

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

February 11, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Hector Ramirez (co-chair), Fran Sereseres (co-chair), Adriana Molina, Alex Rivero, Amy Kay, Bea Leung, Darlene Ayala, Gabriela Velasquez, Grace Leung, Guillermo Medina Jr., Irma Velasquez, Jason Kee, Junko Nagamatsu, Kusaba Erica, Luis Navarro, Maria Elena Arauco, Michael Agyin, Natalie Christalie Cortez, Norma F., Olina Rose Bishop, Patricia Kusaba, Patricia Mendoza, Racquel Decipeda, Raymond L. Menefee, Theresa Menendez, Tracey Walters

DMH staff: Alex Elliott, Andrea Grimes, Angelle Hill-Seetal, Carla Jaramillo, Chiyah Lawrence, Claudia Fierro, Dewayne Hervey, Jessica Wiechec, John Palacio, Keianna Crenshaw, Martha Ortiz, Riku Matsuda, Suyapa Umanzor

Interpreters and captioner: Alex (Spanish), Losha (Spanish), Sharon (ASL), Darcy (ASL), Beatriz (CART)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Co-chair Ramirez welcomed participants, provided a visual description, and shared the disability etiquette. They introduced co-chair, Co-chair Sereseres, who is also a Commissioner for Aging and Disabilities.
Land Acknowledgment	Co-chair Ramirez read the land acknowledgment .
Labor Acknowledgment	Co-chair Sereseres read the labor acknowledgement . Co-chair Ramirez also acknowledged that February is African American Heritage Month.
Community Agreements	riKu read the community agreements. Co-chair Ramirez also acknowledged that this meeting is meant to be a safe collaborative space for the community so if anyone has any needs or concerns to send an email to the co-chairs or liaison, or call the Access number.

Presentation: LA County Commission on Disabilities Presenter: Commissioner Michael Agyin	• Commissioner Michael Agyin is a Ted X speaker, he was named one of the 50th most notable speakers in the disability community at the California Department of Rehabilitation. • He presented a countywide effort to expand the use of closed captioning in public spaces. • The initiative focuses on improving accessibility in locations such as restaurants, banks, gyms, and public meeting spaces. • The effort has been in development for approximately two years. • The ordinance was described as the first of its kind in Los Angeles and is moving into implementation and training. • Ways the community members can help: ○ Raise awareness about the new ordinance. ○ Share information with community organizations and businesses. ○ Support future training and outreach. ○ Participate when the item comes before the board of supervisors. • Participants discussed the importance of using multiple accessibility tools, such as ASL interpreters, closed captions, picture-in-picture or fixed interpreter windows, and technology apps. • Participants discussed recurring challenges with accessibility in meetings, including technical problems with interpreters and captions, difficulty communicating when accessibility features stop working, and the need for clearer procedures and consistent support. • Participants emphasized that accessibility barriers can affect inclusion, participation, and mental health. • There was agreement that future meetings should include reliable captions, interpreters, and clear communication procedures.
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Presentation: Deaf Services at Five Acres Presenter: Amy Kay, LMFT	• Amy Kay presented on five acres deaf services. Five acres is a nonprofit organization contracted with DMH. • Services are available primarily in service area 3 and include: ○ Mental health assessments ○ Individual and family therapy ○ Parent support ○ Rehabilitation services ○ Psychiatric and psychological services ○ Case management and care coordination • Services are offered in: ○ English ○ Spanish ○ American sign language (asl) ○ Additional languages with interpreters • Eligibility ○ Services are available for: ○ Children and youth ages 0–20 ○ Individuals with la county full-scope Medi-Cal • Telehealth is available countywide; in-person services are primarily limited to service area 3. • Regarding adults over age 20, referrals may be made to other agencies and community providers when adult services are needed. • Concerns were raised about limited access for individuals outside service area 3, especially in the antelope valley. Interested participants to follow up regarding potential expanded service access outside service area 3.
Co-Chair Update	Co-chair Ramirez shared a negative experience they had at the Behavioral Health Care planning meeting last month. There were technical issues that prevented the meeting from being accessible and was eventually canceled. They advocated for better accessible accommodation for future department meetings. Co-chair Sereseres shared about her experience working as an advocate before becoming a commissioner. She expressed her appreciation and her desire to support this community.

DMH Updates	BHSA Administration shared the following updates: •The preview sessions of the draft for the BHSA Integrated Plan were held with the Behavioral Health Commission and the board offices last month. They are scheduled to have the draft of the plan posted in the upcoming week. •They are going dark in February and March to work on a plan on how to move forward with the changes and what CPT will look like in the next fiscal year. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026. •Beyond the Walls – Round 2: Launching February 2026. This is DMH's community engagement effort to reach individuals unable to attend regular stakeholder meetings during business hours. Teams will visit all 8 service areas on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. Sessions (1–1.5 hours) will cover BHSA updates, state mandates, SALTs, UsCCs, how to navigate the DMH provider directory, and the DMH event calendar. Contact: beyondwalls@dmh.lacounty.gov. Dr. Jessica Wiechec introduced herself as the new UsCC Supervisor. She provided an announcement about the Multicultural Conference that is occurring on March 17th and 18th in Downtown Los Angeles. Registration will be available in the next coming week.
Approval of Minutes	Minutes were presented and approved
Closing	Co-Chairs Co-chair Ramirez and Co-chair Sereseres offered closing remarks.
Next meeting	Access for All UsCC Meeting – March 11, 2026