

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – August 20, 2024

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (22): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), Celia Aragon, Seth Blackburn, Deena Duncan, Alice Gleghorn, Christina Gonzales, Baldomero Gonzalez, Maricela Gray, Colette Harley, John Helyar, Jonathan Higgins, Neptune Linares, Hiroko Makiyama, Nely Meza-Andrade, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Adrian Reveles, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, James Symington, Jina Tintor.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (29): Samir Alvarez, Nima Amini, Isabel Banuelos, Aliya Buttar, Diana Chavez, Stephanie Chen, Ka Chi Wong, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Daniel Deniz, Maria Elena Chavez, Farimah Fiali, Michelle Gibson, David Hindman, Brian Hurley, Allison Kwan, Bernie Lau, Yanira Lima, Julie Lo, Suri Mijares, Antonne Moore, Ilish Perez, Glenda Pinney, Francisco Reyes, April Stump-Earwood, Daniel Szuhay, Armen Ter-Barsegyan, Duy Tran, Ariel Young.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (23): Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS), Aris Tubadeza (AADAP), Pranab Banskota (CIBHS), Christopher Botten (CIBHS), Marcelina Ceballos (Penny Lane), Roneel Chaudhary (CIBHS), Vincent Contreras (LA CADA), Loretta Dearing (Little Housing), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Krystal Edwards (CIBHS), Brandon Fernandez-Comer (Cri-Help), Lily Fowler (Didi Hirsch), Leslie Garcia (CIBHS), Somer Harrison-Mierau (Social Model Recovery), Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV), Liz McGhee (Fred Brown), Claudia Murillo-Hernandez (House of Hope), Rocio Quezada (HYC), Maria Rodarte (Salvation Army), Jose Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers), Catherine Seneris (DHS), Leena Syhapanha (Prototypes), Maja Trochimczyk (Phoenix House).
 Unnamed guests on teleconference (3)

ABSENT (1): Edith Urner

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (June 11, 2024); Meeting Presentation Slides

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tsai welcomed PAC members to the new term. • Dr. Tsai provided an overview of the results of a survey on the PAC meeting format, which found a preference for in-person meetings with a virtual option. • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) also extended a warm welcome to the incoming new 2024-2025 PAC cohort. 	All PAC meetings will be in-person with a call-in option.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the June 11, 2024, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse) and seconded by Christina Gonzales (Principles). 	June 11, 2024 PAC meeting minutes will be posted on the SAPC website.
Building Communities of Belonging	Maricela Gray, House of Hope	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maricela Gray (House of Hope) announced that the next workgroup meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. She encouraged providers to attend Dr. Tina Kim's presentation, which will cover the assessment results of cultural and linguistic disparities within the SUD system. 	
Business Technology	<p>James Symington, Compator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Symington (Compator) reported that the Business Technology workgroup met on July 11, 2024, where new SAGE features were introduced. Feedback was provided on various issues, including document routing, the management of pending documents, and the consent management system. 	
2024 PAC Membership / PAC Awards	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, SAPC Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) announced that the PAC offers awards to recognize outstanding contributions from individual and agencies within SAPC provider network. He emphasized that the deadline for nominations is September 6, 2024, and any inquiries can be directed to sapc_asoc@ph.lacounty.gov 	
FY 2024-2025 Capacity Building & Incentive Package	<p>José C. Salazar, Tarzana Treatment Centers; Colette Harley, SHIELDS For Families; Jonathan Higgins, Beacon House Association of San Pedro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) inquired about SAPC's Capacity Building and Incentive Package for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Michelle Gibson (DPH) shared that SAPC is planning to release related documents for providers this month, which will include a comprehensive Capacity Building document outlining available resources and key considerations for providers throughout the current fiscal year. Additionally, invoices have been modified to streamline the process. An updated version of the incentives document will be shared during the next All Provider meeting. 	
Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Request for Application	<p>Jonathan Higgins, Beacon House Association of San Pedro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) asked about Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) and obtaining letters of support, competitiveness, and the guarantee of funding. He also asked about co-locating multiple levels of care (e.g., residential and outpatient) within the same building. Michelle Gibson (DPH) provided updates on the letter of support process, noting an upcoming joint meeting with DMH scheduled for August 21, 2024. She explained that while a letter of support does not guarantee funding but will help with applying. Kathy Watt (Van Ness) suggested scheduling a meeting to allow providers to share their experience with applying for BHCIP. 	Kathy Watt will organize a meeting with PAC members regarding BHCIP to exchange ideas and provide support.
SUD Workforce Development	<p>José C. Salazar, Tarzana Treatment Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> José C. Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) highlighted the ongoing challenges of maintaining an adequate SUD treatment workforce, considering the constant need for time, energy, and resources to fill these positions and the importance of employee retention and onboarding. Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) suggested creating a workgroup to address workforce challenges, framing new solutions, and sharing resources among agencies. 	Seth Blackburn and José Salazar will collaborate with Kathy Watt on developing a proposal for a SUD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tsai agreed that workforce development is a priority but emphasized the need to clarify the goals and outcomes of such a workgroup. 	Workforce workgroup.
LPHA/LEPHA Incentives	<p>Junie Gonzalez, Cri-Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junie Gonzalez (Cri-Help) requested clarification on whether funds allocated for LPHA and license-eligible staff can also be used for staff pursuing master’s level degrees, similar to how funds are available for SUD certification. • Francisco Reyes (DPH) clarified that the funds cannot be used for those pursuing education to become LPHAs. 	
Peer Support Specialists	<p>José C. Salazar, Tarzana Treatment Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José C. Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) raised a question about whether providers struggle to integrate peer support specialists into their teams, particularly at certain levels of care, and sought feedback from the PAC members. • Allison Kwan (DPH) confirmed that a revised documentation guide on integrating Peer Support Specialists is being developed. 	
Workgroup Suggestions	<p>John Helyar, SSG-HOPICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Helyar, (SSG-HOPICS) addressed the challenges some providers face in incorporating harm reduction into traditional treatment models and expressed interest to collaborate with other providers to create processes that make harm reduction easier to implement. He was also interested in how MAT can be incorporated into field-based services. • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) recognized the importance of integrating harm reduction into treatment protocols. He expressed the need to prioritize certain workgroup topics due to limited capacity. • Kathy Watt offered to connect with PAC Members to work through various workgroup proposals. • Bernie Lau (DPH) stated there are on-going efforts towards organizing meeting for field-based services. • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) introduced the idea of a data gathering workgroup to better understand how agencies use data for clinical, operational, and financial purposes. 	<p>Christina Gonzales, Kathy Watt, and Dr. Tsai will collaborate on establishing a data-informed business practices workgroup.</p> <p>John Helyar will connect with Kathy Watt on developing a harm reduction and/or CalAIM workgroup.</p>
Agency Announcements	<p>Nely Meza-Andrade, Casa Treatment Center for Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nely Meza-Andrade (Casa Treatment Center for Women) suggested dedicating time during meetings for agencies to share announcements and ways to support each other. • Kathy Watt suggested that submissions for these announcements could be managed during pre-meeting agenda preparations. 	Kathy Watt will coordinate with Bernie Lau on optimizing agency announcements during PAC meetings.
Billing for Non-Bundled	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC	

Services in Residential Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) encouraged residential agencies to bill for non-bundled services such as peer support, medication services, recovery services, and care coordination. 	
PAC Co-Chair Announcement	<p>Kathy Watt, Van Ness Recovery House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) encouraged members to reach out with questions and interest in the Provider Co-Chair position, as her term is ending soon. She emphasized her willingness to mentor anyone interested. An effort will be made to ensure a transition period for the new Co-Chair. 	
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) encouraged PAC members to suggest agenda topics for the next meeting. The intent of the PAC is for SAPC to hear from providers, not just for SAPC to report out. • Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) asked about SAPC’s agenda and goals for the network. • Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) explained that the agency's goals align with the strategic plan and payment reform efforts. • Daniel Deniz (DPH) reminded everyone that the County is transitioning to multi-factor authentication with Microsoft Authenticator app. This change is mandatory to access SAGE and submit billing. <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PAC decided that all 2024-25 meetings will be held in in person, with a virtual option. • The PAC approved the meeting minutes for the June 11, 2024, meeting. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) will organize a meeting with PAC members regarding BHCIP to exchange ideas and provide support. • Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) and José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) will collaborate with Kathy Watt (Van Ness) on developing a proposal for a SUD Workforce workgroup. • Christina Gonzales (Principles), Kathy Watt (Van Ness), and Dr. Tsai (DPH) will collaborate on establishing a data-informed business practices workgroup. • John Helyar (SSG-HOPICS) will connect with Kathy Watt (Van Ness) on a harm reduction and/or CalAIM workgroup. • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) will coordinate with Bernie Lau on sharing announcements within the PAC. 	
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None provided 	
Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, from 2 PM – 4pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option.</p>	

Reviewed and Approved by Y.Lima