

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – August 12, 2025

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (22): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Seth Blackburn, Sarah Blanch, Alice Gleghorn, Dylan Grace, Colette Harley, Claire Kobren, Irene Lim, Neptune Linares, Hiroko Makiyama, Nely Meza-Andrade, Zainab Mohammed, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Erin Quinn, Adrian Reveles, Jose Salazar, Leslie Salguero, Liana Sanchez, Kelly Steiner, Paula Torres (in lieu of Jim Symington), Jina Tintor

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (31): Nima Amini, Cailey Barnes, Aliya Buttar, Christine Cerven, Yolanda Cespedes-Knadle, Ethan Chang, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Teresa De Anda, Daniel Deniz, Carina Dominguez, Michelle Gibson, David Hindman, Kyle Kennedy, Janet Kim, Vanessa Lam, Katherine Li, Julie Lo, Antonne Moore, Liz Olson, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Binaka Patel, Ilish Perez, Glenda Pinney, Francisco Reyes, Ana San, Belia Sardinha, Sandy Song, Daniel Suzhay, Armen Ter-Barseganyan, Emily Turner

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (39): Damond Alford (AADAP), Elida Arroyo, Chris Botten (NCADD-SFV), Patric Brillhart (L.A. CADA), Jessica Chun, Vincent Contreras (L.A. CADA), Stacey Dee, Dayna Dewitt (CRI-Help), Leslie Dishman (CIBHS), Deena Duncan (VOALA), Krystal Edwards (CIBHS), Brandon Fernandez (CRI-Help), Luis Fragoza (Child & Family Center), Leslie Garcia (CIBHS), Nichole Garner (House of Hope), Angelica Gaxiola (Bienestar), Maricela Gray (House of Hope), Lynetta Hale (Social Model Recovery), Jeanie Hansen (A Safe Refuge), Divine Healthcare, Lorette Herman (Alcoholism Center for Women), Douglass Johnson, Isabel Juarez (Casa Treatment Center), Tina K. Hughes (Inland Valley Recovery Services), Christine Kesse, Jennifer Lundahl (A Safe Refuge), Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV), Liz McGhee (Fred Brown's Recovery Services), Lillian Melena (A Safe Refuge), Claudia Murillo-Hernandez (CIBHS), Juan Navarro (L.A. CADA), Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center), Florena Randolph, Camila Sanchez (Avalon Carver Community Center), Martin Toledo (CIBHS), Ariana Varela, Kathy Watt, Michael Werner (Sinai Labs), Soma (The Sidewalk Project)

ABSENT (1): Aris Tubadeza

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (June 10, 2025); Meeting Presentation Slides; 2025-26 PAC Membership Roster; 2026 Meeting Schedule; SUD Champions of Changes Award Flyer; SUD Champions of Change Award Application

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
Welcome	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Dr. Gary Tsai welcomed the 2025-26 PAC members and highlighted the importance of unity and addressing challenges related to maintaining Medi-Cal eligibility and streamlining re-enrollment for clients. Highlighting the value of collaborating with other LA County partners, such as DPSS, to support this effort.	

Approval of Meeting Minutes	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) presented the minutes from the June 10, 2025, PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) and seconded by Alice Gleghorn (Phoenix House California).	
Approval of 2026 PAC Meeting Schedule	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH - Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) proposed the 2026 PAC Meeting Schedule for the following dates: 2/10/2026, 4/14/2026, 6/9/2026, 8/11/2026, 10/13/2026, 12/8/2026. - PAC members voted on the proposed schedule and it was approved by a majority.	The PAC approved the following PAC meeting schedule: 2/10/2026, 4/14/2026, 6/9/2026, 8/11/2026, 10/13/2026, 12/8/2026.
PAC Co-Chair Updates	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH Nely Meza-Andrade self-nominated to run for PAC Co-Chair and introduce herself to PAC members.	PAC members voted unanimously to approve Nely Meza-Andrade as the next PAC Co-Chair.
PAC Provider Data Workgroup	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC - Dr. Tsai (DPH) reiterated the workgroup's goal to explore ways providers can aggregate data into a single, user-friendly system, noting that this effort has been integrated into SAPC's payment reform strategy with incentives tied to data reporting. - Francisco Reyes (DPH) presented on the new Building Performance and Risk Metrics Activity and shared its three milestones: Milestone 1: Agencies inventory their data systems across 10 core metrics (covering clinical, financial, operations, and workforce) and report baseline data on 5 selected metrics. Milestone 2: Agencies assess organizational readiness for adopting a data aggregation platform. Milestone 3: Agencies either purchase and plan to purchase data aggregation software or defer purchase with a documented implementation plan. - Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) inquired how agencies can support the activity. - Dr. Tsai explained that PAC members can share expertise with agencies that may struggle with data readiness. - Irene Lim (CHLA) asked if this is separate from CalOMS data collection. - Dr. Tsai explained that this is different, because the activity collects agency operations data that is agency-centered whereas CalOMS requests data on clients on treatment side (client-centered). - Francisco Reyes (DPH) explained that the financial milestones will be for current fiscal year for 2025-26.	The next PAC Provider Data workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2025, 10am – 11am

	- Alice Gleghorn inquired if they can pull data from their current Electronic Health Record (EHR) or do they need to get separate software that can pull data and calculate it? - Francisco Reyes (DPH) explained agencies can still participate in Milestone 1 and Milestone 2 to continue researching and identifying appropriate plan.	
Building Communities of Belonging	Hiroko Makiyama, KYCC Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC) provided an update on the July 8 BCB workgroup meeting, which reviewed the upcoming SB 923 TGI Curriculum for direct-service staff to create space for Transgender, Gender Expansive and Intersex (TGI) populations.	The next BCB workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 3pm – 4pm
2025 PAC Awards	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH Armen Ter-Barsegyan (DPH) discussed open nominations for the 2025 SUD Champions of Change Awards and encouraged providers to submit nominations for all four categories.	
Addressing Attendance Drops Related to Medi-Cal Policy Changes	Nely Meza-Andrade, Casa Treatment Center for Women - Nely Meza-Andrade (Casa Treatment Center) expressed concern over the decline in client attendance concerns and requested collaborative brainstorming and shared strategies. - Leslie Salguero (San Fernando Recovery Center) discussed utilizing field-based services through SAPC to visit families in their homes, including after hours, to provide services. - Sarah Blanch (Institute for Public Strategies) discussed utilizing community health workers as trusted messengers to reach out to community members. - Other PAC members discussed expanding telehealth options, hosting on-site support groups instead of transporting clients, offering food and essentials to limit client movement, assisting clients with legal documentation, providing safe zones and rights education signage, and employing security escorts during drop-off/pick up. - Brandon Fernandez (CRI-Help) asked if field-based services can be utilized at Recovery Bridge Housing sites to increase access to care. - Sandy Song (DPH) explained that DHCS decided not to allow field-based services at recovery bridge housing sites due to concerns of unlicensed residential care.	Field-Based Services: Standards and Practices
Latest Update on Federal Changes	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC - Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) reviewed federal policy changes impacting Medi-Cal and service access. SAPC is considering interventions to increase provider knowledge of Medi-Cal enrollment and renewal, leverage DPSS, and prioritize early enrollment. - Irene Lim (CHLA) discussed challenges of getting claims covered and renewed for minor consent Medi-Cal due to inconsistent requirements between State and County DPSS. - Dr. Tsai recognized the importance to distinguish Federal, State, and local requirements and to identify opportunities to optimize the Medi-Cal process. He also urged providers to educate	

	clients on work exemptions and cost sharing for SUD clients through clear, standardized messaging.	
Accepting Conserved Individuals for SUD Treatment	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC - Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed SB43, which expands the definition of grave disability to include individuals with severe SUD. As a result, agencies may see more referrals of conserved individuals. He expressed concerns for agencies who have policies that prevent conserved individuals from obtaining SUD treatment at their facilities. - Jessica Chun (AADAP) shared that their agency accepts conserved individuals, focusing on the client's condition at assessment, and may request conservator's signatures for necessary documents. - Dr. Tsai expressed the importance of completing an assessment of a client's current condition as opposed to setting policy that excludes based on conservatorship status.	
Residential ASAM 4th Edition Pilot (Co-Occurring Disorders and Withdrawal Management)	Dr. Brian Hurley, DPH - Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) discussed ASAM 4.0, which requires addiction medication access and co-occurring capability across all levels of care. SAPC is offering start-up funding to expand 3.2 withdrawal management and to hire LPHAs to provide on-site, co-occurring disorder treatment, expanding capacity for higher-acuity clients. - Dr. Tsai (DPH) encouraged providers to integrate mental health and SUD services at their facilities. - Dylan Grace (Beacon House) inquired if agencies should invest in 3.2 level of care if it may potentially be removed when ASAM 4.0 is published. - Dr. Tsai clarified that 3.2 level of care will not be eliminated but integrated into 3.5 level of care under ASAM 4th edition, meaning investments now position agencies ahead for the transition.	
Public Comments	<i>None provided</i>	
Meeting Wrap Up	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH - The minutes from the June 10, 2025, meeting were approved (attached). Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Alice Gleghorn (Phoenix House California). - The PAC approved the following PAC meeting schedule: 2/10/2026, 4/14/2026, 6/9/2026, 8/11/2026, 10/13/2026, 12/8/2026. - The PAC approved Nely Meza-Andrade to serve as the next PAC Co-Chair.	
Next Meeting	Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 2 PM – 4 PM.	

Reviewed and approved by: Yanira A. Lima