

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

May 14, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Héctor Manuel Ramírez (co-chair), Carlos Benavides, Olina Rose Bishop, Luis Bravo, Anita Burdette, Wendy Cabil, Daneta Calderon-Vital, Carter Dallian, Racquel Decipeda, Jo Freeman, Dr. Alina Gray, Amy Kay, Bea Leung, Guillermo Medina Jr., MargaretAnn Mendenhall, Kelly O'Connor, Fran Sereseres, Sophia Sidhu, Cynde Soto, Gabriela Velasquez, Irma Velasquez, Addison Rose Vincent

DMH staff: Jennifer Alquijay, Keianna Crenshaw, Alex Elliott, Andrea Grimes, Carla Jaramillo, riKu Matsuda, Martha Ortiz, John Palacio, Tracy Tisino, Andrea Grimes, Yailin Noriega, Suyapa Umanzor, Geraldine White

Interpreters and captioner: Alex (Spanish), Lucy (Spanish), Darcy (ASL), Mara (ASL), Richard (CART)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Co-chair Héctor Manuel Ramírez welcomed participants, provided a visual description, and shared the disability etiquette. They shared the importance of visual descriptions, pronoun usage, and encouraged participants to use the raise hand function for questions and comments. They shared that turning on cameras can help with visual communication.
Land Acknowledgment	Héctor Manuel Ramírez read the land acknowledgment .
Labor Acknowledgment	riKu Matsuda read the labor acknowledgement .
Presentation: Personal Assistance Services Council by Executive Director Luis Bravo and Governing Board Chair Cynde Soto.	PASC contracts with the Department of Social Services to operate a home care registry for IHSS program recipients. They assist in finding caregivers (IHSS providers) for recipients based on needs and schedules. PASC's governing board consists of IHSS recipients and advocates. They provide support and training for both caregivers and recipients. PASC offers an insurance plan for eligible caregivers. IHSS recipients are considered employers, deciding who provides their care, which can include family members or friends. To learn more, visit https://pascla.org/
Approve April Meeting Minutes	Héctor called for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Racquel Decipeda motioned to approve, seconded by Fran Sereseres. Motion approved without objection.

Co-chair Updates	Héctor talked about working together with the county on partnerships and shared ideas about the state budget. They provided updates from the Department of Health Care Services about how these changes could affect the community, especially for people with mental health issues and disabilities. Héctor thanked everyone who attended the meeting to generate project ideas for 2025-2026.
DMH Updates	Dr. Jennifer Alquijay invited everyone to attend the monthly Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings on Tuesdays at St. Anne's and Fridays on Microsoft Teams. Reminder to complete the transportation survey for the BHSA CPT meetings.
Capacity Building Project Report: African American Mental Health and Disability Awareness Project	Kelly O'Connor, Executive Director of Maternal Mental Health Now, introduced Anita Burdette and Dr. Elena Gray, members of the Maternal Mental Health Black Workers Advisory Council, who presented a report on the African American Mental Health and Disability Awareness Project. Key Project Objectives: - Increase awareness about disabilities and reduce stigma. - Promote self-advocacy during healthcare appointments and provide education on identifying disabilities. - Enhance provider knowledge to support community resilience. Learning Objectives: 1. Understand the impact of disabilities and mental health in Black and African American populations. 2. Discuss themes of empowerment and storytelling for self and community advocacy. 3. Explore building community connections and identifying resiliency. Examples of Discussion Topics: - Definition and risk factors of perinatal mental health. - Different types of disabilities (apparent and non-apparent). - Engagement in dialogues about community needs and mental health awareness. Amy Kay requested information about the vendors' outreach efforts to DHH and BLV communities and asked for future projects to ensure proper outreach and inclusion.
Community Updates	Racquel Decipeda shared a webinar on identity theft prevention May 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., presented by the Identity Theft Resource Center. Hearts 4 Sight is hosting a hiking event at Crystal Lake on June 21st with transportation provided for attendees.
Closing	Héctor thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to the next meeting on Jun. 11, 2025.