

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 13, 2023

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT ON MICROSOFT TEAMS: Dr. Gary Tsai (Chair), Kathy Watt, Adrian Chavez (for Rocio Quezada), Christina Gonzales, Claudia Murillo, Colette Harley, Deena Duncan, Edith Urner, Gary Horejsi (for Brandon Fernandez-Comer), Hiroko Makiyama, JoAnn Hemstreet, Jonathan Higgins, Junie Gonzalez, Liana Sanchez, Nina Glassman, Nora O’Connor, and William Taetzsch

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES: Adam Loomis, Allison Kwan, Alyssa Cohen, Antonne Moore, Anulkah Thomas, April Stump-Earwood, Belia Sardinha, Bernie Lau, Daniel Deniz, David Hindman, Emily Caesar, Erika Valdez, Gary Tsai, Glenda Pinney, Julie Lo, Keith Gurtzweiler, Kimia Ramezani, Kyle Kennedy, Megala Sivashanmugam, Michelle Gibson, Nancy Crosby, Nima Amini, Samson Kung, Siddarth Puri, Yanira Lima, and Zena Yusuf

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Alice Gleghorn, (Phoenix House CA), Christopher Botten (CIBHS), Julia Corea (Options for Recovery), Leena Syhapanha (Prototypes), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Lisa Moreno, Pedram Moshfegh (Social Model)

ABSENT: Aris Tubadeza, Brandon Fernandez-Comer, Denise Shook, James Symington, Jose Aguilar, Nely Meza-Andrade, and Wendie Warwick

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (April 11, 2023); Meeting Presentation Slides

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	Dr. Tsai, M.D., Division Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)	
PAC Member Recognition	Gary Tsai, DPH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tsai shared that Kathy Watt was recognized by People magazine for being an LGBTQ+ hero. • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) encouraged everyone to view the SAMHSA LGBTQ+ Report on their website. The report shows the disparities for the LGBTQ+ population and hope it can help inform our work. 	
SAPC Staff Change	Anulkah Thomas has transitioned over to the Center for Health Equity. Bernie Lau will provide support for the PAC until a replacement can be found.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Bernie Lau, DPH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the April 11, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the meeting minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (LACADA) and seconded by Claudia Murillo (House of Hope). • The finalized minutes will be posted on the PAC website. 	Minutes approved and posted with no changes.
PAC Awards Workgroup Update	Kathy Watt, Van Ness Recovery House <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAC applications process was completed, the following providers will be joining the PAC: Celia Aragon (Behavioral Health Services), Julia Corea, Options for Recovery), Alice Gleghorn, Phoenix Houses), Pedram Moshfegh, (Social Model Recovery Systems) and Jose Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers). The following PAC members were selected to return Deena Duncan (VOALA & SCADP), Brandon Fernandez (CRI-Help, Inc. & I-ADARP, Inc.), Christina Gonzales (Principles, Inc. dba Impact), Junie Gonzalez (Fred Brown Recovery Services, 	

	<p>Inc), Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House Association of San Pedro), Kathy Watt (Van Ness Recovery House)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members who are terming out are encouraged to continue to participate in PAC meetings and workgroups as well as help with mentoring new PAC members. • Dr. Tsai thanked PAC members who are terming out for their service. 	
PAC Awards Workgroup Update	<p>Claudia Murillo, House of Hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAC Award recipients were announced at the All-Treatment Provider Meeting held on May 2, 2023. Annette Coleman (Didi Hirsch) was presented with the Change Agent award, Dr. Thomas Farnham (BAART Boyle Heights) was presented with the award for Leadership, The Child and Family Center was presented with the Community Impact award, Beacon House of San Pedro was presented with the Collaboration award. <p>After the Awards presentation, the Committee met to discuss what went well and made suggestions for next year’s award ceremony.</p> <p>Workgroup logistics worked well. Meetings, emails, and calendar invites were helpful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer meetings are necessary and recommended. • The workgroup membership should be increased from 4 to 7 members. • The award categories should be clarified. • There should be additional efforts to conduct outreach for the awards • There should be an update judging of nomination and to emphasize qualities of the applicant and include tangible examples. 	
Business Technology Workgroup	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The June 15, 2023, Business Technology Workgroup has been cancelled. Next Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023, at 1:30PM-3PM • The meeting will focus on a discussion related to PCNX • Please email Bernie Lau BLAU@ph.lacounty.gov if you would like to join the Workgroup meetings or have any business technology topic that you’re interested in adding to the agenda. 	
Key Indicator Workgroup	<p>Jonathan Higgins, Beacon House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workgroup was influenced by CalAIM and improving measurement for payment reform. The group is looking at data collection tools, outcomes, and productivity and will compile the information to develop a set of recommendations for providers. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023, at 3PM. Email Jonathan Higgins or Christina Gonzalez if you’re interested in attending. 	
Payment Reform and CENS	<p>William Taetzsch, Didi Hirsch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CENS is billed through full time equivalencies (FTEs). Will CENS be a cost reimbursement program with DMC billing? Will CENS be a part of the tiered payment system? • Yanira Lima (DPH) – CENS will not be a part of the tier rate assignment . • Daniel Deniz (DPH) – CENS is not a straight cost contract. SAPC will issue a new Information Notice (IN) that will include guidance on DMC operations. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tsai (DPH) mentioned that SAPC will be moving into leveraging DMC to bill against individuals with active Medi-Cal. The dual funding supporting FTE's and DMC will allow the CENS program to expand its services. • Liana Sanchez (LACADA) – some CENS sites are not DMC certified, which creates a problem. • Yanira Lima (SAPC) – The issue impacts 2 out of 8 CENS Area Offices. The IN will provide guidance for CENS at non-DMC facilities. • Will Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) – when there is money left over, can it be carried over? • Daniel Deniz (DPH) – we need to connect internally about whether underutilized funding allocated for CENS operations can be carried over. There are two contracts that CENS will operate under, DMC and SHSMA. 	
<p>Residential Length of Stay</p>	<p>Brian Hurley, MD, DPH Longer length of stays is associated with better outcomes, but it's not residential stay that produces better outcomes, it's about the duration of treatment. It's important to match patients to their treatment needs. SAPC does NOT have residential lengths of stay. We have not capped length of stays, but rather have based the length of stays on medical necessity. Are you hearing from staff on our team about fixed caps on residential lengths of stay? How can SAPC message out that we want people in long-term treatment, and that the length of treatment will depend on the need of each individual.</p> <p>Kathy Watt (Van Ness) stated that she hasn't heard about caps on length of stay. Programs may think about certain modalities as inherently being a certain length of time, but we need to change our thinking. Whole Person Care identifies there are factors in a person's life that's not found in ASAM. We also need to address an issue with Courts ordering residential treatment for a year, which is not based on medical necessity. It's increasingly happening.</p> <p>Dr. Hurley (DPH) stated that it is an overstep for a judge to make a medical or clinical determination and prescribe a level of care or length.</p> <p>Yanira Lima (DPH) mentioned that SAPC has done much work with educating the justice system about medical necessity.</p> <p>Christina Gonzalez (Impact) we've never been denied an extension. Sometimes it takes more time to get treatment extended.</p> <p>Pedram Moshfegh (Social Model) has not had a cap. Showing progress through treatment is a double edge sword, because showing progress makes it less likely to have reauthorizations approved. We need to work on trauma and mental health after they're stabilized.</p> <p>Dr. Hurley (DPH) mentioned it's reasonable to extend care for this reason; if you're not getting your authorizations, let us know.</p>	

	<p>Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) we have not encountered a cap. There was a notion that anything beyond 60 days is difficult to obtain. It's never been an actual issue.</p> <p>JoAnn Hemstreet (Homeless Healthcare) we've never had an authorization denied when a good reason is given. It's all about relationship with SAPC Care Managers. SAPC should have a training on authorizations.</p> <p>Kathy Watt (Van Ness) is there a way to find out more about the 6,000 people who discharged and returned to treatment. Can we find out what happened?</p> <p>Dr. Hurley (DPH) we looked at relapse, but agencies may have more information.</p>	
<p>PAC Outreach</p>	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH</p> <p>Common question from workgroups is how can the PAC better engage other providers? We want to brainstorm ways to better connect. We have three set questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When does the PAC need to connect with the broader provider community? • Who is our target audience? What are the barriers to connecting with people? • What are general recommendations for connecting with broader provider community? <p>The PAC group (i.e., Kathy Watt, Hiroko Makiyama, Will Taetzsch, and Liana Sanchez) stated that PAC members need to reach out to other providers and brainstorm how we can collaborate better. For the PAC it's essential for PAC members to send emails to other providers. The PAC needs to also connect with providers beyond SAPC's network too.</p> <p>Jonathan Higgin (Beacon House) mentioned that the PAC needs to assist with dissemination of information after there are changes to policy. At the same time, it's important to collect information before policy changes are made, so there is stakeholder input prior to policy change. PAC members should act as representatives.</p> <p>The SAPC Group (Yanira Lima, Gary Tsai, Brian Hurley, Belia Sardinha) agreed with the PAC Team about the requirement of PAC to disseminate information. SAPC should start a regional network approach that's SPA based with PAC collaboration.</p>	

Capacity Building Survey	<p>Belia Sardinha, DPH SAPC will send a capacity building survey draft to the PAC membership to obtain feedback within a week. The deliverable- after the survey data is received, it will be de-identified for providers to compare.</p> <p>Daniel Deniz (DPH) – announced that the next Payment Reform Meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2023.</p> <p>Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) providers need more information about capacity building and an option for connecting with SAPC staff for technical assistance would help.</p>	<p>Review and respond to Capacity Building Survey by June 23, 2023. Share barriers to Capacity Building with Belia Sardinha (BSardinha@ph.lacounty.gov)</p>
PAC CO-Chair Election	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH Nomination forms have been emailed. Nominations are due July 14, 2023. Nominees will make their pitch during the first meeting of the new cohort on August 8th. Voting will take place during the first meeting of the new cohort on August 8, 2023.</p>	<p>Submit Co-Chair Self-Nomination Form are due by July 14, 2023.</p>
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH Bernie provided a summary of decisions and next steps discussed during the meeting: Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAC Meeting minutes for April 11, 2023 , were approved as drafted by Liana Sanchez (LACADA) and Claudia Murillo (House of Hope Foundation). <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Bernie Lau (blau@ph.lacounty.gov) if you would like to join the next Business Technology Workgroup meeting • Contact Jonathan Higgins (jhiggins@thebeaconhouse.org) and Christina Gonzalez christina@impacthouse.com for more information or to join the Key Indicators Workgroup. July 26, 2023, Meeting Link. • SAPC will look into improving audio for Hybrid Meetings. • Daniel Deniz will follow-up on Will Taetzsch’s questions regarding unspent CENS funds. • Review and respond to Capacity Building Survey by June 23, 2023. Barriers to Capacity Building should be shared with Belia Sardinha (BSardinha@ph.lacounty.gov) • Submit Co-Chair Self-Nomination Form by July 14, 2023. 	
Public Comment	<p>Gary Tsai, Division Director, DPH None were provided.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>Next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2023, at 2 PM.</p>	

*Reviewed and Approved by: Y.Lima (DPH-SAPC)
Date: 8/7/2023*