions; LGBTQ+ every 3rd Thursday via Zoom from 6:30-8 pm

Crystal Whiteaker

- Tuesday Yoga at Body Art Noir in Inglewood at 5:30 PM
 - Link: [Appointments 2 — Body Art Noire](#)
- Tuesday and Thursday Yoga at Homtown Yoga in Culver City at 7:30 PM
 - Link: [Best Yoga Studio in Los Angeles - HÖMTOWN Yoga](#)

Marisa Turesky

- Mockingbird Incubator for emerging non-profits-new cycle of applicants; free 8 week training
 - Link: [Join the Mockingbird Nonprofit Incubator Program — Nonprofit Incubator](#)

Sydney Rodgers

- Trans Wellness Center and Calypso Jete collaboration for a Trans Ballroom on Sunday August 24, 2025 at the Edge Plaza 5pm
 - Tickets are \$10 for 18 and over; free for under 18
 - After party at the Abbey
- Drag performance on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at Cholita

- On Sydney's birthday, receiving gender affirming surgery and raising funds. Congratulations!
 - Link: [Fundraiser by Sydney Rogers : Help Sydney Feel at Home in Her Body!](#)

Labor Acknowledgement- Dr. Christina Barnes-Matthews read the [Labor Acknowledgement](#)

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 9/4/25, 10/2/25, 11/6/25, 12/4/25

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#); 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#

Meeting minutes can be found at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>

Flag of the Month: August 2021 with the work of activist Jupiter Peraza, Transgender History Month was recognized in the city and county of San Francisco. In 2023, California recognizes Transgender History Month statewide. Find out more here:

[Transgender History Month](#)