

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

April 8, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Hector Ramirez (co-chair), Alex Salazar, Bea Leung, Cody Hanable, Daneta Calderon-Vital, Emily Wu Truong, Figueroa, Gabriela Velasquez, Grace Leung, Guillermo Medina Jr, Irma Velasquez, John Kotick, Junko Nagamatsu, Dr. Lafawn Brito, Lura Beaumont, Raymond L. Menefee, Olina Bishop, Racquel Decipeda, Ramona Chatman-Morris, Tracey Walters

DMH staff: Alex Elliott, Andrea Grimes, Dr. Anna Yaralyan, Dr. Carla Jaramillo, Dr. Chiyah Lawrence, Cintia Huitzil, Dewayne Hervey, Dr. Jessica Wiechec, John Palacio, Keith Wells, Lashawn Cheadle, Martha Ortiz, Mirtala Parada Ward, Tracy Tisino, Yailin Noriega, Yue Hua Xu

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

Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Co-chair Ramirez opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. They joined from Sacramento, where statewide events were taking place for National Autism Awareness Month and National Deaf & ASL Awareness Month. They provided the disability etiquette and encouraged participants to report any accessibility barriers so the meeting could pause and adjust as needed. Dr. Jessica Wiechec introduced herself as the new UsCC Supervisor and the interim Access for All Liaison following the transition of former liaison Riku Matsuda.
Community Agreements	Dr. Jessica Wiechec read the community agreements. Co-chair Ramirez noted that disability specific protections remain missing from the Code of Conduct and requested continued revisions.

Land Acknowledgment	Co-chair Ramirez read the land acknowledgment .
Labor Acknowledgment	Dr. Jessica Wiechec read the labor acknowledgement .
Approval of Minutes	Minutes were presented and approved
DMH Updates: Provided by Mirtala Parada Ward, Chief of ARISE Division	BHSA Transition • California's transition from MHSA to BHSA begins July 1, 2026. • Full implementation will take several years due to the size of LA County's system. • Stakeholder input, especially from disability communities, will be essential. Funding Changes • Under BHSA, Outreach & Engagement funding will no longer exist. • Current capacity building projects will end June 30, 2026. • New planning related funding may become available; updates will be shared as details are finalized. Meeting Security • Several USCC meetings were paused due to intruders entering public meetings and posting hateful content. • DMH upgraded Teams security and trained staff to better manage disruptions. • If intrusions occur, meetings may temporarily close and reopen with restricted settings to protect participants. • Keith Wells from IT responded to questions regarding technical and security issues. Participants raised concerns about: • Microsoft Teams accessibility barriers, including login issues for blind users • The impact of meeting cancellations on disability communities • The need for DMH to strengthen accessibility practices • The need to provide unconscious bias training DMH committed to follow up with affected participants.
BHSA Updates: Provided by Dr. Jessica Wiechec	Bylaws • Updated bylaws are available on the DMH website. • DMH is accepting feedback on any changes for the next fiscal year

	Co-Chair Elections • Co-chair elections will occur before July 1. • Eligibility requires attending 5 of the last 9 meetings. • Co-chairs are required to attend at least 75% of meetings. • Co-chair stipends will be \$300/month under BHSA. • Those who are eligible are encouraged to run due to the importance stakeholder-led spaces and opportunities for leadership. • Those interested can email Access for All or can nominate themselves at next month's meeting. Behavioral Health Commission Meeting • This month's meeting is dedicated to the new BHSA plan so there will be no verbal report outs this month. • DMH is offering transportation to both the 4/9 and 5/14 meetings
Capacity Building Project Presentation: Emerging Leaders Disability Project Presenter: Dr. LaFawn Brito, Serve California	Dr. Brito presented a summary of her completed Capacity Building Project • 18 participants completed the leadership program. • Curriculum focused on communication, advocacy, and public speaking. • Participants delivered final presentations and received stipends. • She addressed concerns regarding one remote participant who reported feeling excluded due to in person program design and issues with fraudulent gift cards. • Participant, Raymond, shared positive personal outcomes from his experience in the project.
Community Announcements	• BHSA Commission Meetings: April 9 and May 14 (hybrid format; transportation available from select clinics) • Hearts for Sight Culmination Day: May 23 at Live Oak Park • Mental Health Awareness Month Events: Hosted by NAMI and local Rotary clubs • Crisis Response Resources: Community members shared information about local crisis response teams
Closing	Co-chair Ramirez offered closing remarks.
Next meeting	Access for All UsCC Meeting - May 13, 2026 - Department of Mental Health