

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 9, 2026

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

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL REPRESENTATIVES (40): Alejandra Mata; Aliya Buttar; Alyssa Cohen; Ana San; Antonne Moore; Armen Ter-Barseganyan; Belia Sardinha; Bernie Lau; Brian Hurley; Cailey Barnes; Cherene Cexil; Christina Villegas; Crystal Boateng; David Hindman; Donna Dampier; Erika Valdez; Esther Orellana; Ethan Chang; Francisco Reyes; Glenda Pinney; Ilish Perez; Janet Kim; Katherine Li; Kimberly-lynn Otello; Lauren Trosclair Duncan; Liz Olson; Maria Elena Chavez; Michelle Charles; Michelle Gibson; Nancy Crosby; Natalie Veal; Nima Amini; Phyllis Thai; Teresa De Anda; Terri Hudson; Tina Kim; Vanessa Lam; William Taetzsch; Yolanda Cespedes-Knadle; Zena Yusuf

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (53): Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS); Andrea M. Loperena (Pacific Clinics); Brenda del Castillo (CLARE | Matrix); Brittini Reyes; Catherine Sanchez; Christy Beaudin (HealthRIGHT360); Dan George (HealthRIGHT360); Dayna Mataisz (CRI-Help); Elena Ruiz (House of Hope); Elida Arroyo; Elizabeth Boerkoel (HealthRIGHT360); Emily Guzman (Tarzana Treatment Centers); Emylze Garcia (CIBHS); Itzel Ortiz (Helpline Youth Counseling); Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center); Janet Mendoza (Prototypes); Jeanie Hansen (A Safe Refuge); Jenny Pham (AADAP); Jim Klotzle (HealthRIGHT360); Jonathan Grayson (Helpline Youth Counseling); Juan Navarro (L.A. CADA); Judy Yee (Pacific Clinics); Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV); Kathy Watt (Van Ness Recovery); Kimberly Guevara (Helpline Youth Counseling); Krystal Edwards (Child & Family Center); Leena Syhapanha (HealthRIGHT360); Leslie Dishman (CIBHS); Leslie Navarro (Helpline Youth Counseling); Liz McGhee (Fred Brown's Recovery Services); Logan Parrish Lopez (CRI-Help); Lucia Rodriguez (Helpline Youth Counseling); Luke Rampersad (CRI-Help); Maricela Gray (House of Hope); Mark Malone (Fred Brown's Recovery Services); Mark Winkler (Tarzana Treatment Centers); Martha Alcaraz (Helpline Youth Counseling); Matthew Mata (Pacific Clinics); Micheal Rubio (L.A. CADA); Mireya Melendez (HOPICS); Neptune Linares (The Salvation Army); Nichole Garner (House of Hope); Nicole Albie (HealthRIGHT360); Noelle Diaz (L.A. CADA); Nolan Ross Samé-Weil (L.A. CADA); Patric Brillhart (L.A. CADA); Pedram Moshfegh (NCADD-SFV); Pranab Banskota (CIBHS); Priscilla E. Hernandez Salazar (Prototypes); Terry Kim; Jonathan Vargas; Vincent Contreras (L.A. CADA); Xochilt Henriquez (Helpline Youth Counseling)

ABSENT (3): Seth Blackburn, Irene Lim, Jina Tintor

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (April 14, 2026); Meeting Presentation Slides, 2026 SUD Champions of Change Awards Flyer, 2026 SUD Champions of Change Awards Application

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	Dr. Gary Tsai, M.D., Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)	

	Dr. Gary Tsai welcomed PAC members and addressed his departure from SAPC. Dr. Tsai expressed confidence in SAPC's continued leadership during the transition and announced an upcoming provider meeting to discuss the transition.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Bernie Lau (DPH) Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from April 14, 2026, PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was made by Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) and seconded by April Torres (HealthRIGHT 360).	The minutes from the April 14, 2026 meeting were approved and posted on PAC webpage.
Building Communities of Belonging Workgroup	Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC) - Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC) reported that the BCB workgroup met in May and reviewed women-centered SUD treatment data, discussing lower treatment completion rates among women and the need for improved data collection and approaches that address women's unique needs. - Christina Villegas (DPH) announced a new women-centered care subgroup to identify best practices, map available services, and develop recommendations to strengthen care across the provider network.	
SUD Workforce Development	José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) highlighted the convening of providers, certifying organizations, and academic institutions to identify workforce challenges and improve coordination across the SUD counselor training and certification pipeline.	
2026 SUD Champions of Change Awards	Bernie Lau (DPH) - Bernie Lau (DPH) encouraged PAC members to submit nominations for 2026 SUD Champions of Change Awards and to help promote the opportunity within their agencies. - The following PAC members volunteered to serve on the award selection workgroup: Dylan Grace, Erin Quinn, Leslie Salguero, Liana Sanchez, Lynetta Hale, Nely Meza-Andrade, Sarah Blanch, Seth Blackburn, Zainab Mohammed	
Medi-Cal Renewals/Redetermination	Celia Aragon (Behavioral Health Services) - Celia Aragon (Behavioral Health Services) expressed concerns about the January 2027 implementation of twice-yearly Medi-Cal redeterminations, particularly the increased administrative burden and the risk of members losing coverage. She asked if providers could access platforms that display members' redetermination timelines. - Dr. Tsai (DPH) agreed for SAPC would explore options for obtaining redetermination timelines and making that information available to providers. He also encouraged providers to streamline their current eligibility verification and reenrollment process while waiting for additional state guidance on HR 1 implementation.	
H.R. 1 Awareness Efforts – Trusted Channels Feedback	Cherene Cexil (DPH) Cherene Cexil (DPH) introduced SAPC's upcoming H.R. 1 community messaging campaign, which aims to reassure Medi-Cal eligible individuals that SUD clients in treatment remain exempt from new H.R. 1	The R95 + HR-1 Community Messaging Effort

	requirements, including work requirements. Providers were asked to complete a feedback survey to help identify the most effective communication channels and outreach materials to ensure accurate information reaches individuals seeking treatment through trusted community sources.	Survey was sent to PAC members on June 17.
Release of Information (ROI) Forms: Provider Questions	Lynetta Hale, Social Model Recovery Systems - Lynetta Hale (Social Model Recovery Systems) asked how consent for Legal Proceedings ROI applies to DCFS clients who are court mandated to participate in SUD treatment, and whether the consent should be categorized as civil or legal since only one option may be selected per ROI. Dr. Hindman (DPH) explained that separate ROI forms should be used for distinct legal purposes. - Lynetta Hale (Social Model) also asked about the requirement to maintain a disclosure log of information shared with client consent, which could lead to administrative burden for their agency. Dr. Hindman (DPH) shared that maintaining a disclosure log is a federal 42 CFR Part 2 requirement and agreed to explore developing a disclosure log template or Sage functionality to help providers track and report disclosures. - Multiple providers asked questions about electronic signatures, uploading requirements for secondary providers, witness signatures, and use of the payment and operations ROI. Dr. Alyssa Cohen (DPH) shared that an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document addressing common implementation questions will be released.	
Requirements to Adopt SAPC ROI Forms	Dr. David Hindman, SAPC - Dr. David Hindman (DPH) announced that there will be no claims or authorization blackout at the end of the fiscal year and reminded providers to use the correct fiscal year authorization numbers. He also announced Information Notice 26-04 which introduces a new centralized workflow for user account management for all SAPC applications. Requests can be submitted to SAPC Application Management Section (SAMS) at SAPC_App_Access@ph.lacounty.gov. - Dr. David Hindman (DPH) reminded providers to inform all current clients about Patient Access System (PAS) and document notification using the Patient Acknowledgement form in Sage starting July 1, 2026. By August 1, 2026, all current clients should be informed about PAS and have a signed Patient Acknowledgement form on file.	
SAPC Patient Portal Implementation Updates	Dr. David Hindman, SAPC Dr. Hindman (DPH) announced that three SAPC ROI paper forms went live on June 1 and are expected to be available on PCNX in July 2026. Spanish-language versions are expected to be available by June 2026. Dr. Hindman reminded providers that SAPC will offer a ROI training module and release an FAQ.	
Recovery Incentives Program Information Session	Bernie Lau (DPH) Bernie Lau (DPH) encouraged providers to implement Recovery Incentives Contingency Management program and highlighted its effectiveness in treating stimulant use disorders. He invited providers to attend the information session on June 17 to learn how to implement the program.	
Defining Co-Occurring Disorders	Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH)	

for Value-Based Incentives and ASAM 4 Initiatives	• Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) reviewed the proposed operational definition of co-occurring disorders and requested provider feedback on the new criteria. • Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) asked how newly identified mental health diagnoses should be documented when they are discovered after the initial ASAM assessment. Dr. Hurley clarified that providers don't need to repeat the ASAM assessment and instead can update the PCNX diagnosis form. • Celia Aragon (Behavioral Health Services) asked whether standardized mental health screening tools would be required for the Value-Based Incentive? Dr. Hurley clarified that ASAM 3 will serve as the required screening tool.	
PAC Representation Updates	Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) introduced the PAC Representation Survey which will be sent to PAC members to better identify a members' primary areas of expertise across levels of care and specialty areas and ensure balanced representation in the PAC. The survey form will be distributed by email, and responses will help guide future recruitment and succession planning for PAC membership.	
Public Comments	• Nolan Ross (L.A. CADA) asked whether SAPC would consider allowing centralized intake departments to support payer diversification and streamline access to care in preparation for HR1-related Medicaid changes. Dr. Tsai (DPH) responded that centralized intake is currently permitted but encouraged agencies to carefully evaluate client workflows to minimize duplication and improve client experience.	
Next Meeting	Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting • The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 2 PM – 4 PM.	

Reviewed and Approved: Y.Lima