

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 4th, 2025, 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Nancy Steward, Krystal Fermin, Ana Mejia, Patricia Kusaba, Crystal Whiteaker, Sydney Rogers, Brianna Hobson, Bill Sive, Rex Wilde, Frank Medina, Rafael Lopes, Robert Lara, Christian Ervin, Merry Meyers, Reg Clarkinia, Irene Ratliff, Dewayne Hervey (DMH), Eden Luna, Andrea Aoun (DMH), Yue Hua Xu (DMH), Beatriz (CART Captioner)

UsCC Admin:, riKu Matsuda, Carla Jaramillo Yailin Noriega, Chiyah Lawrence, Keianna Crenshaw (BHSA), Mirtala Parada Ward, Evelyn Espinoza, Claudia Fierro (BHSA), Jamie Walker (BHSA)

Land Acknowledgement – riKu Matsuda read the LA County Land Acknowledgement

Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and what organization they are with

Getting to Know You – Sydney Rodgers shared her promotion at work to Program Manager, Irene Ratliff shared she completed Mental Health First Aid Training; Congratulations to you both!

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

BHSA Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting Report Out

1. Institutionalization and Engagement in Schools- 8/29/25 (virtual)
2. Local Behavior Continuum and Overall Budget on 9/9/25 (in-person at St. Anne's) [MHSA Community Planning Team Stakeholder \(In-Person\) Meeting – 9/9/2025 - Department of Mental Health](#)
3. Next CPT Meeting is virtual on Friday September 26, 2025 [MHSA Community Planning Team Stakeholder \(Virtual\) Meeting – 9/26/2025 - Department of Mental Health](#)

4. Link for mailing list to attend CPT Meetings: [County of Los Angeles, California](#)
5. Link to LAC DMH Event Calendar: [Events for September 2025 – Department of Mental Health](#)

Co-Chair Nominations

1. Reg Clarkinia and Rafael Lopes were nominated in the meeting. Rafael declined the nomination due to meeting ineligibility criteria.
2. Reg Clarkinia accepted the nomination for co-chair!

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 September 9, 2025
 - b. CPT Meeting is virtual on Friday September 26, 2025
 - c. CPT Alternate is needed if co-chair is unavailable to attend
3. Behavioral Health Commission Annual Retreat on Thursday September 11, 2025, from 9am-3pm
[BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT - Sept. 11, 2025 - Department of Mental Health](#)
4. Behavioral Health Executive Commission Meeting Thursday September 25, 2025, in person from 12 pm-2pm
[BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION \(BHC\) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – Sept. 25, 2025 - Department of Mental Health](#)
 - a. Behavioral Health Commission Chair Manalo to do an intro in the October 2025 meeting
5. 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
6. All projects for the 25-26 fiscal year are out for bid
7. Dr. Alquijay is no longer with LACDMH; Mirtala Parada Ward, ARISE Division Chief will attend meetings to provide DMH updates
8. Changes to budget under BHSA; prevention dollars are no longer being utilized in the same way
 - Q: Bill Sive asked, "What happens to the reserve (DMH money) once the change takes place?"
 - A: Mirtala Parada Ward: The unused dollars get reverted back to the state. Depending on some of the budget allocations, the money can be carried over to other years but not everything.

Q: Rex Wilde asked, “Do you have an understanding at this point in time about how this will actually impact future UsCC projects for fiscal years in the future?”

A: Mirtala Parada Ward: I am scheduled to have a meeting at the end of the month to look at the future budget and funding for capacity building projects for all the UsCC groups. Right now, it is uncertain because BHSA takes away prevention dollars. All of it belongs to the state and the state has not released how counties or nonprofits or private consultants can bid for those dollars and implement prevention programming.

9. SB43 Presentations throughout the months of September-November; can attend the BAH UsCC on 11/4/25 from 10-12 for the presentation

Co-Chair Updates

- N/A

General Announcements / Resources / Updates

- Mirtala Parada Ward, Rex Wilde, and Bill Sive, shared the history of the UsCC’s and how they became involved

Bill Sive

- Movie night *Nelly & Nadine* at Unitarian Church, 5450 E Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815, Friday September 12 at 6pm
- Community Forum on Medical Debt at Grace United Methodist Church, 2325 East 3rd Street, Long Beach, CA 90814, Thursday September 18, 2025 at 6pm
 - LA Times Article about LA County Medical Debt Repayment: [L.A. County is paying off millions in medical debt. Do you qualify? - Los Angeles Times](#)

Irene Ratliff

- Think Tank will be hosted at Curtis Tucker Center for Community Wellness at 123 W. Manchester Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, Saturdays at 1pm
 - Email Irene if interested: streetmeetcompany@gmail.com
- Mental Health First Aid Training: [Mental Health First Aid](#)
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate Training: <https://cpaf.ngo/trainings/>

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

Frank Medina

- Parents Anonymous
 - United Mental Health Promoters (UMHP) focuses on peer support, community outreach and referral linkage.
 - Nationwide Parent and Youth Helpline 24/7 in any language. Call or Text 1-855-427-2736 or live chat at caparentyouthhelpline.org

Rex Wilde

- Long Beach Q Film Festival at The Art Theatre, 2025 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90814 from September 4-7, 2025
 - Website: [HOME | Qfilms](#)

Labor Acknowledgement- riKu Matsuda read the [Labor Acknowledgement](#)

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

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#); 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 672 521 456#

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: The week of September 16-23 is Bisexual Awareness Week!