

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

December 10, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Fran Sereseres (co-chair), Virginia Alvizo, Maria Elena Arauco, Carlos Benavides, Olina Rose Bishop, Daneta Calderon-Vital, Dallian Carter, Racquel Decipeda, Amal Ibrahim, Bea Leung, Grace Leung, MargaretAnn Mendenhall, Mercedes Moreno, Gabriela Velasquez, Irma Velasquez, Mohammed Mabrouk, Guillermo Medina Jr., Patricia Mendoza, Irene Ratliff, Sophia Sidhu, Miss Nancy Steward, Rosy Tellez, Tracey Walters

DMH staff: Anshu Agarwal, Keianna Crenshaw, Alex Elliott, Andrea Grimes, Cintia Huitzil, Carla Jaramillo, Chiyah Lawrence, riKu Matsuda, Barbara Myer, John Palacio, Tracy Tisino, Suyapa Umanzor, Jessica Wiechec, Anna Yaralyan

Interpreters and captioner: Alex (Spanish), Lucy (Spanish), Sharon (ASL), Darcy (ASL), Sara (CART)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Department of Mental Health (DMH) Liaison riKu Matsuda welcomed participants, provided a visual description, and shared the disability etiquette.
Land Acknowledgment	DMH Liaison read the land acknowledgment .
Labor Acknowledgment	DMH Liaison read the labor acknowledgement .
DMH Updates	• Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)/Service Area Leadership Team (SALT) co-chairs will now rotate monthly reports to the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) • Reports should cover accomplishments, challenges, recommendations, and support needs. • Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Transition -Special Community Planning Team (CPT) meeting on January 20, 2026 (9:30AM-3:30PM)

	-Topics will include: BHSA integrated plan, housing intervention, prevention/early intervention • Important change: after BHSA implementation in July UsCC funding will shift to focus on stakeholder planning engagement • This is the last year of capacity building projects.
Co-Chair Update	Newly elected co-chair Fran Sereseres shared a personal introduction. Fran serves as a commissioner on the LA County Older Adults Commission, appointed by Supervisor Barger for the 5th District. She focuses on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities, as well as legislation related to these communities. Additionally, Fran is active with the Lancaster City Council and the AV Senior Center. She encourages everyone to reach out for help when needed.
Approval of October and November minutes	Minutes motioned and approved with no objection.
Capacity Building Projects Awarded	• Preparing to Thrive- awarded to Tracey Walters -30 people with disabilities from across LA County will work together to assemble go bags, discuss and develop community strategies to respond to emergencies, create individualized response plans. Goal is to create a diverse range of applicants to address various disability-related emergency scenarios and ensure people with disabilities have tailored emergency strategies for their specific situations and home environments. Apply by December 29, 2025. • Expanding Mental Wellness for the Blind & Visually Impaired through Art- Hearts 4 Sight (details coming soon) • Emerging Leaders in Disability Justice- Serve California (details coming soon)
Community Announcements	• NAMI South Bay: Filipino Family Support Group kickoff – December 18, 3pm in Carson • Client Activity Fund (CAF) orientation- 12/16/25 • State feedback opportunities open through Jan 16 on BHSA resources
Closing	riKu thanked everyone for joining the meeting.
Next meeting	Access for All UsCC Meeting - January 14, 2026