

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Substance Abuse Prevention and Control**  
**Provider Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary – April 14, 2026**

**PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (20):** Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Nely Meza-Andrade (Co-Chair), Celia Aragon, Seth Blackburn, Sarah Blanch, Dylan Grace, Lynetta Hale, Claire Kobren, Irene Lim, Hiroko Makiyama, Zainab Mohammed, Brianna Monroy, Rosa Rios, José Salazar, Leslie Salguero, Liana Sanchez, Kelly Steiner, Jim Symington, Jina Tintor, April Torres

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL REPRESENTATIVES (47):** Alejandra Mata; Aliya Buttar; Alyssa Cohen; Ana San; Armen Ter-Barsegyan; Belia Sardinha; Bernie Lau; Cailey Barnes; Chloe Yuan; Christina Villegas; Christine Cerven; David Hindman; Donna Dampier; Erika Valdez; Esther Orellana; Ethan Chang; Fareed Dibazar; Fernando Esparza; Francisco Reyes; Glenda Pinney; Greg Schwarz; Ilish Perez; Janet Kim; Jorge Ortega; Jose Gonzalez; Julie Monji; Katherine Li; Katherine Sutherland; Kimberly-lynn Otello; Kimia Ramezani; Kyle Kennedy; Laurle'ta Williams; Li-Ling Hsu; Maria Elena Chavez; Michelle Gibson; Mikayla Ragsdale; Monsi Portillo; Nancy Crosby; Nima Amini; Phyllis Thai; Robert Hernandez; Teresa De Anda; Tina Kim; Vanessa Lam; William Taetzsch; Yanira Lima; Zena Yusuf

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (35):** Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS); Andrea Munteanu (Alcoholism Center for Women); Brenda del Castillo (CLARE|Matrix); Chantell Cuaron (L.A. CADA); Chris Botten (NCADD SFV); Connie Early (SFVCMHC); Daniel Valenzuela (HOPICS); Dulce Ruiz (Didi Hirsch); Elena Ruiz (House of Hope); Emylze Garcia (CIBHS); Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center); Jessica Conway (Didi Hirsch); Juan Navarro (L.A. CADA); Justin Arguel (Tarzana Treatment Centers); Karen Marder (NCADD SFV); Kathy Watt (Van Ness Recovery House); Kevin Chan (Didi Hirsch); Leslie Garcia (CIBHS); Liz McGhee (Fred Brown); Lorette Herman (ACWLA); Maja Trochimczyk (Phoenix House CA); Marcelina Ceballos (Penny Lane); Maricela Gray (House of Hope); Martin Toledo (CIBHS); Megan Hansen (Tarzana Treatment Centers); Neptune Linares Salvation Army); Nichole Garner (House of Hope); Paula Torres (Compatior); Pedram Moshfegh (NCADD SFV); Pranab Banskota (CIBHS); Priscilla E. Hernandez Salazar (Prototypes); Suzie Manikyan (Casa Treatment Center); Vanessa Gutierrez (Tarzana Treatment Centers); Vincent Contreras (L.A. CADA); Gena White (SFVCMHC)

**ABSENT (3):** Colette Harley, Erin Quinn, Adrian Reveles

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (February 10, 2026); Meeting Presentation Slides; 2026 PAC Bylaws (draft)

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	<p><b>Dr. Gary Tsai, M.D., Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Gary Tsai welcomed PAC members.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Bernie Lau (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the February 10, 2026 PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was made by Lynetta Hale (Social Model Recovery Systems) and seconded by April Torres (HealthRIGHT 360).</li> </ul>	<p>The minutes from the February 10, 2026 meeting were approved and posted on PAC webpage.</p>
<p><b>PAC Membership Term Extension</b></p>	<p><b>Bernie Lau (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) proposed updating the Bylaws to extend PAC member terms from two to three years, and up to six years total if serving two terms, with co-chairs serving for the duration of their membership. The goal is to improve continuity and stability, since members often need time to get fully engaged.</li> <li>The PAC unanimously approved the motion (19-0 with three absences).</li> </ul>	<p>2026 PAC Bylaws have been updated and posted on PAC webpage.</p>
<p><b>Building Communities of Belonging Workgroup</b></p>	<p><b>Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC) reported that the BCB workgroup met in March and reviewed updates from SAPC on Language Assistance Services, including expanded translation of patient-facing documents. She also noted that the Transgender, Gender Expansive, and Intersex (TGI) Cultural Competency training is now live on SAPC-LNC.</li> </ul>	<p>The next workgroup meeting is May 12, 2026 from 3 PM – 4 PM</p>
<p><b>Business Technology Workgroup</b></p>	<p><b>Jim Symington (Compatior)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Symington (Compatior) reported that the workgroup met with Sage Management for an overview of the state’s new Data Exchange requirements (BHIN 26-008), viewed a live demonstration of the new SAPC Patient Access System, and provided feedback on the system.</li> <li>Celia Aragon (Behavioral Health Services) inquired whether providers who were unable to attend the live demonstration would receive written guidance.</li> <li>Dr. David Hindman (DPH) shared that an Information Notice will be released. Providers will also receive posters and printed materials to inform clients of their right to access health records. He noted that SAPC has implemented the changes to align with state guidelines, with the goal of minimizing disruption for providers.</li> <li>Dr. Tsai urged providers to ensure staff are informed about the 42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule, noting that use of the universal release form may broaden access to client information, and emphasizing that counselors and clinicians are responsible for clearly explaining the form and its implications to clients.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>ROIs between SAPC Providers and CENS</b></p>	<p><b>Jina Tintor (Homeless Health Care Los Angeles)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jina Tintor (HHCLA) reported that some providers are still not accepting CENS Release of Information (ROI) forms or screenings. As a result, clients must repeat the same paperwork and screening questions during intake. This creates barriers to coordination, especially for time-sensitive cases like court clients, where lack of accepted documentation can delay progress reporting.</li> <li>Leslie Salguero (San Fernando Recovery Center) suggested incorporating ROI education into new staff onboarding through SAPC-LNC trainings.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Tsai agreed this is a good idea and emphasized the importance of detailed reporting, including specific providers and staff, to enable follow-up.</li> </ul>	
<b>SAPC Release of Information (ROI) Consent Forms</b>	<p><b>Dr. David Hindman (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. David Hindman (DPH) introduced three new Release of Information (ROI) forms that align with the 42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule: (1) Treatment &amp; Care Coordination, (2) Payment &amp; Operations, and (3) Legal Proceedings. These changes aim to standardize client information sharing while adhering to the rule.</li> <li>• Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) asked whether clinicians and therapists would still need their own consent form. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Tsai (DPH) clarified that this would not be the case because the consent forms operate at the agency level rather than the individual level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dylan Grace (Beacon House) asked whether clients are required to complete a new form when transitioning to a new level of care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Hindman (DPH) responded that new forms are unlikely to be required for transitions within the same agency. He also clarified that expiration dates are no longer required under the new rule.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Providers interested in participating in the pilot phase can email <a href="mailto:SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov">SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov</a>
<b>SUD Workforce Development Workgroup</b>	<p><b>José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) and Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) shared that the workgroup is focusing on three main activities: (1) a Listening Session, which took place on March 2 with strong provider participation and feedback, (2) an in-person collaboration event to bring together SUD certifying entities, academic institutions, and providers, scheduled for April 30, and (3) a webinar to focus on workforce retention and engagement.</li> </ul>	
<b>FY 2026-27 Value-Based Incentives</b>	<p><b>Francisco Reyes (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francisco Reyes (DPH) presented the FY 2026–2027 Value-Based Incentives (VBI) package, outlining priorities and upcoming changes. Currently VBI is focused on implementing outcome-focused reforms, such as reduced redundancy and movement toward pay-for-performance. The draft VBI package will be released in May.</li> <li>• Jim Symington (Compatior) asked if SUD counselor-to-client ratios will increase or decrease.</li> <li>• Dr. Tsai (DPH) explained that the metrics are still being finalized but will be set to be both achievable and meaningful.</li> <li>• Sarah Blanch (Institute for Public Strategies) asked whether this structure aligns with incentive models for prevention services.</li> <li>• Dr. Tsai (DPH) clarified that this is the treatment model and that a similar but simpler model is being developed for prevention services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Provider Feedback on Member Orientation Video</b>	<p><b>Julie Monji (DPH) and Jorge Ortega (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Monji (DPH) provided an update on revisions to the Provider and Member Orientation Videos, including updates to treatment services and information about patient rights that align with SB 349 and BHIN 23-045.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jorge Ortega (DPH) discussed that site visits will begin July 2026 to assess how providers implement the Orientation videos and Acknowledgement Forms, particularly at sites with lower completion rates.</li> <li>• Julie Monji (DPH) shared that site visits will include gathering feedback from staff on how the Member Orientation video is administered, identifying opportunities to improve implementation and increase completion rates, and discussing ways the Member Support Team can help support clients and providers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Comments</b>	<p><b>Jina Tintor (Homeless Health Care Los Angeles)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Tintor (HHCLA) asked how providers can request a Letter of Intent for the Commission for Behavioral Health Innovation Partnership Fund.</li> <li>• Dr. Tsai explained that providers can request a letter of intent through this <a href="#">portal</a>.</li> <li>• Leslie Salguero (San Fernando Recovery Center) shared positive feedback on the April 9 <i>Focus on Finance</i> training by CIBHS and SAPC Finance team and encouraged offering more trainings.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Wrap Up</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau (DPH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes from the February 10, 2026 meeting were approved, moved by Lynetta Hale (Social Model Recovery Systems) and seconded by April Torres (HealthRIGHT 360).</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 PAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, from 2 PM – 4 PM.</li> </ul>	

*Reviewed and Approved by Y.Lima*