

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

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

8/27/2025

2:00PM -4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: Nane Avagyan, Mitra Shabani, David Arakelian, Sarkis Simonian, Rima Safaryan, Nelly Ghukasyan, Jibril Hussen, Rhoda Addam, Karima Sudan, Jamie Walker, Carla Jaramillo, Dewayne Hervey, Armineh Stepanyan, Seta Haig, Mastaneh Moghadam, Mikey Olbes, Angelina M. Amal Ibrahim, Blanca Esthela Watson, Christina Barnes-Matthews, Rubou Sous, Yue Hua Xu, Marilia, Patricia Kusaba, Nancy Steward.

DMH Admin: Dr. Anna Yaralyan, Mirtala Parada Ward.

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone introduced themselves. • Dr. Anna Yaralyan read the Board of Supervisors Land Acknowledgement.
Meeting Minutes Review and Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed & approved 6/25/2025 EE/ME Subcommittee meeting minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarkis Simonian motioned to approve & Nelly Ghukasyan second. - Minutes were accepted by subcommittee members. There were no subcommittee member objections.
DMH Updates	<p>Jamie Walker & Mirtala Parada Ward provided the following DMH updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACDMH continues to have Community Planning Meetings, and we still have space for community members. We urge community members to attend these meetings and community members to share their voice about our communities mental health needs, so the department can hear them. • Community Planning Team (CPT) Meetings are held twice a month with one in-person meeting at St Anne's and the other one conducted virtually. And the next one at St Anne's will be held in-person, on September 7, 2025, 9:30am - 12:30pm to continue planning of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). The second meeting is on last Fridays of each month, 9:30am - 12:30pm,

	<p>online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHSa is coming to an end, and all the funds will be distributed through BHSA come July 4, 2026. DMH will lose part of our budget due to this. Currently the department is in the process of deciding which mental health programs will be funded and the FSP program funds will increase as directly operated services are needed. • There are currently no funds for the Underserved Cultural Communities yet, however, a proposal will be submitted for the UsCCs to continue. • Information was provided with reasons for creating and implementing the Community Agreement protocols for all the USCCs.
<p>EE/ME Subcommittee Capacity Building Project Brainstorming FY 2025-2026</p>	<p>Subcommittee members brainstormed on new Capacity Building Projects for FY 2025 - 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing through connection and art; soul series for Russian/Ukrainian, & Armenian families. • Community engagement & support for Russian/Ukrainian immigrants leaving their war-torn countries. • Produce & air short videos and movies about mental health for Russian/Ukrainian families. • Create more Capacity Building Projects focusing on children. • Create more Capacity Building Projects focusing on the EE/ME LGBTQI2S Community, homophobia, transgender issues within these communities, etc. • Create Capacity Building Projects to help lower stigma & shame regarding receiving mental health services within the EE/ME UsCC Communities. • Create 5-minute video sessions providing information on mental health services & resources that are culturally sensitive for EE/ME UsCC Communities.
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Labor Acknowledgement ❖ Next meeting will be on Wednesday 9/24/2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. <p>Capacity Building Capacity Building Project Proposals for FY 2025 - 2026 will be presented during the next EE/ME UsCC Subcommittee meeting.</p>
	<p>Join <u>Microsoft Teams Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (323) 446-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#