

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – October 10, 2023

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (19): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), Jose Aguilar, Julia Corea, Nina Glassman, Baldomero “Junie” Gonzalez, Christina Gonzales, Maricela Gray, Colette Harley, Jonathan Higgins, Hiroko Makiyama, Nely Meza-Andrade, Rocio Quezada, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, Jim Symington, William Taetzsch, Aris Tubadeza, Edith Urner

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (18): Adam Loomis, Allison Kwan, April Stump-Earwood, Armen Ter-Barsegyan, Belia Sardinha, Bernie Lau, Brian Hurley, Daniel Deniz, Julie Lo, Kimia Ramezani, Kyle Kennedy, Maria Elena Chavez, Martha Cabrera, Nancy Crosby, Nima Amini, Tina Kim, Yanira Lima, and Zena Yusuf.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (28): Amanda Carnegie, Bob Khek, Chelsea Neal, Christopher Botten (CIBHS), Claire Gross, Claudia Murillo, Daniel Valenzuela, Darlene Walker (Lundquist), Fulviu M. Fodoreanu (Integrated Family and Health Services), Irene Lim (Children's Hospital Los Angeles), Jasmine Salcedo, Joseph (Unknown last name), Katia Derderian, Leena Syhapanha (Prototypes), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Leticia Haro, Lilian Pamintuan (Divine Healthcare Services), Liz McGhee (Fred Brown Recovery Services), Marcelina Ceballos (Penny Lane Centers), Mark Malone (Fred Brown Recovery Services), Mechelle Monroe, Paula DelPozo (Salvation Army), Pranab Banskota (CIBHS), Rovy Sembrano, Sarai Alcantar-Uriostegui, Stephanie Castillo, Valeria Medina, Yohanna Macedo

ABSENT (4): Alice Gleghorn, Celia Aragon, Deena Duncan, Joann Hemstreet

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (August 8, 2023); Bylaws, 2024 Meeting Schedule, 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"> Welcomed PAC members 	
PAC Member Recognition	<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 Maricela Gray, Executive Director of House of Hope in San Pedro. Junie Gonzalez (Cri-Help) was also re-introduced as the new Director of Operations for Cri-Help as new/returning members to PAC. Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) was introduced to group as new PAC Liaison. 	
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 August 8, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the meeting minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse) and seconded by Jose Aguilar. 	Minutes approved and posted with no changes.

Bylaws	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) provided instructions to raise hands in-person or via Teams to approve Bylaws. Dr. Tsai called for a vote. 14 hands were raised. Dr. Tsai (DPH) certified the vote. 	Bylaws approved and posted with no changes.
2024 Meeting Schedule	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) presented motion to approve 2024 Meeting Schedule. Dr. Tsai called for a vote. Fifteen (15) hands were raised. Kathy Watt (Van Ness) certified vote. 	2024 Meeting schedule approved and posted .
Business Technology Workgroup (BT)	<p>Jim Symington, Compator and Aris Tubadeza, AADAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Symington (Compator) reported that next meeting will be related to PCNX updates. The next meeting date is currently pending. Email Armen Ter-Barsegyan to join Business Technology Workgroup meetings or have any business technology topics to address. 	
Key Indicator Workgroup	<p>Jonathan Higgins, Beacon House and Christina González, Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christina González (Principles) discussed how the workgroup is tackling the second area of Capacity Building Funds in R95 category. Their next meeting is rescheduled to October 30th at 3pm – 5pm. She reported a timeline to have an initial report on group’s findings by December 2023. 	
Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services	<p>Kathy Watt, Van Ness Recovery House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy Watt (Van Ness) discussed that the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) workgroup had their preliminary meeting on Friday, September 29. Workgroup established three areas of focus: (implementation strategies, solution-oriented approaches, and data gathering best practices). The next CLAS meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 27th from 9am-10am. 	Email Armen Ter-Barsegyan to join CLAS Workgroup meetings.
Reaching the 95% (R95) updates	<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 informed PAC that 85% of the network has signed up for at least one portion of R95 and 2/3rd have signed up to focus on admissions and discharge policy. He also introduced Maria Elena Chavez (DPH), who will manage R95 efforts. Maria Elena Chavez (DPH) asked the PAC to send suggestions about Admissions and Discharge Policy to SAPC-CBI@ph.lacounty.gov Dr. Tsai reminded PAC about two upcoming R95 meetings: October 23 is a kickoff meeting and will focus on Admission & Discharge policy. 	Please send suggestions about Admissions and Discharge Policy to SAPC-CBI@ph.lacounty.gov
SUD Workforce Compensation	<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 addressed that there are different legislation focusing on workforce compensation in all industries, including the Governor’s approval of a set hourly rate for fast food workers beginning in April 2024. He also expressed that SUD employees should not have to compete with fast food and hospitality 	

	<p>workers for compensation. Dr. Tsai said agencies need to provide sufficient compensation to maintain their workforce. What are agencies doing to ensure that they are competitive in labor markets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) commented that people are waiting for payments to become consistent. Providers need to consider benefits on top of salaries. • Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) commented the barriers include Board of Directors who are hesitant to increase compensation. It will be helpful if SAPC provides data to educate their Boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Tsai responded that SAPC will look into developing data. He requested to convene a meeting with Boards of different agencies, and talk about the pressing issues in the field, including workforce. • Jose Salazar (Tarzana Treatment) added that there are variety of perspectives among Board members, and to strategize communication accordingly. For example, some Board members may be convinced to increase wages but may need help on how to do that for the organization while other Board members may not have any interest in increasing wages and may need motivation to see where the SUD business is moving. • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) suggested creating a peer-to-peer model for Boards of Directors where a Board Chairperson may be open to meet with another provider to discuss their operation. 	
<p>Capacity Building Workforce Development Survey</p>	<p>Belia Sardinha, DPH, Policy and Strategic Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belia Sardinha (DPH) provided a summary of the 1A Agency Level Survey responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 84% of agencies participated in the 1A agency-level survey ○ 65% of the surveys required edits • Belia Sardinha (DPH) reminded folks that SAPC CBI e-mail SAPC-CBI@ph.lacounty.gov is a one-stop show for anything related to capacity building and incentives. 	
<p>Discharge Status: CalOMS vs Discharge Transfer Form</p>	<p>Dr. Tina Kim, DPH, Health Outcomes and Data Analytics Branch Chief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kim (DPH) recapped that there are two areas to document discharge status: Discharge Transfer Form and CalOMS. She has worked on matching the two forms to provide guidance to the PAC. Dr. Kim discussed how Discharge Transfer Form entries can be entered into the CalOMS Standard Discharge and Administrative Discharge forms. Dr. Kim concluded that she has a workflow to address how to use standard discharge form instead of administrative discharge form. Dr. Kim will reach out to PAC members for updates, as the CalOMS Administrative Discharge workgroup has been meeting to improve process. 	<p>Dr. Kim will update slide on Discharge Transfer Form Status</p>
<p>Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists (CMPSS)</p>	<p>Zena Yusuf, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zena Yusuf (DPH) announced that the Clinical Standards Training Team holds a quarterly training on Peers for providers on the SAPC website. Once someone is certified, agencies can start billing for services after onboarding on Sage so DPH can track Peers in SAPC network. For resources, CalMHA is responsible for certification and SAPC has a Peers website. Also, providers can e-mail SAPC_ASOC@ph.lacounty.gov 	<p>Share comments on Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists to SAPC_ASOC@ph.lacounty.gov</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yanira Lima (DPH) added that Peers are individuals with lived experience within our system and provide connections to individuals going through recovery process. This is also a Medi-Cal reimbursable staffing item. • Edith Urner (Exodus Recovery) commented that until this fiscal year (2023-24), providers couldn't bill through SAPC. Another barrier has been getting Peers to follow through on taking state exam. She added that the best clients that have transitioned over to become Peer Specialists have been those on SSI who want to do some of the work that's not going to obliterate their SSI. • Jonathan Higgins (Beacon House) explained that their agency faces implementation challenges as their schedule is already packed with structured therapeutic activities and is unsure how to include more activities for Peers to run. • Junie Gonzalez (Cri-Help) commented that Peers are helpful for therapeutic services (e.g. taking people to meetings) to capture units of services in what agency is doing. • Zena Yusuf (DPH) recommended for PAC to e-mail SAPC_ASOC@ph.lacounty.gov about any barriers and SAPC can work with PAC for next steps. • Yanira Lima (DPH) recommended creating an ad hoc PAC workgroup for Peers, which can evolve to other discussions. The recommendation was second by Kathy Watt, Co-Chair, and would be discussed with Dr. Tsai for approval. 	
Billing for Medications for Addiction Treatment and Medication Services	<p>Dr. Brian Hurley, DPH, Clinical Services Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hurley (DPH) commented that some of the codes used for medication services have shifted and there are now CBT codes that physicians code often, even for general care. He explained there are "SAPC"-created codes, such as H2010M, H2010N, and H2010S. • Dr. Hurley explained that SAPC is looking to see who received medication services as a marker of Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and to code using H2010M accordingly. • Kathy Watt (Van Ness) raised that her agency's authorization for treatment services, 85% of July have not been authorized yet, however, individuals submitted into the system only a week ago are already authorized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Hurley responded that he'll reach out to QI/UM case managers to make sure they prioritize older authorizations before newer ones. 	
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH, Systems of Care</p> <p>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"> • August meeting minutes were approved. • PAC Bylaws were approved • 2024 PAC schedule were approved <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Key Indicators Workgroup meeting is rescheduled to Monday, 10/30 from 3pm – 5pm. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial key indicators report will be released in December 2023 • Information on R-95 Kickoff meeting will be sent out to all providers with link to join • Please send suggestions about Admissions and Discharge Policy to SAPC-CBI@ph.lacounty.gov • Email Armen Ter-Barsegyan to join the following workgroups: Business Technology, Key Indicators, Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services Workgroup, Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists • Please share comments on Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists to SAPC ASOC@ph.lacounty.gov 	
Public Comment	<p>Michelle Gibson, MPH, Deputy Division Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia Murillo (House of Hopes) encouraged PAC to create a workgroup specific to capacity building and initiatives, which can be broken down for the group and offers templates/insights and something practical/applicable to share with the PAC. 	
Next Meeting	Next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023, at 2 PM – 4pm. This will be a virtual meeting.	

Approved: Yanira A. Lima, 12/8/2023