

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – February 11, 2025

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (21): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), Seth Blackburn, Deena Duncan, Alice Gleghorn, Baldomero Gonzalez, Maricela Gray, Colette Harley, John Helyar, Jonathan Higgins, Celia M. Aragon, Hiroko Makiyama, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Andrea Nee (on behalf of Neptune Linares), Adrian Reveles, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, Jina Tintor, Paula Torres (on behalf of Jim Symington), Edith Urner.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (36): Nima Amini, Cailey Barnes, Jerry Benson, Vanessa Bustos, Christine Cerven, Ethan-Yeun-Ho Chang, Ka Chi Wong, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Christian Del Rosario, Daniel Deniz, David Flores-Gomez, Maribel Garcia, Jose Gil, David Hindman, Kyle Kennedy, Bernie Lau, Rafael Lazaro, Yanira Lima, Julie Lo, Tasha Mcfashion-Stiger, Antonne Moore, Tanesha Morrison, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Ilish Perez, Mark Pfof, Glenda Pinney, Francisco Reyes, David Richardson, Belia Sardinha, Sanjay Sutar, Daniel Szuhay, Nicole Taylor, Armen Ter-Barseganyan, Isabella Weiss, Michel Youssef.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (31): Pranab Banskota, Rene Barrios, Christopher Botten, Patric Brillhart, Zelenne Cardenas, Leslie Dishman, Elizabeth Duran, Krystal Edwards, Halina Fardin, Leslie Garcia, DeLawrence Grant, Jeanie Hansen, Lorette Herman, Tina Hughes, Mark Lieber, Yancy Mauricio, Liz McGhee, Amy Mcilvaine, Mireya Melendez, Dr. Claudia Murillo-Hernandez, Juan Navarro, Rudolph O'Murray, Angelita Ramos, Leslie Salguero, Kelly Steiner, William Taetzsch, Melanie To, Aris Tubadeza, Daniel Valenzuela, Richard Zaldivar.

ABSENT (4): Christina Gonzales, Neptune Linares (sent delegate), Nely Meza-Andrade, Jim Symington (sent delegate)

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (December 10, 2024); Meeting Presentation Slides; PAC Provider Data Workgroup Metrics

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tsai welcomed PAC members. 	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the December 10, 2024 PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) and seconded by Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation). 	

Response to Federal Orders and Actions	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) relayed that SAPC will continue to support policies and approaches that strengthen communities and fundamentally support the best interests of the individuals that we serve - those at-risk of an SUD, those who use drugs, and those with SUDs. Federal orders may be adjudicated in court and any implementation would require careful consideration. Local measures may also be explored to mitigate impacts. Kathy Watt addressed concerns regarding potential funding reductions among grants supporting LGBTQ programs, and general worries about their impact toward undocumented and LGBTQ clients. Dr. Tsai reassured that coverage for everyone would continue regardless of Federal policy changes and emphasized the importance of maintaining stability to prevent disruptions in care. 	
PAC Provider Data Workgroup	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) presented the finalized data categories and metrics developed by the PAC Provider Data Workgroup. He discussed that the next phase will focus on implementation. Providers were encouraged to consider implementation strategies, including data collection methods and potential investments in new platforms. 	
AOD Certification for OP Level of Care	Edith Urner, Exodus Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edith Urner (Exodus) provided an update on Exodus Recovery's efforts to require AOD certification, which lapsed in 2020 due to regulatory changes. She explained reaching out to DHCS to complete a renewal form for an expedited conditional certification, ensuring compliance with current requirements. Dr. Tsai noted that SAPC initially maintained the AOD certification requirement for providers, even after it became optional. This decision allowed many providers to retain their certification, which facilitated a smoother transition when DHCS reinstated the requirement. 	
Effects of RBH Beds during Eaton Fire	Edith Urner, Exodus Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edith Urner (Exodus) expressed concerns about the recent LA fires affecting RBH bed availability. Dr. Tsai reported that 52 RBH beds were lost due to fires, but all affected individuals received emergency transfers and residential bed capacity is gradually being restored. 	
Budget Approval System: VPN Access	Edith Urner, Exodus Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edith Urner (Exodus) discussed VPN access issues related to the Budget Approval System (BAS). Daniel Deniz (DPH) acknowledged these issues and discussed that efforts are being made to streamline the process and improve communication, such as conducting a walkthrough of the process and potentially assigning a contact person at each site to facilitate access. 	
Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)	Katherine Li, SAPC	For more information on the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katherine Li provided updates on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) planning sessions between DMH and SUD providers. She discussed recruitment efforts for the Community Planning Team to fill 32 seats to represent individuals with lived experience, including frontline workers, family members, or partners of those impacted by SUD. The commitment involves two meetings per month (one in-person, one virtual), with a stipend available for participants. Providers may recommend potential candidates, aiming to finalize selections within the month. 	Community Planning Team, contact Katherine Li at KL2@ph.lacounty.gov
Addiction Medication Services	Dr. Brian Hurley, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley encouraged providers to opt into the next round of Incentives Initiatives by March 31, to increase MAT education and service hours. SAPC is updating their rates and standards matrix to clarify billing codes and H-2010 medication handling rates. 	To learn about Incentives Initiatives relating to R95 and MAT, visit here .
Reaching the 95% (R95) Initiative	Vanessa Lâm, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanessa Lâm inquired about feedback and barriers in participating in the R95 initiative. While the first fiscal year saw strong engagement, participation declined in the second year with fewer agencies opting in. Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) expressed that they already have policies that do not require abstinence, but concerns exist around messaging and how they communicate policies to clients. Dr. Tsai reiterated the importance to maintain a balanced approach—integrating low-barrier harm reduction and abstinence-based methods—as necessary for effective treatment. 	
Expansion of SASH Collateral Caller Workflow	Antonne Moore, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antonne Moore (SAPC) provided an update on the SASH Collateral Call expansion, which allows individuals such as social workers, outreach workers, family members, and others to schedule SUD treatment appointment on behalf of clients, without clients being present. SASH agents are available to assess eligibility, determine the level of care, and schedule appointments. A tracking process is being developed to assess the success of these referrals. 	
SAPC-Learning and Network Connection Platform (SAPC-LNC)	Dr. David Hindman, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. David Hindman introduced the SAPC Learning and Network Connection Platform (SAPC-LNC), a new learning management system designed to support public health initiatives and provide 24/7 access to CE-certified clinical trainings (including ASAM-A & ASAM-B) and other resources, for the provider network at no cost. It includes on-demand learning, and live and recorded trainings. All registered SAGE users will be automatically enrolled for access. SAPC is recruiting five agencies to pilot the platform before full launch in April. Participation requires two meetings and platform testing. Agencies interested in joining the pilot program should e-mail Dr. Hindman or the Clinical Standards & Training (CST) team. 	If you are interested in pilot testing the Learning Management Platform, please e-mail SAPC-LNC at SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov
Public Comments	Edith Urner, Exodus Recovery	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edith Urner (Exodus) shared a newly published Journal of Addiction Medicine article co-authored by Dr. Tsai, Clinical Considerations for Engagement and Retention of Nonabstinent Patients in Care. The article aligns with R95 principles and provides evidence-based support for low-barrier approaches. • Dr. Tsai also shared that SAPC's R95 webpage provides additional research and articles to support low-barrier approaches. 	
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting were approved. Liana Sanchez motioned for approval, seconded by Pedram Moshfegh. • There is an open call to fill 32 seats for individuals with lived experience on the Community Planning Team (Behavioral Health Services Act). For more information on the application process, please contact Katherine Li at KLi2@ph.lacounty.gov • If you are interested in pilot testing the Learning Management Platform, please e-mail SAPC-LNC at SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov • PAC Members are encouraged to submit anonymous feedback on PAC meetings. 	
Next Meeting	<p>Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 2024, from 2 PM – 4pm. • This will be an in-person meeting with virtual option. 	