

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Substance Abuse Prevention and Control**  
**Provider Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary – April 8, 2025**

**Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (21):** Michelle Gibson (in lieu of Dr. Gary Tsai), Celia M. Aragon, Seth Blackburn, Deena Duncan, Alice Gleghorn, Christina Gonzales, Baldomero Gonzalez, Maricela Gray, Colette Harley, John Helyar, Jonathan Higgins, Neptune Linares, Hiroko Makiyama, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Adrian Reveles, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, Jim Symington, Jina Tintor, Edith Urner.

**Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (32):** Nima Amini, Cailey Barnes, Aliya Buttar, Melanie Cain, Yolanda Cespedes-Knadle, Ethan Chang, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Daniel Deniz, Anna Haughey, David Hindman, Brian Hurley, Bernie Lau, Katherine Li, Julie Lo, Simona Lovin, Antonne Moore, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Ilish Perez, Glenda Pinney, Kimia Ramezani, Francisco Reyes, Ana San, Belia Sardinha, Sandy Song, Daniel Szuhay, Armen Ter-Barseganyan, Erika Valdez, Ka Chi Wong, Setareh Yavari, Yanira A. Lima, Zena Yusuf.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (27):** Pranab Banskota (CIBHS), Rene Barrios (Didi Hirsch), Cindy Boada-Doutt (Child & Family Center), Vincent Contreras (LA CADA), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Taylor Docter (LAC-DHS), Connie Early (SFVMHC), Krystal Edwards (CIBHS), Brandon Fernandez (Cri-Help), Leslie Garcia (CIBHS), John Gray (LA CADA), Jeanie Hansen (Safe Refuge), Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV), Liz McGhee (Fred Brown), Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS), Claudia Murillo, Juan Navarro (LA CADA), Nidia Pena (LA CADA), Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center), Rocio Quezada (Helpline Youth Counseling), Erin Quinn (CRI-Help), Rosa Rios (SCADP), Leslie Salguero (San Fernando Recovery Center), William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch), Melanie To (KYCC), Ashaley Ventura (Tarzana Treatment Centers), Jared Yakel (LA CADA).

**ABSENT (2):** Nely Meza-Andrade, Kathy Watt

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (February 11, 2025); Meeting Presentation Slides

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	<b>Michelle Gibson, Bureau Deputy Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michelle Gibson welcomed PAC members.</li> </ul>	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<b>Bernie Lau, DPH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the February 11, 2025 PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Maricela Gray (House of Hope) and seconded by Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation).</li> </ul>	

<b>Building Communities of Belonging (BCB)</b>	<p><b>Maricela Gray, House of Hope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maricela Gray (House of Hope) shared updates regarding the ongoing collaboration with DMH to develop a summary for the Cultural Competence Plan and the integration of cultural competency requirements into the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). Additionally, the BCB will support the launch of a new interactive onboarding training on equity for network providers.</li> <li>The next BCB workgroup meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2025.</li> </ul>	
<b>2025 PAC Membership Updates</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) provided an update on the 2025 PAC Membership Application. Applications are open to new and current members to fill 11 available slots. Some current members are finishing their terms and may reapply. A few members will be rotating off but can still participate as public attendees. A PAC info session will be held on Thursday, April 10, for those interested in joining or becoming a Co-chair, as the current Co-chair Kathy Watt is stepping down. A selection committee will review applicants for the next cohort. Applicants are encouraged to submit detailed applications, as the selection committee reviews them carefully.</li> </ul>	
<b>End of Year Actions</b>	<p><b>Daniel Deniz, DPH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daniel Deniz (DPH) provided an end-of-year update on contracts and funding, emphasizing that contract allocations for FY 2025–2026 are being “right-sized” based on past and projected utilization. This is an adjustment to better align budgeted amounts with actual use. Providers will soon receive emails with their updated allocations for the upcoming fiscal year, which may remain the same, increase, or decrease. While the deadline to submit a contract amendment request for this fiscal year has passed, DMC-related changes can still be submitted for the upcoming fiscal year, and providers are encouraged to share updates, such as new sites or levels of care as soon as possible. Most contracts are set to expire on June 30, and the Contracts Team will send communications that include both allocation updates and instructions for processing extensions. Additionally, billing for the fiscal year is due by July, and a memo with deadlines and guidance will be released in the coming weeks to help avoid missed claims. Finally, the Department has received some provider feedback on its methodology for assessing tiers, which is currently under review with the executive team, with updated guidance expected by the end of April.</li> </ul>	Questions can be submitted to <a href="mailto:SAPC-Finance@ph.lacounty.gov">SAPC-Finance@ph.lacounty.gov</a>
<b>RYSE (Reimagining Youth SUD Engagement) Update and Feedback</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) presented on the RYSE (Reimagining Youth SUD Engagement) program, a youth-focused adaptation of the R95 initiative, aimed at improving engagement and treatment outcomes for youth with substance use disorders (SUDs). Through feedback from listening sessions, RYSE seeks to redesign treatment spaces to be more youth-friendly—such as creating safe, comfortable environments with activities youth enjoy. Additionally, the initiative includes infrastructure investments, incentive-based programming (e.g., career development, recreation), and expanded field-based services for providers to</li> </ul>	

	reduce barriers to care (e.g. transportation). The program also accounts for consent laws and aims to overcome engagement barriers, including parental fears and non-billable engagement work among providers.	
<b>Homekey+ Program</b>	<p><b>Anna Haughey, DPH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna Haughey (DPH) presented on the Homekey+ Program, which launched in November 2024 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. This initiative exclusively funds permanent supportive housing for homeless or chronically homeless veterans and individuals with behavioral health challenges. LA County is slated to receive up to \$321.4 million to serve non-veteran populations with mental health or SUDs. The program adheres to housing first principles—low-barrier, recovery-oriented housing that does not require sobriety or treatment compliance for entry or tenancy. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) is the lead applicant, coordinating with departments such as the CEO's Homeless Initiative, DMH, DHS, and SAPC. A request for proposals closed in April, with selected providers to be notified shortly. SAPC is contributing \$5 million to support rental subsidies, expecting to generate approximately 120 permanent housing units with intensive case management services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Clinical Standards &amp; Training Branch Updates</b>	<p><b>David Hindman, DPH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Hindman (DPH) shared updates on the SAPC LNC platform, a learning and network management system launching soon. The pilot phase is complete, and feedback from participating providers is being reviewed and implemented ahead of the full rollout. The platform will offer free 24/7 access to trainings, including ASAM, SAGE onboarding, and upcoming equity and MAT introduction courses. Hindman also announced the upcoming needs survey, which will gather input on training topics to guide planning for the upcoming year.</li> </ul>	For more information, contact <a href="mailto:SAPC.CST@ph.lacounty.gov">SAPC.CST@ph.lacounty.gov</a>
<b>Public Comments</b>	<p><b>William Taetzsch, Didi Hirsch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) inquired about potential impacts of staff reorganization and funding cuts on LA County providers.</li> <li>Michelle Gibson (DPH) clarified that no official changes have been communicated, and operations will continue as usual for now, with a continued commitment to supporting community-based services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Wrap Up</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes from the February 8, 2025, meeting was approved. Maricela Gray motioned for approval, seconded by Pedram Moshfegh.</li> <li>Please share your feedback about the PAC Meeting at the <a href="#">survey link</a>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025, from 2 PM – 4pm.</li> <li>This will be an in-person meeting with virtual option.</li> </ul>	

***Reviewed and Approved: Y.Lima***