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

August 20, 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 3:04 p.m. by Co-Chair Monica Olsen, who welcomed attendees and read the Land Acknowledgement. Co-Chair Cynthia Sanchez then read the Labor Acknowledgement. Following the acknowledgements, attendees introduced themselves and participated in an opening icebreaker. *Disclosure* – 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-Chair(s)	Ongoing
Review and Approve Meeting Minutes	*The previous month 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*. The minutes of the previous meeting on 7/16/26 were reviewed. Wendy Cabil requested a correction to the UsCCs section to explicitly include all Leadership UsCCs and CCCs rather than just Black and African Heritage.		Co-Chair(s), SALT 1 general voting members	Ongoing

	A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Nick Ashbaugh and seconded by Yadira Sanchez. Monica Olsen called the vote, and the motion passed with 8 votes in favor, 0 objections, and 0 abstentions.			
Stakeholder Code of Conduct & Guiding Principles	Monica Olsen and Cynthia Sanchez reviewed the Stakeholder Code of Conduct and guiding principles, emphasizing expectations for respectful and disrespectful behavior, professionalism, and the four guiding principles for community-driven mental health service area leadership teams. Co-Chairs and DMH will enforce these expectations and encourage those in attendance to report any issues they may experience in these meeting spaces if necessary.		Co-Chairs	
Behavioral Health Administration Unit	Jamie Walker, presenting on behalf of Dr. Darlesh Horn, announced a combined $65,000 budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year to cover all service area activities, including health neighborhoods, interfaith, and service area collaboratives and the SALTs. In alignment with updated committee goals, funding will shift from supporting local outreach events to strategic planning. Comprehensive utilization guidelines will be shared at the next District Chief meeting. While the core approval process remains unchanged, the District Chief must now approve all individual planning activities on a case-by-case basis before they are submitted to the procurement team. Spending plans are subject to a 30-day workflow for review, though BHSA guidelines recommend a 60-day submission window. A dedicated training session for Co-Chairs and liaisons will be conducted immediately following the October 13th meeting at MOLAA.	BHSA to distribute finalized administrative requests forms and policies to liaisons by September 1, 2026. SALTs should immediately submit their October-December procurement requests using the previous spending plan template to avoid administrative delays.	BHSA Unit SALT liaison/Co-Chair	9/1/26

Committee Member Reports	**Co-Chair Updates:** Co-Chairs Monica Olsen and Cynthia Sanchez reported on the committee's intentional transition from supporting local outreach events to strategic planning. The SALT 1 Planning Committee is shifting its focus to align with the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and is dedicating its entire budget to address seven statewide goals over the next two years. Initial work will prioritize improving access to care and improving school engagement in the Antelope Valley, guided by existing regional data maps from *Best Start* and the *Measure of America* report. Dedicated subcommittees will eventually be established for each of the seven goals. The Co-Chairs invited stakeholders to participate in the following upcoming sessions: • SALT 1 Planning Meetings: Held bi-weekly on Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 10:30 AM). • Community Planning Team Meeting: October 13th (9:30 AM – 12:30 PM) at the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach. • Beyond the Walls Meeting: October 17th at the Stephen Sorensen Park Community Room. **Underserved Cultural Committees (UsCCs):** Wendy Cabil reported that the Underserved Cultural Committees (UsCCs) will transition to a bi-monthly meeting schedule. Ms. Cabil commended the groups for their impactful work and strongly encouraged stakeholders to participate. She highlighted the collaborative, creative environment of these meetings, noting the committee's ongoing success in integrating diverse cultural viewpoints and improving accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities. Wendy noted that she just finished her term with the Cultural Committee this past year.		Co-Chair(s), Committee Members	Ongoing

	Additionally, Ms. Cabil announced her return to the Black/African Heritage Group, which she will Co-Chair alongside Queen Mother Nina Womack. *The following information is being carried over from the previous meeting for reference and to include the meeting date.* **<u>UsCC's Meeting Schedule</u>** **DMH Updates:** District Chief James Coomes recognized Jamie Walker for assisting in the delivery of Psychological First Aid training to 100 Palmdale School District employees, noting the long-term goal of offering this community training repeatedly. Chief Coomes also announced two upcoming events: • September 23, 2026 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM): An in-person orientation and overview of the Antelope Valley Lighthouse will	The USCCs weblink will be included in the SALT 1 distribution through a post-meeting follow-up email.	SALT 1 liaison James Coomes, District Chief	Ongoing Ongoing

Sub-Committee	Recurring Schedule	Time
Access for all UsCC	Every 2nd Wednesday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
American Indian/Alaska Native UsCC	Every 1st Wednesday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Asian Pacific Islander UsCC	Every 4th Monday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Black and African Heritage UsCC	Every 1st Thursday	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Eastern European / Middle Eastern UsCC	Every last Wednesday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Latino UsCC	Every 3rd Tuesday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC	Every 1st Thursday	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

	take place. This session aims to educate potential candidates and assist those interested in applying for five open Community Health Worker positions. • September 30, 2026 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM): Two consultants from Fountain House will facilitate a focus group discussion regarding clubhouse operational needs and future visioning. To conclude his report, Chief Coomes introduced Rochelle Montgomery as the new Program Manager for the Antelope Valley Mental Health Clinic **BHC Update:** No representative present to report out.			
Community and Family Member/Supporters Time	A community member described difficulties with swamp coolers in a senior complex during a heat wave, detailing the process of obtaining portable ACs and assistance with this matter. The community member thanked *Mental Health America of Los Angeles* and *Brilliant Corners* for coming to her rescue. The member added that they are sad to be ending their grief support group but is glad to see that there is a waitlist for these groups. Would like to raise the idea to those in the Lancaster clinic, if support groups don't currently exist, if would be nice to start some. A community shared her experience with her son and his struggles with daily life. She shared he was referred to Lost Angels and recently interviewed for a welding program. The community member is hoping that he gets into the program and is thankful for Lost Angels and their program. A community member raised concerns about recently housed individuals facing high utility bills and barriers to obtaining driver's licenses, highlighting the financial and systemic challenges that can lead to debt and hinder job access.	Wendy Cabil requested a correction to change 'Mental Health of America' to 'Mental Health America of Los Angeles,' and 'Building Corner' to 'Brilliant Corners.'		

	A community member shared a personal story about the lack of grief awareness and compassion in the legal system following the loss of their son, expressing a desire to start a nonprofit for grief education and support for families of victims. A community member discussed the need for events catering to individuals spending the holidays alone, emphasizing the importance of creating spaces for those without family nearby to connect and reduce feelings of isolation. A community member shared the difficulties of finding support and encouraged peers to reach out when in need. Additionally, they noted a need for more group-based counseling or support options, as current offerings primarily focus on individual sessions.			
Agency Updates	A comprehensive list of the upcoming events and resources shared during the meeting will be compiled and circulated via email/SALT 1 distribution list by August 21, 2026, to keep the minutes concise.		SALT 1 liaison	8/21/26
Closing	The meeting was adjourned by Monica Olsen at 4:45 p.m. Service providers remained available afterward to respond to attendee questions.		Co-Chair(s)	

Respectfully submitted by,
Yvette Perez, MHA
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Service Area 1 Administration
Attendees: 64