

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

Eastern-European / Middle Eastern (EE/ME) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
10/29/2025

2:00PM - 4:00PM via Teleconference

Present: **Nane Avagyan, Mitra Shabani, Rhonda Leier, Nelly Ghukasyan, Rima Safaryan, Sarkis Simonian, Jibril Hussen, Rhoda Addam, Dewayne Hervey, Dr. Chiyah Lawrence, Armineh Stepanyan, Mastaneh Moghadam, Amal Ibrahim, Dr. Christina Barnes-Matthews, Rubou Sous, Samantha Crisanto, Barbara Meyer, Patricia Kusaba, Yecica Ventura, Ani Zonneveld, Nancy Quevedo, Kurt Swain, Qazizada Clinic.**

DMH Admin: Dr. Anna Yaralyan, Jamie Walker, Mirtala Parada Ward.

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	• Everyone introduced themselves. • Dr. Anna Yaralyan read the Board of Supervisors Land Acknowledgement.
Meeting Minutes Review and Approval	• Reviewed & approved 9/24/2025 EE/ME Subcommittee meeting minutes. - Sarkis Simonian motioned to approve & Nelli Ghukasyan second. - Minutes were accepted by subcommittee members. There were no subcommittee member objections.
DMH Updates	Mirtala Parada Ward and Jamie Walker provided the following DMH updates: • For the EE/ME USCC Subcommittee, two Capacity Building Projects, CPTs, have been awarded. • After the subcommittee members & community members propose culturally relevant and sensitive mental health capacity building projects for our communities, and these projects are selected by USCC subcommittee voting members, USCC Liaisons write the Statement of Work, the (SOW) for this project. ISD manages the solicitation process, they look at the bids presented and choose the best fit Agencies for the projects. This year the solicitation process was competitive; we have new Vendors and ISD has new buyers.

	• Prevention funds will go away in July 2026, until this day we still don't know if we will have capacity building projects for our USCC groups. • The next virtual Community Planning Team, CPT, meeting will be this Friday, your voices are valued. Please come with your questions and suggestions for our community's mental health needs.
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United Mental Health Promoters Program presentation!	United Mental Health Promoters Program Presentation – Yecica Ventura, Nancy Quevedo. • Program Goal: To reduce stigma associated with mental illness among underserved communities in Los Angeles County (LAC) by increasing awareness about mental health issues, removing barriers, and improving timely access to culturally and linguistically appropriate resources. • Main Services Provided: Providing educational workshops on 13 mental health topics and 17 older adult topics. Outreach and engagement, & linkage and referrals. • Workshops include the following: Designed to be facilitated in 1.5 hours. The workshops are free, educational, and available in multiple languages (Spanish, English, Korean, Mandarin (Chinese) for SPA3). Workshops are offered in person and virtually. We ask for a minimum of five participants. • Core Curriculum Topics include, but not limited to: • Emotional Wellbeing and Stress. • Bullying Prevention – Kindness, Acceptance, Inclusion • Mental Health and Stigma: Changing the Story • Understanding Depression and Growing Resilience • Understanding Anxiety and Building Resilience. • Grief, Loss and Resilience, etc. • Upcoming new topics for 2026 include: LGBTQ+ topic, and Youth Substance Use. • Role Details: • You can work up to 30 hours per week. • Must be available during regular business hours (M-F 8am-5pm) for departmental training.
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	• Promoters facilitate workshops in the community and can be scheduled for evenings and weekends. • Cultural and/or linguistical expertise in any of the populations of focus. • Natural leaders. • Individuals who already hold full time jobs (M-F 8am-5pm) will not be able to meet the needs of the program 📌 Currently DMH Promoters program is hiring Armenian & Farsi speaking promoters, interested candidates can apply. 📌 Go to https://hr.lacounty.gov to get started on your career search. You will also create a profile which you will need to apply for jobs throughout the County.
Next Meeting	❖ Labor Acknowledgement ❖ Next meeting will be on Wednesday 11/26/2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. ❖ EE/ME USCC Subcommittee might go DARK for 12/31/2025.
	Join <u>Microsoft Teams Meeting</u> • (323) 446-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 985 297 792#