

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 11, 2024

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (21): Gary Tsai (Co-Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), Jose Aguilar, Celia Aragon, Deena Duncan, Alice Gleghorn, Baldomero Gonzalez, Christina Gonzales, Maricela Gray, Colette Harley, JoAnn Hemstreet, Jonathan Higgins, Hiroko Makiyama, Nely Meza Andrade, Rocio Quezada, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, James Symington, William Taetzsch, Aris Tubadeza, and Edith Urner.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (27): Nima Amini, Ivan Barragan, Christine Cerven, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Daniel Deniz, Michelle Gibson, Jennifer Herreres, David Hindman, Brian Hurley, Allison Kwan, Bernie Lau, Yanira A. Lima, Leslie Lopez, Megala Majuran, Antonne Moore, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Ilish Perez, Mark Pfof, Glenda Pinney, Francisco Reyes, Ana San, Sandy Song, April Stump-Earwood, Daniel Szuhay, Armen Ter-Barsegyan, and Zena Yusuf.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (26): Pranab Banskota, Mauro Barachetti, Christopher Botten, Vincent Contreras, Leslie Dishman, Bob Dorris, Halina Fardin, Brandon Fernandez, Lynetta Hale, John Helyar, Neptune Linares, Mark Malone, Karen Marder, Liz McGhee, Amy Mcilvaine, Mechelle Monroe, Pedram Moshfegh, Claudia Murillo, Juan Navarro, Lilian P, Rocio Quezada, Ken Seman, Rovy Sembrano, Catherine Seneris, Leena Syhapanha, Daniel Valenzuela, and Matt Walton.

ABSENT (2): Julia Corea, Nina Glassman.

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 Bureau (SAPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed PAC members 	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) provided PAC members with the meeting minutes from April 9, 2024. 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 Christina Gonzales (Principles, Inc.). 	
Building Communities of Belonging	<p>Maricela Gray (House of Hope) and Baldomero “Junie” Gonzalez (Cri-Help)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baldomero “Junie” Gonzalez (Cri-Help) shared that during the last Building Communities of Belonging meeting, the workgroup focused on finalizing recommendations for capacity building in the upcoming fiscal year. These recommendations pertain to language access and establishing support for a bilingual bonus. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maricela Gray (House of Hope) stated that the next workgroup meeting will be held on July 3, 2024. 	
2024 PAC Membership / PAC Awards	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) stated that the 2024 – 2026 PAC Membership application period has closed, and the selection committee is currently reviewing the applications. Additionally, the PAC award nomination forms will be released soon, and the winners will be announced on November 5, 2024, at the All-Treatment Providers Meeting. 	
FY 2024-25 SAPC Rates	<p>William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) inquired whether there were any updates to the provider network's 2024-2025 SAPC rates. Francisco Reyes (DPH) stated that the FY 2024 – 2025 rates are being finalized and incorporated into our systems. It was added that Finance anticipates having the rates matrix updated later this week, ready to be released to the provider network soon after that. The delay involved adjusting to the State’s recently modified rates related to outpatient services. Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) stated that the care coordination, medication services, peer support services, and recovery services will be billable on top of residential rates for at least the upcoming year. It is crucial that residential agencies bill for all services they provide, particularly those not yet bundled, to ensure these services are billed in addition to any general service charges. This approach serves two main purposes: (1) to maximize current reimbursement, and (2) to ensure that all billable fees are included when calculating future bundled service provision rates. There was considerable discussion about this issue due to its impact on the State's calculation of future, more comprehensive service bundling rates. It was emphasized that State agencies typically set bundled rates based on past submissions of services and costs. If services have not been documented previously, future rates will not account for those fees. Providers were also reminded to report on capacity building and incentives by the end of the third quarter, instead of the end-of-year deadline that was previously in place. 	
CA Projected Budget	<p>William Taetzsch, Didi Hirsch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch) raised the question of how the projected State budget might impact SAPC funding. Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) stated that one related feature which SAPC is monitoring a proposed reduction in funding for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program. Although SAPC still plans to invest in BHBH, it is uncertain where the budget will settle. Governor proposed 	Note: this was a discussion of the CA budget proposal. Since the PAC meeting on June 11, 2024, the CA Budget has passed. See

	cuts to CalWORKS and Behavioral Health Continuing Infrastructure Program. The projection for realignment is a 2% increase, which includes flexible funding for behavioral health.	https://ebudget.ca.gov/ for the enacted CA budget.
Capacity Building Initiative	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed two bills, AB 2479 and AB 2893, related to recovery housing. These bills would allow for a proportion of housing funds to be used for recovery-oriented housing. Between the two bills, up to 25% of housing funds could be used for recovery-oriented housing. AB2893 would also establish State certification of sober living facilities. 	
Recovery Housing Bills (AB 2479 & AB 2893)	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed two Recovery Housing Bills, noting that they are similar. These bills would open funding for investments in recovery-oriented housing up to a certain proportion. Specifically, 25% of the housing funding could be used for recovery-oriented housing. One key difference between the two bills is that AB2893 would require state-certified sober living facilities. 	
CA Proposition 1	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed changes stemming from California Proposition 1, particularly the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) allows for funds to be used on SUD. Prop 1 will establish a BHSA Commission, which can decide on policy, review county performance, and how funds should be used. A Behavioral Health Outcomes Accountability and Transparency Report will be required for all behavioral health activities. SAPC wants to make sure BHSA includes SUD investments and SUD is represented on committees and reports. We want to make sure BHSA funding supports recovery housing, prevention, and BHCIP. Regarding Behavioral Health Administrative Integration, LA County has a stronger SUD system, because we have a separate administration from mental health. CEO Budget hired a consultant to review integration between SUD and mental health administration. PAC members are interested in hearing about how the BHSA Commission would be appointed and wanted to make sure there would be SUD representation. 	
Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists (CMPSS) Updates	<p>Zena Yusuf (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zena Yusuf (DPH) provided an update on the Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists program. She announced that the scholarship cycle is reopening for the second time. The application and approval processes have been simplified, and scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, provided candidates meet the requirements to become a Peer Support Specialist. Details on accessing the scholarship can be found in the scholarship 	

	<p>opportunity section on the SAPC Peers website. Additionally, as of June 2024, forty Peers are providing covered services documented in the SAGE programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final PAC information session regarding the Peers program will be on June 24, 2024, from 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Additionally, there is Peers training on July 16, 2024, that focuses on assisting SAPC providers in increasing their understanding of the Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Services and how these services can enhance substance use treatment. 	
Meeting Wrap Up	<p>Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) 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"> • The PAC approved the meeting minutes from April 9, 2024. • A survey on the format of PAC meetings (e.g., in-person, hybrid, virtual) will be voted on with the new PAC cohort. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule discussion regarding appropriate billing for non-bundled services. • Disseminate survey regarding meeting format for future PAC meetings. 	
Public Comments	<p>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consensus was reached that, the format and design for upcoming meetings should allow for continued public involvement. Gratitude and thanks were expressed to PAC members who have completed their terms. 	
Next Meeting	The next virtual meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2024, from 2 PM – 4 PM.	

REVIEWED AND APPROVED: Y.Lima 8/16/2024.