

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – February 13, 2024

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (21): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), Jose Aguilar, Celia Aragon, Julia Corea, Deena Duncan, Alice Gleghorn, Baldomero “Junie” Gonzalez, Christina Gonzales, Maricela Gray, Collete Harley, Joann Hemstreet, Jonathan Higgins, Hiroko Makiyama, Rocio Quezada, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, Jim Symington, William Taetzsch, and Edith Urner

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (27): Allison Kwan, Alyssa Cohen, Ana San, Antonne Moore, April Stump-Earwood, Armen Ter-Barsegyan, Bernie Lau, Brian Hurley, Daniel Deniz, Daniel Szuhay, Edika Valdez, Esther Orellana, Francisco Reyes, Greg Schwarz, Ilish Perez, Judy Cardenas, Julie Lo, Kimia Ramezani, Marika Medrano, Michelle Gibson, Nancy Crosby, Nima Amini, Terence Napoli, Tina Kim, Toa Bui, Vinay Garg, Zena Yusuf

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (35): Adrian Reveles (Fred Brown), Alice Nroiega Torres (Helpline), Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS), Ariana Aziz (Clare Matrix), Ariana Varela (Sadler Healthcare), Ben (Unknown), Brandon Fernandez (Cri-Help), Brenda del Castillo (Clare Matrix), Christopher Botten (CIBHS), Claudia Murillo (House of Hope), Darlene Walker (Lundquist), Juan Duarte (High Road Program), Juan Navarro (LACADA), Katia Derderian (Eggleston), Ken Seman, Leena Shapanha (Prototypes), LeRoyce Starks (Tessie Cleveland Community), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Lilian Pamintuan, Lily Fowler, Liz McGhee (Fred Brown Recovery Services), Lynn Gerard (Maric Health), Maral Shahinian (CHLA), Mark Malone (Fred Brown Recovery Services), Nick Brown, Pranab Banskota (CIBHS), Ray Quiroz (Impact House), Shelly Wood (Grandview), Tina Hughes (DPSS), Virgie (Unknown), Yoel Chabad, Unnamed guests on teleconference (4)

ABSENT (3): Nina Glassman, Nely Meza, Aris Tubadeza

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (December 12, 2023); Meeting Presentation Slides

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	<p>Michelle Gibson, Bureau Deputy Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed PAC members 	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) presented the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the meeting minutes with no changes was advanced by Maricela Gray (House of Hope) and seconded by Edith Urner (Exodus). 	Minutes approved and posted with no changes.
Business Technology Workgroup (BT)	<p>Jim Symington, Compatior, and Aris Tubadeza, AADAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Symington (Compatior) summarized the workgroup meeting on January 25, during which SAPC provided a HIDEX overview and shared resources. 	
Key Indicator Workgroup	<p>Jonathan Higgins, Beacon House, and Christina González, Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) summarized their workgroup meeting on December 18 that reviewed results of the Successful Completion Survey. 	

Building Communities of Belonging (formerly CLAS)	Maricela Gray, House of Hope, and Kathy Watt, Van Ness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maricela Gray (House of Hope) summarized their workgroup meeting on February 7, which reviewed priorities of the Workgroup, such as the language assistance add-on. She also introduced the new co-chair, Junie Gonzalez. 	
Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists	Zena Yusuf, DPH, Systems of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zena Yusuf (SAPC) provided resources for the Peer Certification Scholarship Application and shared upcoming Peer Support meetings and training dates, including: (1) Peer Info Session on February 14, 2024, (2) Enriching Substance Use Treatment with Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Services on April 4, 2024, and (3) Connecting Clinical Documentation to Medi-Cal Codes for Counselors and Certified peers on March 11, 2024. 	
2024 PAC Awards	Liana Sanchez, LACADA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liana Sanchez (LACADA) introduced updates to the 2024 PAC Awards, including upcoming changes from last year’s awards. 	
Provider Manual 8.0 AWOL Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) inquired about the Provider Manual’s AWOL policy and how to document if a client disengages with an agency and how this is documented in CalOMS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tina Kim (DPH) responded that if an agency is not within OTP level of care and the client is absent for 14 days, then the client should be discharged from CalOMS. The discharge date is 14 days <i>prior</i> to last day of service, but the discharge process date will be date of discharge (14th day). If the agency is OTP, then follow the 30-day policy. Junie Gonzalez (Cri-Help) inquired about clients having to receive two services in 30 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) explained that the Rates of Standards Matrix lists a minimum and maximum number of units of service. He clarifies that these are no longer in the current version of the Provider Manual. Edith Urner (Exodus) expressed concern that the CalOMS discharge policy to discharge clients within a specified timeframe seems to conflict with R95 policies. For example, she discussed the burden of re-enrolling clients who return after being discharged, suggesting a need for more flexible guidelines on client engagement and documentation processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina Kim clarified that while there are guidelines for scheduling follow-up appointments, such as waiting a month or setting specific timeframes, there is flexibility to adapt these based on clinical appropriateness. She explains that the guideline of waiting 14 days after a missed appointment before considering further action is not a strict rule and allows for professional judgment. William Taetzsch requested a synthesized chart to detail various timeframes mentioned throughout the guidance and how they apply to different situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tina Kim plans to follow-up on this request. 	Dr. Tina Kim will provide a visual chart on guidance for client discharge.
Professional Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) proposed creating a structure to share professional opportunities among staff to build and maintain the provider network. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kathy Watt (Van Ness) encouraged PAC to e-mail about professional opportunities to share among each other. ○ Antonne Moore (DPH) shared the tuition incentive program where registered counselors who are getting their education can be part of internship opportunities. ○ Michelle Gibson (DPH) reminded providers about AB 2473, which raising counselor standards, and stresses for agencies to consider raising salaries and benefits to remain competitive in the SUD workforce. 	
R95 Workgroup Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kathy Watt (Van Ness) proposed having peer-led discussions among frontline staff, clinicians, and senior management from different agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Junie Gonzalez (Cri-Help) discussed ensuring messaging is consistent and aligns with R95 goals. ○ Michelle Gibson (DPH) encouraged providers to attend upcoming R95 meetings to further address their concerns surrounding R95 policy. ○ Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) referenced that SAPC-led meetings are important although often underutilized and could benefit by increased attendance. ● Claudia Murillo (House of Hope) highlighted the need for new policies and templates being created to also align with state regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michelle Gibson (DPH) spoke about offering formal guidance for similar issues and mentioned that SAPC is prepared to assist providers with audits that question R95 policies. 	
Low Barrier Residential Policies and Low Barrier Toxicology/Drug Test Policies	<p>Michelle Gibson (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michelle Gibson (DPH) informed providers about tomorrow’s R95 meetings: (1) At 10 AM, to discuss how admission and discharge policy may impact residential care and (2) at 3:30 PM, to discuss how to close out the admission & discharge policy. 	
Advancing Addiction Medication Services within SAPC Network	<p>Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) discussed the release of 24-01 Addiction Medication Access bulletin. Dr. Hurley encouraged providers to submit a copy of their MAT policy to the SAPC Contract Program Auditor and licensing analyst if they have not yet done so. ● Dr. Hurley discussed MAT service coverage, highlighting the support for treating tobacco use disorder alongside other substance use disorders, thereby leveraging billing opportunities for comprehensive patient care. ● Dr. Hurley provided resources to assist agencies to connect with MAT services, such as LA County Clinic Directory, SBAT, and LAC Addiction Medication Consultation Line, 213-288-9090. ● Dr. Hurley also shared that the State analysts prefer the formalization of partnerships with specific facilities to enhance the MAT services provided to patients, which was based on a PAC suggestion. ● Dr. Hurley introduced new cost-sharing incentive fund aimed at capacity building to recruit and retain medical clinician time to provide MAT services billed through SAPC for patients enrolled in treatment. The 	<p>Additional questions from providers regarding Capacity Building funds can be directed to Dr. Hurley.</p>

	initiative is intended to support patient treatment within the provider's facility rather than outsourcing and address recruitment challenges.	
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Gibson (DPH) discussed inquiries regarding whether agencies can claim reimbursable services performed by volunteer. She sought input from the provider network on the use of volunteers, their compensation, and how integrating Certified Peer Services as a reimbursable aspect fit within SUD system of care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alice Gleghorn (Phoenix House) addressed situations where their full-time employees, enrolled in master's level programs requiring clinical hours, face challenges in fulfilling these requirements within their current roles due to the nature of their job not aligning with their academic needs. As a result, these individuals sometimes seek opportunities at other agencies to complete their clinical hours, and sometimes they receive compensation from those other agencies. 	Additional questions regarding compensation volunteer work can be directed to Michelle Gibson.
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH, Systems of Care Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) provided a summary of decisions and next steps discussed during the meeting:</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAC approved the meeting minutes for December 12, 2023. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tina Kim will provide a chart outline for CalOMS discharge. • Dr. Brian's slides will be shared for MAT policies. • Comments on volunteers can be sent to Michelle Gibson. 	
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None provided 	
Next Meeting	Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 2 PM – 4pm. This will be a virtual meeting.	

Approved by Sandy Song on behalf of Yanira.