

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Service Area 1 Leadership Team Monthly Meeting
Palmdale Mental Health Clinic
2260 E. Palmdale Blvd., Suite J, Palmdale, CA 93550
June 18, 2026
3:00pm – 5:00pm
[Join Meeting via MS Teams](#)
Meeting ID: 215 193 088 578
Passcode: pJ96dh6i
SALT 1 Microsite| [Service Area Leadership Team 1 \(SALT 1\) - Department of Mental Health](#)
 Email: SALT1@dmh.lacounty.gov

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusion	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible	Due Date
Welcome, Land & Labor Acknowledgement/ Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Co-Chair Monica Olsen, who welcomed all attendees and read the Land and Labor Acknowledgement. The floor was then opened for attendee introductions and an opening icebreaker. <i>Disclosure</i> – Meeting recordings, transcripts and power point presentation will be made available on the SA 1 microsite but may be subject to delay in posting.		Co-Chairs	Ongoing
Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from 5/21/2026	The previous meeting minutes were distributed via email prior to the meeting, made available in print for in-person attendees, and displayed on-screen for virtual participants. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Nick Ashbaugh and seconded by Sandy Ramirez. Monica Olsen called the vote, and the motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 objections, and 2 abstentions.		Co-Chairs(s), SALT 1 Voting members	Ongoing

Co-Chair Nomination Overview & Call for Nominations	Jamie Walker, from the Behavioral Health Administration Department, provided an overview of the upcoming Co-Chair nomination and election process. Jamie reviewed the role's responsibilities, eligibility criteria, expected time commitment, and the nomination and voting procedures. Jamie emphasized that the Co-Chair role continues to evolve and expand, making professionalism, consistency, and active engagement essential. The discussion highlighted that the position is both rewarding and requires an individual who is capable, committed, passionate, dedicated, and trusted to effectively represent the committee. Jamie also responded to committee member questions regarding the updated bylaws, standards and guidelines, meeting attendance expectations, and membership requirements. Yvette Perez announced the eligible Co-Chair nominees, Monica Olsen, Heather Varden, Cynthia Sanchez and asked each one to provide their nominee speech. In person voting members were asked to cast their vote for (2) Co-Chairs. Virtual voting members were informed they would receive an email with the voting link after the meeting due to updates required in the MS Teams Form ballot (remove Rudy Perez who is not eligible, add Cynthia Sanchez as a nominee).		Jamie Walker, BHSA Administration, Yvette Perez, SALT 1 liaison	6/18/26
DMH Outreach & Engagement	Diana Luna-Miller recapped Service Area 1 events and highlighted upcoming events. <i>A copy of the event slides will be posted on the SA1 microsite.</i>		Diana Luna Miller, Programs & Special Projects (O&E)	Ongoing
Committee Member Reports	Co-Chair Updates: Monica Olsen shared updates from the Planning Team meeting, including Department of Mental Health priorities related to behavioral health care coordination, access to care, workforce development, and client-centered services. She announced the next Community Planning Team meeting on July 14 at Antelope Valley College and encouraged attendance.		Co-Chair(s), Committee Members	Ongoing

	Monica also highlighted the Service Area Leadership Team 1 budget and increased participation, discussed the upcoming Reflect and Refocus event, provided updates on HR 1 work requirements, Medi-Cal eligibility changes effective January 1, 2027, and noted that the Cultural Committee may remain inactive. Underserved Cultural Committees (UsCCs): No update provided. (UsCCs): <i>The following information is being carried over from the previous meeting for reference and to include the meeting date.</i> <u>UsCC’s Meeting Schedule</u> • Access for all UsCC - Every second Wednesday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. • American Indian/Alaska Native UsCC - Every first Wednesday of the month, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. • Asian Pacific Islander UsCC - Every fourth Monday of the month, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. • Black and African Heritage UsCC - Every first Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. • Eastern European / Middle Eastern UsCC - Every last Wednesday of the month, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. • Latino UsCC - Every third Tuesday of the month, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	The USCCs weblink will be included in the SALT 1 distribution through a post-meeting follow-up email.	Yvette Perez, SALT 1 liaison	6/23/26
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	LGBTQIA2-S UsCC - Every first Thursday of the month, 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. DMH Updates: James Coomes provided a recap of the Take Action event including updates on attendees and partnership engagement. He also shared updates related to the Behavioral Health Services Act, Full-Service Partnership services, current service delivery and caseloads, and service delivery within specialty mental health services. James responded to a committee member’s inquiry regarding Full-Service Partnership services, Intensive Case Management, Transitional Age Youth services, and high-fidelity wraparound services, including discussion of service quality and outcomes. BHC Update: Nothing to report		James Coomes, District Chief	Ongoing
Community and Family Member/Supporters Time	A community member shared concerns regarding services related to a family member and is seeking advocacy and support following their family member’s death. A community member expressed interest in exploring capacity building and requested additional education to increase understanding and knowledge of capacity-building efforts. A committee member requested clarification regarding the SALT guidelines.			

	A committee member asked about co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and expressed interest in training on this topic. James Coomes responded to SALT members and community members, emphasizing that the Community, Family Member, and Supporter Time are an intentional space where participants can share their experiences, concerns, and voices in a supportive environment.			
Agency Updates & Networking	Multiple agencies provided updates on upcoming events, meeting, and support groups within their programs or communities. Live Oak Mental Wellness Project • Workshop: "Supported Seedlings" for children (ages 3–5) and their caregivers. • When: June 24 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM • Where: All for Kids, Palmdale in the Resource Center • Contact: monica@liveoakmentalwellnessproject.com Rudy Perez, LCSW • Can accept more clients for therapy. You can find Mr. Perez on the Rula platform. • Program in Sylmar – CRT program that provides safe space for individuals that are transitioning from being hospitalized. Riverside County program called	Events and resources will be compiled and distributed in a recap email.	Yvette Perez, SALT 1 liaison	6/23/26

	Progressive Movement Inc. that also offers services to children and families. Lastly, in Hollywood there is a program called Covenant House California that offers housing for at risk youth. For more information, please contact Rudy Perez. • Contact – 818-446-9485 Danci Gutierrez • Automotive STEM learning program at Hillview, Joe Walker and also the Lane Transfer Community Center. • Upcoming workshops – August 22, 2026, for 20 boys ages 11-18 (will learn automobile maintenance) • Young Adult Youth for TAY – September 26, 2026, for more information... • Contact: 661-414-7071 or dgutierrez@auto-pros-academy.org Charlie with The OUTreach Center • PrideFest this coming weekend. Then next week they will resume with their regular programing such as game night and groups. • July offerings – somatic stress workshop. Will post more details about this event on their website. • Contact: Charlie Alegria at the OUTreach Center, 661-927-7433			
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	Heather Varden • Pride Fest at Cedar Hall in Lancaster at 3:00 PM • Annual Odd Art Expo on October 3 at Bravery Brewing Company, which will feature a youth art contest and a silent auction to support the event. • Street Company will host its annual fundraising gala in November. Coach Afi Launched his podcast, I am Afi G, What We Carry. For more information, please contact Coach Afi @ info@coachafig.com			
Closing	The meeting was adjourned by Monica Olsen at 5:00 p.m. Service providers remained available afterward to respond to attendee questions.		Co-Chair(s)	

Respectfully submitted by,
Corina Lara, MSW Intern
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Service Area 1 Administration
Attendees: 73