

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – December 9, 2025

PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (19): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Nely Meza-Andrade (Co-Chair), Seth Blackburn, Sarah Blanch, Dylan Grace, Claire Kobren, Neptune Linares, Hiroko Makiyama, Zainab Mohammed, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Adrian Reveles, José Salazar, Leslie Salguero, Liana Sanchez, Kelly Steiner, Paula Torres (in lieu of Jim Symington), Jina Tintor, April Torres

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL REPRESENTATIVES (29): Nima Amini, Frank Baez, Cailey Barnes, Aliya Buttar, Maria Elena Chavez, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Daniel Deniz, Jose Gonzalez, David Hindman, Brian Hurley, Janet Kim, Tina Kim, Bernie Lau, Katherine Li, Yanira Lima, Liz Olson, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Rud Paulsen, Ilish Perez, Glenda Pinney, Mikayla Ragsdale, Francisco Reyes, Ana San, Belia Sardinha, Greg Schwarz, Armen Ter-Barseguyan, Emily Turner, Grace Wong

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (34): Ariana Aziz (CLARE|Matrix), Mary Baker (CLARE|Matrix), Michael Ballue (Behavioral Health Services), Pranab Banskota (CIBHS), Sergio Camarena (CLARE|Matrix), Vincent Contreras (L.A. CADA), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Yoel Edelson, Krystal Edwards (CIBHS), Corinna Eilertson (CLARE|Matrix), Halina Fardin (Beit T'Shuvah), Brandon Fernandez (CRI-Help), Jasmine Fleming, Emylze Garcia (CIBHS), Leslie Garcia (CIBHS), Nichole Garner (House of Hope), Dan George (HealthRIGHT 360), Maricela Gray (House of Hope), Jeanie Hansen (A Safe Refuge), Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV), Efrain Marquez (Behavioral Health Services), Liz McGhee (Fred Brown), Judy Morales (Rancho San Antonio), Claudia Murillo-Hernandez (CIBHS), Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center), Vanessa Ramirez (HealthRIGHT 360), Monica Reyes (The Wall Last Memories), Elena Ruiz (House of Hope), Sonia Suria (Didi Hirsch), Leena Syhapanha (HealthRIGHT 360), Martin Toledo (CIBHS), Maja Trochimczyk (Phoenix House), Kathy Watt (Van Ness Recovery), Michael Werner (Sinai Labs)

ABSENT (4): Alice Gleghorn, Colette Harley, Irene Lim, Erin Quinn

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (October 14, 2025); Meeting Presentation Slides

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	Dr. Brian Hurley, M.D., Medical Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley welcomed PAC members. 	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Bernie Lau (DPH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the October 14, 2025, PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) and seconded by Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation). 	

PAC Provider Data Workgroup	Bernie Lau (DPH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie Lau (DPH) reminded PAC members of the next PAC Provider Data Workgroup meeting on December 15, 2025. Aliya Buttar (DPH) informed providers that Milestone 1 submissions are being finalized and reminded the PAC about the required virtual session on December 11, 2025 for <i>Assessing Readiness for Data Aggregation</i>. 	
Workforce Development Workgroup	José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) and Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> José Salazar provided an update on the first SUD Workforce Workgroup meeting. He discussed current goals to identify leads for three activities (listening sessions, planned meetings and workshops, and collaborative meetings), with plans to complete deliverables by June 2026. 	
PAC Membership Update	Bernie Lau (DPH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie Lau (DPH) announced that April Torres (HealthRIGHT 360) has joined as a new PAC member. 	
COVID-19 and Standards of Care	Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) reviewed current COVID-19 guidance for providers. Vaccination remains encouraged but not required for most treatment settings except hospital-licensed facilities, and individual case reporting is no longer required. However, outbreaks must be reported through the CDPH SPOT Portal. Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation) asked if COVID-19 guidance would be shared annually. Dr. Brian Hurley responded that SAPC Information Notice 24-09 is the current COVID-19 guidance for providers and noted that annual updates are no longer issued given the absence of policy changes. 	Review SAPC Information Notice 24-09 for more information on COVID-19 and influenza-related guidelines and recommendations for SAPC providers.
Care Coordination for External Mental Health Services	Zainab Mohammed (Families for Children) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zainab Mohammed (Families for Children) discussed challenges with care coordination between SUD providers and external mental health services, particularly the lack of timely access to client diagnoses and medication histories, which poses clinical risk and complicates treatment planning. Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) suggested that one potential option is for licensed prescribers to access the CURES database to verify controlled substance prescriptions when records are unavailable. Paula Torres (Compatior) raised concerns for first-time clients who lack identification, noting that this issue has increased due to a rise in mental health referrals. Jina Tintor (Homeless Healthcare LA) shared that her agency has invited mobile ID vendors on-site to assist clients in obtaining identification. Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) added that clients who are unhoused and without identification may complete an affidavit with the Social Security Office, which can support the process in obtaining identification. 	
ASAM 4th Edition Residential Capacity Building Pilot Project	Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) provided an overview of the ASAM 4th Edition Residential Capacity Building Pilot, which will offer funding to residential SUD providers to support alignment with ASAM 4th Edition standards. The pilot focuses on strengthening workforce capacity for withdrawal management and co- 	

	<p>occurring mental health services in residential settings. Draft materials will be shared with the provider network for feedback this month, with implementation proposals due in January 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paula Torres (Compatior) discussed barriers to inviting a licensed clinician to prescribe services at their site, due to challenges with malpractice insurance coverage and concerns about off-site prescribing. However, she has received guidance to explore an alternative insurance option and expects the issue to be resolved within a month. Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) discussed the option for providers to obtain a supplemental malpractice insurance and offered technical assistance. 	
SAPC-LNC Provider Administrative User Role	<p>Dr. David Hindman (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. David Hindman (DPH) announced a new initiative to develop a provider administrative user role, allowing providers to manage trainings for their workforce. The feature is expected to launch by mid-year, with a pilot planned for February. Five providers are invited to participate in the pilot. 	Providers interested in participating in the pilot phase can email SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov by January 16, 2026.
R95 Facilitator's Guide	<p>Maria Elena Chavez (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Elena Chavez (DPH) discussed the R95 case study discussion guide as a practical tool to help providers implement R95 initiative. The guide includes a facilitator overview and structured scenarios focused on admissions, discharge, and toxicology policy, with discussion questions that connect real-world situations to R95 principles. Providers are being asked to review the tool and share feedback for staff training. A separate workgroup will be convened for those interested in providing more detailed input before broader use. Neptune Linares (CLARE Matrix) asked if extensions can be granted for completing the R95 3-B Initiative. Maria Elena Chavez (DPH) encouraged providers to communicate their circumstances for review and proper follow-up. 	
Grocery One-Time Support Initiative	<p>Daniel Deniz (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Deniz (DPH) provided an update on the Grocery One-Time Support Initiative (GOTSI) to support clients impacted by delays in SNAP/CalFresh benefits. The program authorized \$100 gift cards for eligible clients. Overall, 31 of 85 provider agencies participated, with 1,231 clients approved to receive \$100 gift cards. A question was raised about how to support undocumented clients who are ineligible for CalFresh and are experiencing food insecurity. Daniel Deniz (DPH) encouraged providers to connect undocumented clients to community resources that have been shared with providers. 	
California SB 43 Updates	<p>Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) provided an update on California SB 43, that expands the definition of "grave disability" to include severe SUDs. The update emphasized that expanded criteria focus on inability to 	PAC members are invited to the "Expanded LPS

	<p>meet basic needs and introduce new expectations for treatment settings, such as managing withdrawal, initiating addiction medications, and assessing substance use. SB 43 goes into effect January 1, 2026, and providers may see increased referrals from hospitals or LPS facilities. Providers were encouraged to attend an upcoming webinar featuring Dr. Brian Hurley and DMH leadership, which will provide in-depth guidance on SB 43 and its implications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jina Tintor asked how this change affected other counties that implemented these changes earlier. • Dr. Brian Hurley clarified that counties such as San Luis Obispo and San Francisco saw a temporary increase in LPS holds that later returned to baseline. 	<p>Criteria for Grave Disability: California Senate Bill 43” training, which will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025 from 10am-1:15pm.</p>
H.R.1 Updates	<p>Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) provided updates on H.R.1 and noted that California is restricting Medicaid enrollment for individuals aged 25-50 with certain immigration statuses. In response, LA County is preparing a locally-funded program called SAPC Authorized Non-DMC Financial Eligibility to allow low-income residents who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status to receive local SUD services. • Efrain Marquez asked if applicants’ immigration data would be shared with the federal government. • Dr. Brian Hurley shared that because the program does not rely on federal funding, applicant information would not be shared with the federal government. 	
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview) inquired to learn more about SAPC’s support unit for existing outreach and street medicine teams across LA County. • Dr. Jose Gonzalez (DPH) described that SAPC plans to launch a directly-operated technical assistance team designed to support community-based providers serving people with SUDs. The goal is to assess gaps in services and build capacity among existing street medicine and outreach teams • Jina Tintor (Homeless Healthcare LA) asked how this can assist with information sharing across systems of care, particularly in street medicine where services are often uncoordinated. • Dr. David Hindman (DPH) explained that SAPC is exploring solutions, such as participation in health information exchange platforms, including LANES, to improve data sharing across care systems. 	
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Bernie Lau (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes from the October 14, 2025 meeting were approved. Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) moved to approve, seconded by Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation). • José Salazar and Seth Blackburn will set up the first meeting for the Workforce Development Workgroup. • Providers interested in participating in the SAPC-LNC Provider Administrative User Role pilot phase can email SAPC-LNC@ph.lacounty.gov by January 16, 2026. 	
Next Meeting	<p>Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 2 PM – 4 PM. 	