

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Provider Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – October 14, 2025

Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) MEMBERS PRESENT (20): Gary Tsai, M.D., (Co-Chair), Nely Meza-Andrade (Co-Chair), Seth Blackburn, Alice Gleghorn, Dylan Grace, Colette Harley, Claire Kobren, Neptune Linares, Hiroko Makiyama, Zainab Mohammed, Brianna Monroy, Pedram Moshfegh, Erin Quinn, Adrian Reveles, José Salazar, Leslie Salguero, Liana Sanchez, Kelly Steiner, Paula Torres (in lieu of Jim Symington), Jina Tintor

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control REPRESENTATIVES (34): Nima Amini; Cailey Barnes; Crystal Boateng; Aliya Buttar; Melanie Cain; Christine Cerven; Yolanda Cespedes-Knadle; Michelle Charles; Nancy Crosby; Daniel Deniz; Fareed Dibazar; Lauren Trosclair Duncan; Michelle Gibson; David Hindman; Li-Ling Hsu; Kyle Kennedy; Janet Kim; Tina Kim; Bernie Lau; Katherine Li; Yanira Lima; Simona Lovin; Antonne Moore; Liz Olson; Kimberly-lynn Otello; Karina Pangan; Ilish Perez; Francisco Reyes; Ana San; Greg Schwarz; Armen Ter-Barsegyan; Phyllis Thai; Emily Turner; Erika Valdez; Christina Villegas

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (19): Amy Mcilvaine (CIBHS); Chris Botten (NCADD-SFV); Claudia Murillo-Hernandez (CIBHS); Denise Shook (BHS); Efrain Marquez (BHS); Jaime Piscione (Child & Family Center); Jeanie Hansen (A Safe Refuge); Juan Navarro (L.A. CADA); Karen Marder (NCADD-SFV); Krystal Edwards (CIBHS); Leslie Dishman (CIBHS); Maricela Gray (House of Hope); Martin Toledo (CIBHS); Nichole Garner (House of Hope); Norma Mtume; Pranab Banskota (CIBHS); Rocio Quezada (Helpline Youth Counseling); Vincent Contreras (L.A. CADA); William Taetzsch (Didi Hirsch)

ABSENT (3): Sarah Blanch, Irene Lim, Aris Tubadeza

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: PAC Meeting Agenda; PAC Meeting Minutes (August 12, 2025); Meeting Presentation Slides

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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gary Tsai welcomed PAC members. 	
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Bernie Lau, DPH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie (DPH) presented the minutes from the August 12, 2025, PAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was advanced by Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) and seconded by Neptune Linares (CLARE Matrix). 	
PAC Provider Data Workgroup	Dr. Gary Tsai, MD, Bureau Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tsai (DPH) reminded providers about the existing incentives to research and implement data aggregation platforms, and informed that further details are being developed by SAPC's Finance division. 	The next PAC Provider Data workgroup meeting is scheduled for

		December 15, 2025, 11am – 12pm
Building Communities of Belonging Workgroup	Hiroko Makiyama, KYCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiroko Makiyama (KYCC) provided an update on the September BCB workgroup meeting, which discussed strategies to improve use of the bilingual bonus and language support resources, encouraging providers to share feedback. Alice Gleghorn (Phoenix House) requested additional information shared with the PAC on language support services, so providers can share feedback. Antonne More (DPH) also explained that the attendance for SB 923-required TGI training is currently at capacity and will be added to SAPC LNC by January 2026 for broader access. 	Armen Ter-Barsegyan e-mailed the PAC to solicit feedback about language support services.
Workforce Development Workgroup	José Salazar (Tarzana Treatment Centers) and Seth Blackburn (Roots Through Recovery) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> José Salazar and Seth Blackburn introduced the Workforce Development Workgroup, emphasizing its goal of fostering collaboration across the SUD provider community to address workforce challenges. The group aims to identify needs, share best practices, and develop strategies to strengthen the SUD workforce. PAC members were invited to join the workgroup’s first meeting, where specific goals and deliverables will be developed. Dr. Tsai (DPH) encouraged new workgroups to be solutions-focused and emphasized provider-level actions to identify what is within agency control and share best practices. Alice Gleghorn (Phoenix House) noted that DHCS has limited understanding of the Peer Certification process. Paula Torres (Compatior) shared DHCS’ partnership with Loyola Marymount University on workforce development, including SUD counselor education. José Salazar encouraged participation in Workforce Development Workgroup to share resources during upcoming meeting. 	José Salazar and Seth Blackburn scheduled the first workgroup meeting on November 12 from 3pm – 4pm.
2025 PAC Awards	Bernie Lau, DPH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernie Lau (DPH) thanked providers for submitting nominations and invited providers to attend All Provider Meeting on November 4 to celebrate the 2025 SUD Champions of Change Awards. 	
AB 1037: Impact and Implications	Neptune Linares, CLARE Matrix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neptune Linares (CLARE Matrix) inquired about the AB 1037 bill and how it will impact SUD agencies Dr. Tsai (DPH) confirmed that AB 1037 was recently signed by the Governor and becomes law on January 1, 2026. He discussed that the Bill allows SUD programs to serve individuals who are using substances without violating State regulations and it clarifies that agencies are not required to discharge clients for relapse, supporting harm reduction and retention in care. He also informed attendees that AB 1037 is SAPC’s second bill successfully signed into law, expanding Statewide access to SUD treatment. 	

Referral Disposition Log: Workflow Considerations	Claire Kobren, American Indian Changing Spirit (AICS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claire Kobren (AICS) raised challenges around implementing co-triage due to staffing and reimbursement barriers. For example, co-triage requires credentialed staff with PNCX access to screen callers, which small programs often lack. Dr. David Hindman (DPH) clarified that co-triage screening is a State-required metric that establishes official start point for tracking a client's journey from first contact to admission. Dr. Tsai reiterated that providers are required to comply with State requirements, and to identify solutions to address any challenges to meeting the requirement. 	
SAGE Management Division Updates	Greg Schwarz, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Greg Schwarz (DPH) reported that most direct-to-provider referrals are being accepted quickly and reminded staff to refresh the ASAM assessment when the ASAM Co-Triage section isn't fully completed to ensure data populates correctly. He clarified that same-day accepted patients do not require an appointment disposition form and introduced new Sage tools for tracking referrals and appointments. He also noted increased referral activity and encouraged continued feedback to improve workflows and timely care. Dr. David Hindman (DPH) announced the start of the Sage biannual license verification process to ensure all practitioners in the network hold valid, up-to-date credentials. Agencies should regularly submit credential updates through the Sage Helpdesk form to prevent denials and maintain compliance, while DPH will continue conducting six-month network-wide audits as a safety check. Dr. David Hindman (DPH) also introduced the L.A. Network for Enhanced Services (LANES), a Countywide health information exchange that will allow providers access to shared patient data at no cost through Sage, pending an opt-in Memorandum of Understanding Jose Salazar (Tarzana) asked how the new LANES integration would affect providers already connected to the network. Dr. Hindman (DPH) clarified that agencies with existing LANES relationships would still need to sign a new MOU, since SAPC's arrangement only allows viewing this protected information. 	
Treatment Perceptions Survey Data Collection	Dr. Tina Kim, SAPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tina Kim (DPH) announced that the Treatment Perception Survey (TPS) data collection takes place October 20 - 24, 2025, with the state planning to use this data in the next fiscal year. SAPC is extending its own TPS data collection through November 19 to capture more complete responses, especially for OTP maintenance clients. Starting October 14, agencies listed as TPS contacts will receive unique survey links. 	
Public Comments	<i>None provided</i>	
Meeting Wrap Up	Armen Ter-Barsegyan, DPH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes from the August 12, 2025, meeting were approved. Liana Sanchez (L.A. CADA) moved to approve, seconded by Neptune Linares (CLARE Matrix). Armen Ter-Barsegyan will follow-up with the PAC to solicit feedback for Bilingual Bonus and Language Assistance. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Salazar and Seth Blackburn will set up the first meeting for the Workforce Development Workgroup. 	
Next Meeting	Reminder: Next Provider Advisory Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 2 PM – 4 PM. 	