

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Substance Abuse Prevention and Control**  
**Provider Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary – October 8, 2024**

**Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (21):** Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Kathy Watt (Co-Chair), 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, Jose Salazar, Liana Sanchez, James Symington, Jina Tintor, Edith Urner.

**Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (28):** Nima Amini, Aliya Buttar, Yolanda Cespedes-Knadle, Stephanie Chen, Alyssa Cohen, Nancy Crosby, Daniel Deniz, Michelle Gibson, Kyle Kennedy, Tina Kim, Allison Kwan, Bernie Lau, Yanira Lima, Julie Lo, Alejandra Mata, Suri Mijares, Antonne Moore, Kimberly-lynn Otello, Ilish Perez, Mark Pfof, Glenda Pinney, Francisco Reyes, Ana San, Belia Sardinha, Daniel Szuhay, Armen Ter-Barsegyan, Erika Valdez, Setareh Yavari.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (24):** Pranab Banskota, Christopher Botten, Yoselin Castillo-Yip, Marcelina Ceballos, Roneel Chaudhary, Vincent Contreras, Sharon Covington, Leslie Dishman, Krystal Edwards, Brandon Fernandez, Lily Fowler, Leslie Garcia, John Gray, Eva Hernandez, Mark Malone, Karen Marder, Liz McGhee, Amy Mcilvaine, Mechelle Monroe, Juan Navarro, Rocio Quezada, William Taetzsch, Maja Trochimczyk, Daniel Valenzuel.

**ABSENT (2):** Celia Aragon, Adrian Reveles

**MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:** PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (August 20, 2024); Meeting Presentation Slides, Provider Advisory Committee Workgroup Protocol, and PAC Provider Data Workgroup – Framework.

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Action, Follow-up
<b>Welcome</b>	<p><b>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health (DPH), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Tsai welcomed PAC members.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) presented the minutes from the August 20, 2024, meeting. A motion to approve the minutes without changes was advanced by Christina Gonzales (Principles) and seconded by Baldomero Gonzalez (Cri-Help) and James Symington (Compator).</li> </ul>	August meeting minutes are approved and posted on <a href="#">webpage</a> .
<b>Approval of the 2025 meeting schedule</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) proposed the 2025 PAC Meeting schedule, recommending meetings on the second Tuesday of alternating months. Meetings will be in-person with a virtual attendance option. PAC members voted and the proposed schedule was approved by a majority.</li> </ul>	2025 PAC Meeting schedule is approved.

<b>Building Communities of Belonging</b>	<p><b>Maricela Gray, House of Hope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maricela Gray (House of Hope) recapped the September meeting, where Dr. Kim presented findings on cultural and linguistic disparities within the SUD system. The next meeting will be held in November, with the exact date to be announced via email once determined.</li> </ul>	
<b>2024 SUD Champions of Change Awards</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernie Lau (DPH) informed that the PAC subcommittee has finalized the PAC Awards winners. He highlighted the competitiveness of the process and acknowledged the deserving nature of all nominees.</li> </ul>	
<b>ASAM 4.0 Updates</b>	<p><b>Pedram Moshfegh, Grandview Foundation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedram Moshfegh (Grandview Foundation) inquired about implementation details of the ASAM 4.0 guidelines.</li> <li>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) explained that SAPC is actively collaborating with the State to ensure feasible implementation strategies for providers. One of the anticipated changes providers should prepare for is withdrawal management shifting from a standalone level of care to a service across all levels of care.</li> <li>Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) mentioned that January 1, 2025 is no longer the expected start date, due to pending planning and guidance. Agencies are encouraged to stay informed and prepare for future updates.</li> </ul>	
<b>PAC Provider Data Workgroup</b>	<p><b>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed the PAC Provider Data Workgroup, co-led by himself and Christina Gonzales (Principles). The workgroups aims to support agencies in strengthening their data systems by identifying data metrics that support quality improvement and operational strategies.</li> <li>Providers should review the <i>Provider Advisory Committee Workgroup Protocol</i> and the <i>PAC Provider Data Workgroup Framework</i> documents that were shared. A survey will be distributed to the PAC to assess current data capabilities. Providers are encouraged to engage actively and contribute feedback to identify shared priorities and actionable recommendations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prop 1 and Behavioral Health Commission</b>	<p><b>Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Gary Tsai (DPH) discussed Proposition 1 which proposes a new Behavioral Health Commission to oversee both mental health and SUD services, reforming the Mental Health Services Act into Behavioral Health Services Act. The proposition would allocate bond funding to invest in capital infrastructure and introduce a new Behavioral Health Commission, which may be comprised of existing commissions, such as the Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs.</li> <li>Providers discussed ensuring balanced representation of SUD and mental health expertise on the Commission.</li> </ul>	

<b>PAC Workgroup Protocol</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernie Lau (DPH) streamlined the new guide to assist PAC members in organizing workgroups. The protocol outlines the goals, deliverables, roles, and responsibilities of workgroups, and will be shared with SAPC staff for feedback.</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edith Urner (Exodus) inquired about LA County Coroners’ data for 2023 showing a decline of overdose rates.</li> <li>• Dr. Brian Hurley (DPH) recognized the significance of having overdose rates decline, but also reminded providers that overdose rates remain higher than 2021 levels and that the crisis is ongoing. He further questioned data tracking, informing about incomplete data on overdose reversals and lack of formal reporting for naloxone overdoses.</li> <li>• Dr. Tsai discussed opportunities to improve oversight and coordination for recovery housing, reiterating SAPC’s plan to develop a centralized process for managing recovery housing placement.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Wrap Up</b>	<p><b>Bernie Lau, DPH, Systems of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes from the August 20, 2024 meeting were approved (attached). <b>Christina Gonzales</b> motioned for approval, seconded by <b>Jim Symington</b> and <b>Junie Gonzalez</b>.</li> <li>• The PAC confirmed the following 2025 meeting dates: 2/11/2025, 4/8/2025, 6/10/2025, 8/12/2025, 10/14/2025, 12/9/2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAC Members</b> will complete the PAC Provider Data Workgroup Survey. Instructions will be sent in a separate email.</li> <li>• <b>PAC Members</b> will review the Workgroup protocol.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, from 2 PM – 4pm. This will be an in-person meeting with virtual option.	

*Approved by Y.Lima – 12/9/2024*