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

September 18, 2025

3:00pm - 5:00pm <u>Join Meeting via MS Teams</u> Meeting ID: 215 193 088 578 Passcode: pJ96dh6i

Email: SALT1@dmh.lacounty.gov

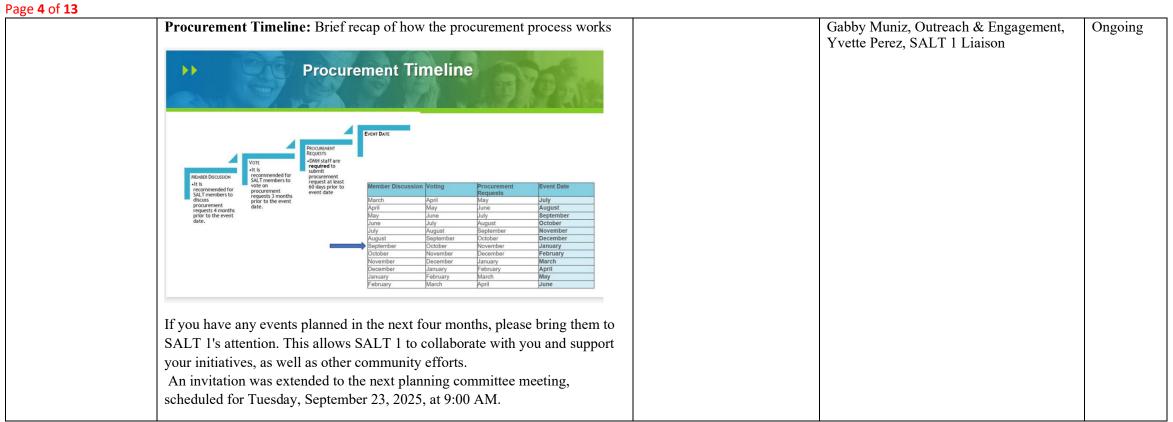
Approved Minutes

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusion	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible	Due Date
Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Ice Breaker	The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM by Co-Chair Rudy Perez, who welcomed all attendees.		Rudy Perez, Heather Varden, Co-Chairs, Yvette Perez, SALT 1 liaison	N/A
	The meeting was facilitated by Co-Chair Rudy Perez, and Heather Varden. Rudy Perez began by reviewing the agenda and delivering the Land Acknowledgment. Following this, Yvette Perez led an ice-breaker activity, inviting volunteers to share their name and - if you could watch one movie repeatedly, what would it be?			
Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from 9/18/2025	Paper copies of the minutes were available in the training room, distributed via email prior to the meeting, and displayed on-screen for online attendees. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Nick Ashbaugh and seconded by Michael Dutton with requested corrections. Heather Varden moved to approve the minutes with 14 total member votes, 1 abstention.		Rudy Perez, Heather Varden, Co-Chairs, SALT1 Voting members	N/A

Presentation(s)	Debbie Innes-Gomberg delivered a comprehensive presentation on California Senate Bill 43 (SB-43), focusing on its impact on the criteria for grave disability, involuntary holds, and conservatorships under the Lanterman-Petris-Short- (LPS) Act. This session provided an overview of both SB-43 and the LPS Act, detailing the upcoming changes to the definition of grave disability and how these changes will affect criteria for involuntary holds and conservatorships. Additionally, the presentation included case studies to illustrate practical applications of the new guidelines. These legislative changes are set to take effect in Los Angeles County on January 1, 2026. The presentation concluded with an opportunity for audience questions and answers. Department of Mental Health (DMH) & Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Access line: 800-854-7771	Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Deputy Director, DMH	
Budget	Review of Fiscal Year (FY) 25/26 SALT budget current expenses SALT 1 Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Allocation of \$50,000 Expense: \$ 8,787.48 Remaining \$ 41,212.52 Heather Varden provided an overview of the SALT 1 budget, including monthly utilization to date. She also shared a list of planned expenditures for which the procurement process has been initiated. These upcoming expenses include: • Suicide Prevention Conference in partnership with the You are Enough Foundation and the MET team. • SALT 1 September Meeting – light refreshments • Domestic Violence Awareness Conference in partnership with Valley Oasis • Hispanic Heritage Event in partnership with LA North County Regional Center and All for Kids. • SALT 1 October evening meeting at Gino's Italian Restaurant.	Heather Varden, Co-Chair in the absence of Gabby Muniz, SALT 1 Voting Members	6/30/26

These planned expenditures support community engagement and awareness initiatives aligned with SALT 1 priorities. **Fiscal Year Budget** Current Allocation: Suicide Prevention Conference, Sept. SALT 1 Meeting Refreshments, Domestic Violence Event, Hispanic Heritage Event, October SALT 1 Dinner Meeting Diana Luna-Miller in the absence of Ongoing Gabby Muniz, Outreach & Engagement Team Overview Day of Giving (SALT 1 Approved)

City of Lancaster Purpose of Event: By providing toys, essentials, and access to resources during the holiday season, this initiative fosters joy, connection, and emotional relief - particularly for children and families experiencing hardship. This effort aligns with the Department's core values of hope, empowerment, and inclusion, offering tangible support that uplifts underserved communities, reduces stressors that contribute to mental health challenges, and promotes resilience. Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 Time: 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM (3.5 hrs.) Location: American Heroes Park (Lancaster) Approximate Attendees: 1000 ppl Partners: City of Lancaster, Lancaster Community Services Foundation (OPEN TO ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS)



Report Out on DMH
O&E and other
Outreach and
Engagement Activities

Diana Luna-Miller provided SALT 1 with an overview of past and upcoming events.

DMH Collaborative Events

Presenter: Diana Luna-Miller

Past Events	Date	Location	Attendees
Tamarisk Elementary School/BookHouse Jamboree	08/23/25	Palmdale	250
Back to School Event/The Palmdale Aerospace Academy	08/28/25	Palmdale	150
4th Annual Community Baby Shower	08/30/25	Palmdale	32
Teen Summit	09/06/25	Lancaster	65
Emotional Regulation/Lancaster School District	09/09/25	Lancaster	29
3rd Annual AV Suicide Prevention Awareness Candlelight Vigil	09/10/25	Palmdale	60

The number of attendees is a rough estimate based on sign-in sheets. It does not reflect vendors in attendance.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Events	Date	Location
Suicide Awareness	09/25/25	Lancaster
Human Trafficking Awareness 101 & Self- Defense Training	09/27/25	Palmdale
Empower Expose Resource Event	09/27/25	Palmdale
Hispanic Heritage Event	10/01/25	Palmdale
4th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk	10/04/25	Palmdale
Rev. Event (Valley Oasis)	10/11/25	Lancaster
Wellness & Relaxation/Techniques and Practices	10/14/25	Lancaster
35th Annual Senior Expo	10/16/25	Lancaster
DV Resilience Conference (Valley Oasis)	10/22/25	Palmdale

Diana Luna Miller, Programs & Special Projects (O&E)	Ongoing
Projects (O&E)	
3	

Page 6 OI 15	To clarify – the Rev Stands for Ride to End Violence for the October 11 th			
	Event with Valley Oasis. Hispanic Heritage Month – Thus far 77 people have registered, and the maximum capacity is 120 attendees. To address political climate concerns – the event will be a private event with one point of entry and registration required to ensure those attending have registered. There will be building security onsite, and an active safety policy in place. The location is also fenced adding an extra layer of security. Diana Luna-Miller on behalf of Gabby Muniz provided an overview of the upcoming Day of Giving (SALT 1 approved), scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 1:30p to 5p. The event will take place at America Heroes Park in the City of Lancaster and is expected to draw approximately 1,000 attendees. SALT 1 will be partnering with the City of Lancaster and is actively seeking additional partners. A spreadsheet will be distributed for those interested in participating and donating winter items to support our community.	A participation sheet for donation items/participation will go out via email.	SALT 1 planning Committee, Outreach & Engagement Team	09/24/25
Committee Member Reports	Co-Chair Updates: Rudy Perez – Attended the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Planning Team (CTP) meeting on 9/9/25. The meeting included an overview of crisis services, housing, and available beds. Another forum focused on housing is scheduled for 9/29/25. Additional presentations covered harm reduction, coordinated specialty care services, crisis residential care, and day treatment. A presentation on education and training, as well as medication-assisted treatment, is scheduled for 10/31/25. Other presentations are planned for November and December; dates are to be determined. At the Co-Chair meeting, facilitators led a mock session to provide guidance on managing situations involving meeting "hijacking" and disruptive interruptions.		Rudy Perez, Co-Chairs, Committee Members	Ongoing
	Underserved Cultural Committees (UsCCs): Wendy Cabil reported that new members are currently onboarding. Additionally, there is no funding allocated for the UsCC groups for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, as funds have been reallocated. Despite this, everyone is		Wendy Cabil, UsCCs, SALT 1 member	Ongoing

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continuing efforts to roll out their projects. Some participants are still engaged in the election process for the next Co-Chair.	ed	
One of the highlights of the meeting was that a learning series was presented as a group effort to address and engage in anti-black hate crime and oppression, that will also include other cultural groups.		
The Mental Health Commission seat remains vacant.		
The following information is being carried over from the previous meeting for reference and to include the meeting date.	or l	
UsCC's Meeting Schedule		
Access for all UsCC - Every second Wednesday of the month, 10:00 a.m12:00 p.m.		
• American Indian/Alaska Native UsCC - Every first Wednesday of the month, 2:00 p.m4:00 p.m.		
• Asian Pacific Islander UsCC - Every fourth Monday of the month, 2:00 p.m4:00 p.m.	0	
• Black and African Heritage UsCC - Every first Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m12:00 p.m.		
• Eastern European / Middle Eastern UsCC - Every last Wednesday of the month, 2:00 p.m4:00 p.m.		
• Latino UsCC - Every third Tuesday of the month, 2:00 p.m4:00 p.m.		
• LGBTQIA2-S UsCC - Every first Thursday of the month, 2:00 p.m 4:00 p.m.p		
DMH Updates:	James Coomes, SPA 1 District Chief 5/06/2	26

	James Coomes asked those in attendance to save the date for May is Mental Health – Take Action LA taking place on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 10am to 1pm. This important event will be held at Antelope Valley College. James shared that DMH will be partnering with the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program, which works closely with Child Protective Services and engages extensively with TAY on campus. Planning for the event is already underway. The planning team will meet monthly through the end of the year, then shift to biweekly meetings in January and February. This past May, the event drew nearly 3,000 participants, and the goal is to make it even bigger in 2026.	
Agency Updates and	Heather Varden – shared that beginning on the first Thursday of every month,	
Community	a Health and Justice Fair will be held at Mental Health America from 9:00	
Announcements	AM to 12:00 PM. This event is intended to serve individuals experiencing	
	homelessness.	
	Additionally, on October 18, 2025, the Odd Art Expo will take place at	
	Bravery Brewing starting at 5:00 PM. A panel on mental health will be	
	featured during the event. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the	
	Outreach Center and NAMI AV. Organizers are currently seeking individuals	
	interested in tabling as vendors or participating as panelists. Those interested	
	in speaking on topics such as mental health, suicide, or LGBTQ issues are	
	encouraged to contact Heather.	
	Starview – Extended an invitation to refer anyone who has experienced early	
	signs of psychosis to their program (EPI-LA). The program currently has	
	capacity. Brochures are available on the resource table.	
	Maunda Jackson Stewary with Youth with a Purpose (YWAP) is looking for	
	young African American mothers for their Mommy Network Program. If	
	interested or for more information, contact: maunda@youthwapurpose.org or	
	go to www.youthwapurpose.org.	
	Also, YWAP performing arts team will be performing at the Lancaster	
	Performing Arts Center (LPAC) with the Faith and Blue Youth Explosion	
	which is a free community event taking place on October 1, 2025 at 3pm.	

Marvin from Penny Lane – Free TAY Stock event at Penny Lane Center on October 18, 2025, from 12p-3p. Vendor invitation is open for those wishing to table. The event will host food, DJ, and photo booth. Reach out to Marvin Sandoval 661-865-7655 or masandoval@pennylane.org.

Eric Serrano with City of Lancaster announced that the City of Lancaster will host its annual Turkey Distribution at the Lancaster Community Center on November 15th. Last year, they gave away 1,300 turkeys. This is a free event, and anyone aware of families who may benefit is encouraged to share this information. The event starts at 10 AM, and details can be found on the City of Lancaster website under Turkey Drive.

Eric also shared that the city is requesting canned good donations, which can be dropped off at the Lancaster Community Center or coordinated through Eric directly. Lastly, he expressed excitement about the SALT 1 collaboration for the Day of Giving and is asking for toy donations. Given the 15% poverty rate in the Antelope Valley, these donations will help brighten the holidays for local families.

Jodi Kyman shared that the Lancaster Sheriff's Department is hosting a Haunted Jail event on October 12th. This event is designed for older kids and will take place on Friday night, while on October 11th it will be open to all families. The event combines trunk-or-treat activities. For safety and enjoyment of the event, Sierra Highway will be closed for duration of the event. Additionally, Jodi announced that the Antelope Valley Marijuana, Alcohol, Pharmaceutical Prevention (AV MAP) coalition is seeking new members. Those interested can contact Jodi Kyman at jodikyman@gmail.com. The coalition meets every other month from 10 AM to 12 PM at JVS on Sierra Highway. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23rd.

Jessica shared that Penny Lane Centers currently has openings for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services for individuals of all ages. They will also be

participating in the TAY Stock event and will be tabling to share additional resources at that time.

Betty Thomas shared that United American Indian Involvement (UAII) will be opening a Child Care Center in Palmdale (at the former DMH office). Their main office is located in Los Angeles on Temple Street. UAII provides a variety of resources for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, including medical and dental services, elder services, workforce development, housing support, and youth programs. UAII is excited to bring their services to the Antelope Valley and looks forward to building relationships and partnerships in the community.

Jimmy Guevarra from the Children's Center of the AV shared that on Saturday, the Children's Center will host an event called Forks of the Valley from 11 AM to 4 PM. The event will feature food tasting and provide access to various resources. Additionally, he shared that the center offers therapy services, case management, and psychiatry. For more information, Jimmy can be contacted at 661-949-1206.

Martha shared information about Penny Lane's upcoming program, the Child & Family Resource Center, which will function as a drop-in center for individuals and families of all ages. The center will offer support through case navigators and provide essential items such as diapers, formula, food, and clothing. They are also hoping to offer vouchers and other resources beneficial to the community. Although there is no official start date yet, the team is currently in the process of hiring staff to provide these services. The anticipated launch is either October 30th or November 1st. Contact: Msaavedra@pennylane.org 661-466-9158 for more information.

Proposal – Native American Heritage Event - North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC). The North Los Angeles County Regional Center proposes to host a Native American Heritage Event focused on engaging and supporting the tribal community in the Antelope Valley.

Purpose: The goal of the event is to increase awareness and connect tribal community members with valuable resources and services available in the

Antelope Valley. **Proposed Date:** January 2026 (to avoid scheduling conflicts, as November is a particularly busy month for many tribes). **Duration:** 4.5 hours **Target Attendance:** 100 individuals.

Location: North Los Angeles County Regional Center (no rental fee required). **Funding Request:** \$1,500 – Catering/Food for attendees and \$1,500 – Keynote Speaker, in partnership with United American Indian Involvement (UAII).

This event is being developed in response to community feedback and advocacy, particularly from SALT 1, who have expressed interest in hosting an event of this nature over the past year. With a new connection established with a local tribal community, we now have the opportunity to bring this meaningful and culturally significant event to the Antelope Valley.

Purpose of Event: This event will address the barriers tribal families face in accessing county services, mental health support, and other state and federally funded programs. How: By creating a space for dialogue, resource sharing, and culturally grounded practices, the event will bring together tribal families, community leaders, and service providers to strengthen partnerships and build trust. Goal: The goal is to raise awareness and ensure that tribal families have equitable access to the services and support they deserve. Proposed Date: January 2026 Time: 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM (4.5 hrs) Approximate Attendees: 100 ppl Potential Partners: Torres Martinez TANF, DMH, DPH, DPSS, United American Indian Involvement, Family Focus Resource Center Ask: \$1,500 towards food, \$1,500 towards keynote speaker Current SALT 1 member: Yes

James Coomes provided an overview of the procurement process for events of this nature and emphasized the importance of SALT I voting members reviewing and approving any motion before proceeding.

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	Heather Vender mesented CALT 1 veting members with the entire to either			
	Heather Varden – presented SALT 1 voting members with the option to either			
	move forward with a vote to approve the event during this meeting or defer			
	the vote to the October meeting.			
	Jannie Dutton made a motion to move forward with approving the event.			
	Michael Dutton seconded the motion. Wendy Cabil expressed a few concerns			
	regarding the budget breakdown and event location but stated that, otherwise,			
	she supported the proposal. Jean Harris expressed concerns about how SALT			
	1 plans to spend its budget for the fiscal year and asked whether all SALT 1			
	sponsored events would be voted on individually.			
	Heather ensured that ample time was given for questions and discussion			
	before proceeding with the vote.			
	Vote Outcome: 14 votes in favor, 1 objection, and 0 abstentions.			
	Motion passes to approve up to \$3,000 total to support food and a keynote			
	speaker for the Native American Heritage Event to be held in January 2026.			
Community and	Comments: Jean Harris expressed concerns about not receiving invites to the			
Family Member /	planning meeting. Wendy Cabil asked to be included in these meeting invites	Meeting occurs every other		
Supporters Time	as well.	Tuesday. Next meeting	Yvette Perez, SALT 1 liaison will follow	10/2/25
(Public Comments)		September 23, 2025, at 9am.	up on this matter.	
	Steven Urias question was raised regarding whether stipends are taken from	Join the meeting now		
	the SALT 1 budget. James Coomes clarified that stipends are paid through a	Meeting ID: 242 460 533 597		
	different budget, not SALT.	Passcode: 6jHWfD		
Closing	The meeting adjourned at 4:56pm. Service providers will remain available afterward to answer any attendee questions.		Co-Chairs, SPA 1 District Chief	
	anciward to answer any attendee questions.			

Respectfully submitted by, Yvette Perez, MHA
SALT1 Liaison, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Service Area 1 Administration
Attendees: 74

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